

CHRISTI



AND
THE

SABBATH

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - 1972

Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow Offering

September 30, 1972
Southern Asia Division

On September 30 the Southern Asia Division will benefit from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering Overflow. According to General Conference policy, the overflow is 25 percent of the total offering taken for Thirteenth Sabbath. The Southern Asia Division plans to use this money for the addition of much needed facilities at the following educational institutions:

Burma Union Bible Seminary
Kottarakara High School, India
Roorkee High School, India

Recognizing that the future of the work in Southern Asia is dependent to a large extent on the proper education of the young people of the church, for a number of years this division has devoted most of the overflow offerings to education. This has already begun to pay off.

For the generosity of Sabbath School members the world around, Southern Asia is indeed very grateful. Now again in this time of great need we anticipate that you will come to the aid of the young people of the church. For this September 30 overflow, Southern Asia thanks you in advance.

W. F. Storz
Sabbath School Secretary
Southern Asia Division

Lessons for the Fourth Quarter of 1972

Sabbath School members who have not received an adult *Lesson Quarterly* for the fourth quarter of 1972 will be helped by the following outline in studying for the first lesson. The title of the series is "Awaiting the Advent." The title of the first lesson is "The Christian's Hope." The memory verse is Titus 2:13.

The outline is as follows: (1) The Redeemer. Matt. 24:1, 2. (2) The Restorer. Acts 3:20, 21. (3) The Lifegiver. 1 Thess. 4:16, 17. (4) The King. Rev. 19:11, 16. (5) The Rewarder. Rev. 22:12. (6) The Son of Man. Matt. 24:30.

Christ and the Sabbath

THIRD QUARTER, 1972

INTRODUCTION

Regardless of what a person's religious views are, he knows that a wave of lawlessness, rebellion, and strife is sweeping over the world. This is a prelude to that climactic, world-ending time of trouble spoken of in Daniel 12:1.

This in turn should make Sabbath keepers keenly aware that now is the time to proclaim the Sabbath more fully, as mentioned in *Early Writings*, page 33: "At the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and *proclaimed the Sabbath more fully.*" (Italics supplied.)

The Sabbath truth must be preached more extensively and in more and more geographical areas. Also it should be proclaimed in its fuller spiritual significance, in relationship to the Lord Jesus and His righteousness.

There is a connection between observing the Sabbath as a seal of righteousness by faith, and the glory of Christ's righteousness, which shall enlighten the entire world (Rev. 18:1) and complete the proclamation of the gospel.

Then multitudes of true Christians in the various religious bodies will see that the Lord of the Sabbath is Christ our Creator and Saviour-Sanctifier. They will recognize that keeping the true Sabbath of Christ is the natural expression and fruitage of having Him as one's personal Saviour. They will see that true Sabbath observance is the divinely appointed sign of a Christian's continuing, progressive sanctification. Then many sincere Christians, including some ministers and other leaders, will take their stand under the banner of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Rev. 18:1-4.

Concerning last-day movements, *Selected Messages*, Bk. 2, p. 55, says that God's people "will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18." The Sabbath bears the stamp of Christ as our Creator and Sanctifier. This should motivate God's people to present the Sabbath more fully everywhere as the sign of our allegiance to God's will.

The Sabbath truth is part of the setting of the threefold message of Revelation 14:6-12 for the last days. Before Seventh-day Adventists were in existence as a separate body of Christian people, this message came, and it has made them what they are today. Hence an understanding of this truth for our time is basic and vital.

We shall receive help and be blessed during this quarter as we study Christ in the Sabbath and the Sabbath in Christ.

The Blessing of Daily Study

“Every day some portion of time should be appropriated to the study of the lessons, not merely in learning to mechanically repeat the words, while the mind does not comprehend the meaning; but to go to the very foundation, and become familiar with what is brought out in the lesson.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 53.

My Pledge

As one who greatly desires to improve his knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath School lesson each day of the week.

(signed)

The regular Sabbath School senior division lessons and regular Sabbath School World Mission Report are available free each month in Braille and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ rpm records to blind and physically handicapped persons who cannot read normal inkprint. This includes individuals who because of arthritis, multiple sclerosis, paralysis, accidents, old age, and so forth, cannot hold or focus on normal inkprint publications. Contact the Christian Record Braille Foundation, Box 6097, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506.

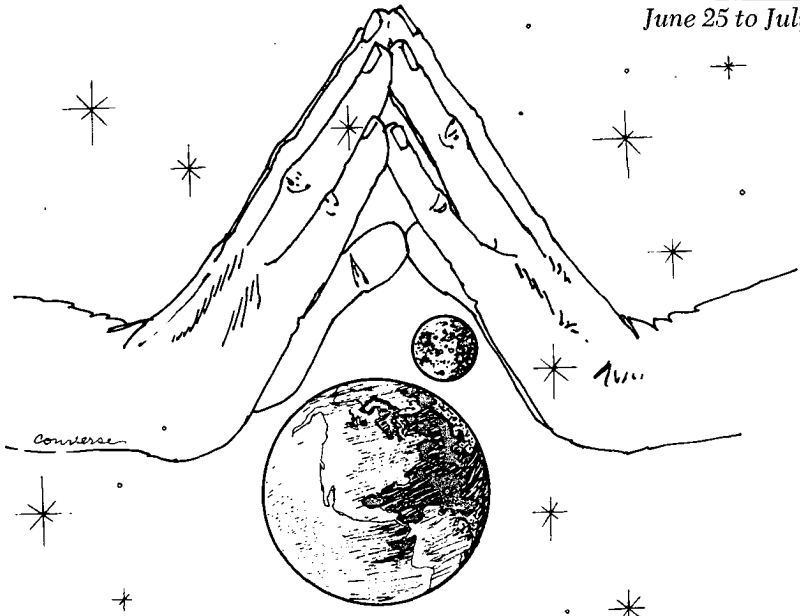
Lesson Titles for the Quarter

1. Christ's Sign
2. Christ's Everlasting Memorial
3. A Link of Love
4. A Bulwark of Truth
5. The Missing Text
6. The Attempted Change
7. Why Not Any Day?
8. Right Day—Wrong Way
9. Receiving the Double Blessing
10. A Sign of Righteousness by Faith
11. The Predicted Restoration
12. Truth for Today
13. The Final Test
14. The Forgotten Blessing

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God Rests on the Sabbath Day

CHRIST'S SIGN **1**

"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." Ex. 31:13.

When a person truly hallows the Sabbath of Christ, he displays in the affairs of his daily life a sign inscribed, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. Remember your Creator and Saviour." In direct opposition, the god of this world has erected a sign inscribed, "Sunday is the Lord's day."

In these last days God is sending the final call of the gospel to every people. Rev. 14:6-12. Where heeded, it leads people to make the right choice between these two opposing signs of authority. This message from heaven for our day enables the obedient to decide in favor of the Lord Jesus Christ and take their stand among those "that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Christ the Creator**
John 1:10
2. **Creator Existent From Eternity**
John 1:1, 3, 14
3. **Redemption Is Re-creation**
2 Cor. 5:17, RSV
4. **A Predetermined Plan**
2 Tim. 1:9
5. **A Sign of the Creator**
Ex. 31:15-17
6. **A Sign of the Saviour**
Ezek. 20:12

Part 1
CHRIST THE
CREATOR
John 1:10

"He [Christ] was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."

Here is a positive declaration that the Lord Jesus Christ, who walked among men at His first advent, is the One who made this world.

Millions of professed Christians apparently are unaware of the role of Christ as the Creator. They think of Him only as the Saviour.

It is essential that a person be fully committed to Christ as his only Saviour. Acts 16:30, 31; 4:12; John 14:6. But the adequacy of Christ as the only true Saviour rests upon two everlasting foundation truths of the gospel: (1) The eternity of Christ as God the Son and as the Son of God; (2) The role of Christ as the Creator-God of Genesis 1 and 2.



What indicates that Christ the Saviour is also the Creator of all? Col. 1:13-16.

Most assuredly we are saved by the perfect life of Christ, His atoning death, His resurrection, His ascension, and His intercession as our High Priest. If He had not been one with God from eternity and co-Creator in the beginning, He could not be man's Saviour.



How does the Word of God show further that Christ was associated with the Father as the co-Creator of all things? 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 3:9; John 1:1-3.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why have all the Father's dealings with this world been through His Son?

"It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was His hand that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field. 'His strength setteth fast the mountains.' 'The sea is His, and

He made it.' Ps. 65:6; 95:5. It was He that filled the earth with beauty, and the air with song. And upon all things in earth, and air, and sky, He wrote the message of the Father's love."—"The Desire of Ages," page 20.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 2.

June 26

**Part 2
CREATOR
EXISTENT FROM
ETERNITY
John 1:1, 3, 14**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."

The Gospel of John is an outstanding Biblical presentation of Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God and the Saviour of men. How does it begin? Christ is introduced as one with God from eternity and as the Creator of the universe. He is presented as the Word, who was with God the Father in the beginning, and as one who was God. Christ is coeternal and coexistent with God the Father.

Another tremendous truth is the fact that Christ is the Creator of the universe. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:3.



How do we know that this Word, the Creator, is also Christ our Saviour? John 1:10, 14.

John presents Christ as our Creator and Saviour, and as existing with God from the beginning. Preaching Christ must not omit presenting Him as God the Son from eternity and as the Creator of all. To preach Christ without making this clear would be like trying to build a house without a foundation.

Notice that in Heb. 1:1-3 the One who has purged us from our sins is the Son of God by whom the worlds were made.



How does God the Father attest that Christ is the Maker of heaven and earth? Heb. 1:8-12.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why did the Father allocate to the Son an active role in creation? What bearing does this have on our salvation through Christ?

"The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this

He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 36.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 33, 34.

June 27

Part 3
REDEMPTION IS
RE-CREATION
2 Cor. 5:17, RSV

"Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

Salvation is effected, in part, by a work of creation in the sinner by the same Christ who made man in the beginning. Christians are declared to be Christ's workmanship, created in Him unto good works. Eph. 2:10. He imparts His character to us. Heb. 8:10, 11.

This is why every soul is dependent upon Christ for salvation. This shows also that Christ is our Saviour, because He is the Creator. For the salvation of man it is essential that both creation and redemption be accomplished by the Son of God—the Lord Jesus Christ.



Why does salvation from sin require more than forgiveness? John 3:3; Eph. 4:22-24.

When the believer truly receives Christ as his personal Saviour, not only is free and full pardon granted to him, but he is transformed into a new person. He is born again, born of God. John 1:12, 13. Christ creates within him a new heart, a new mind.

Then by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the believer is enabled to live a life of obedience to Christ and His commandments. Ezek. 11:19, 20; Gal. 2:20. This is how Christ brings the believer into harmony with God and keeps him right. Thus Christ as our Creator cannot be detached from Christ as our Redeemer.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why does the acceptance of Christ as our Saviour necessarily include honoring Him as our Creator? What are the main reasons why millions of professed Christians have lost sight of Him as Maker of the worlds?

"The angels prostrated themselves at the feet of their Commander and offered to become a sacrifice for man. But an angel's life could not pay the debt; only He who created man had power to redeem him. Yet the angels were to have a part to act in the plan of redemption. Christ was to be made 'a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death.' Hebrews 2:9. As He should take human nature upon Him, His strength would not be equal to

theirs, and they were to minister to Him, to strengthen and soothe Him under His sufferings. They were also to be ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who should be heirs of salvation. Hebrews 1:14. They would guard the subjects of grace from the power of evil angels and from the darkness constantly thrown around them by Satan."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 64, 65.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 4.

June 28

Part 4
A PREDETERMINED
PLAN
2 Tim. 1:9

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

God's plan for the salvation of believers antedates the creation of this world. He has saved us according to His own purpose given us in Christ before the world began. See also Eph. 1:4, 5; Titus 1:2.

This helps us understand why God the Father allocated the creation of all to the Son—the Lord Jesus Christ. Our salvation was at stake. Only He who can create can save from sin and death. The fact that Christ was the Creator meant that salvation was available in Him when it should be needed.

When Adam sinned, his Creator began to function as his Saviour. Thus Jesus Christ is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Rev. 13:8. See also 1 Peter 1:18-20.

When man sinned, no created being could satisfy the claims of the broken law of God. Only one equal with God could make atonement for the transgression. Hence no one but the Lord Jesus Christ, as Creator, could offer Himself as a sufficient ransom for sinful man. This thought should kindle a deeper love in our hearts for the Father and the Son for Their predetermined plan by which our omnipotent Creator became our all-sufficient Creator and Saviour.



When was the gospel first outlined? Gen. 3:15.



How have millions of believers deprived themselves of much by limiting their concept of Christ to what happened during His earthly life? Rom. 11:33; Eph. 1:18; 3:18-21.

THINK IT THROUGH

In what ways do we demonstrate our faith in Jesus as our Creator and Saviour? Has His ministry on behalf of man been lost sight of by the vast majority of Christians? How is this truth being restored to its rightful place in the gospel?

"The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. In all the universe there was but one who could, in behalf of man, satisfy its claims. Since the divine law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could make

atonement for its transgression. None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law and bring him again into harmony with Heaven."
—"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 63.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," chapter 1.

June 29

**Part 5
A SIGN OF
THE CREATOR**

Ex. 31:15-17

"Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. . . . 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."

The Lord declares that the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign between Him and His people because He made the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. The New Testament shows that this Lord who made the world in six days and rested on the seventh day is our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus Ex. 31:16, 17 and Mark 2:27, 28 show that the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign of Christ as our Creator.

Sunday is not the Sabbath of Christ, nor the Lord's day. It is the first day of the week. The Lord Himself says, "The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord." Ex. 20:10. Hence the seventh day, or Saturday, is Christ's Sabbath for man.



How does the Bible imply that the command in Ex. 20:8-11 to keep the seventh day is a command from the Lord Jesus Christ? Compare Neh. 9:12, 13 with 1 Cor. 10:1-4.

The Lord who in the Ten Commandments commands the keeping of the seventh day is our Creator. See Ex. 20:10, 11. The New Testament declares that Christ is our Creator, and the precept recorded in Ex. 20:8-11—to keep the seventh day holy—is a commandment from our Lord Jesus Christ. The observance of the seventh day is one step in our accepting Christ.



How important is it for us to obey Christ's commandments? Heb. 5:9.

Christ has appointed the keeping of the seventh day as a sign whereby we honor and worship Him as our Creator and Saviour. What a high privilege it is to keep His Sabbath!

THINK IT THROUGH

What makes Sabbath keeping an appropriate way to honor and worship the Lord Jesus?

"Since He made all things, He made the Sabbath. By Him it was set apart as a memorial of the work of creation. It points to Him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier. It declares that He who

created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together, is the head of the church, and that by His power we are reconciled to God."—"The Desire of Ages," page 288.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 281-283.

June 30

Part 6
A SIGN OF
THE SAVIOUR
Ezek. 20:12

"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."

The Bible shows that creation and redemption are inseparably united in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ex. 31:16, 17 presents the seventh-day Sabbath as a sign between us and our Creator. See also Ezek. 20:20. Ezek. 20:12 shows that the Sabbath is a sign of sanctification.

The heart of the Sabbath truth is Christ our Creator and Redeemer. Every soul who receives Christ as his Lord and Saviour should receive also His seventh-day Sabbath as a sign that He is his Creator and Saviour.



What will they know who truly keep the Sabbath of the Lord? Ex. 31:13; Ezek. 20:12.

Why is it that so many Christians are not keeping Christ's seventh-day Sabbath, but prefer to observe the first day, or Sunday, which Christ has not commanded us to keep?

History shows that during the centuries which followed the apostolic age, there developed a widespread departure from the truth as taught by the Lord Jesus Christ. As a result of this apostasy, the keeping of Sunday was introduced and established as a man-made substitute for the observance of Christ's seventh-day Sabbath. This custom has been handed down by ecclesiastical and civil laws through the centuries to our day. This is why the majority of Christians keep Sunday instead of observing Christ's seventh-day Sabbath which is commanded in the Ten Commandments.

In setting aside Christ's Sabbath, men did not realize that they were, in a sense, setting aside their Creator and Saviour. Bible prophecy foretold this departure from the truth and predicted that there would be a restoration in the closing age. So the call of God today is in substance: "Give Christ's Sabbath its rightful place in your life, as a sign that He is your Creator and Saviour-Sanctifier."

THINK IT THROUGH

How may we show our love for Christ? John 14:15, 21; 1 John 5:3.

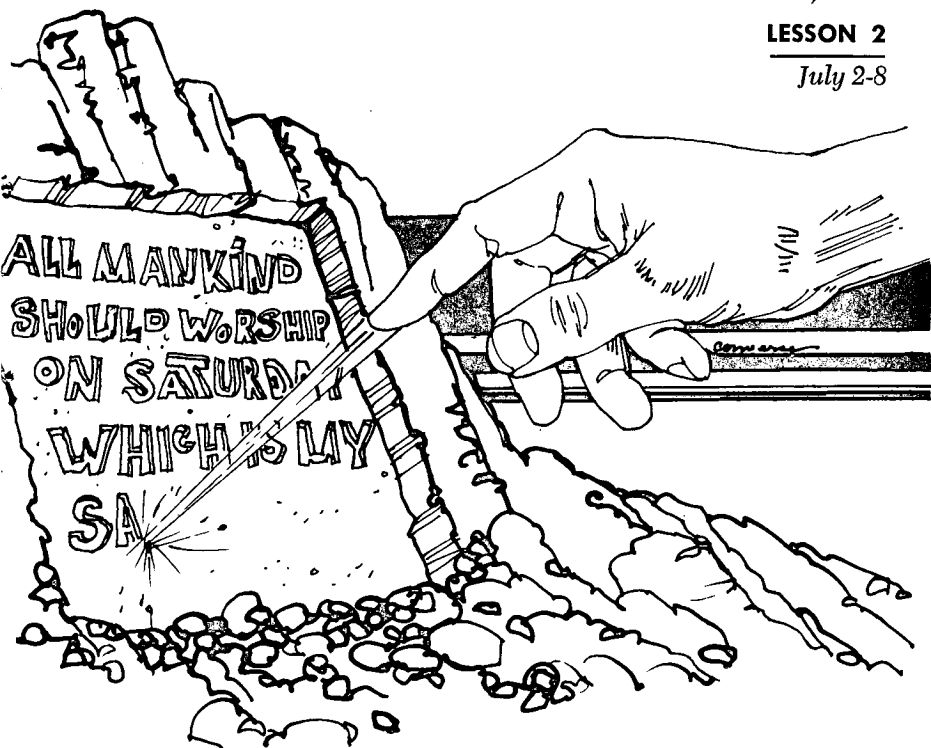
"The Sabbath given to the world as the sign of God as the Creator is also the sign of Him as the Sanctifier. The power that created all things is the

power that re-creates the soul in His own likeness. To those who keep holy the Sabbath day it is the sign of sanctification."—"Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 350.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 288, 289.

Answers: (1) only the Creator can save; (2) True; (3) He rested on and blessed the seventh day. Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 31:16, 17; (4) Creator, Saviour; (5) for a sign that He was their Lord, and Sanctifier.

- Part 7 ♦ SUMMARY QUESTIONS ♦ TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER
1. Why is salvation through Christ rooted in His being the Creator? _____
 2. True or False. Preaching Christ without making it clear that He is the Creator would be like trying to build a house without a foundation. _____
 3. What did Christ do in the very beginning to help man to remember his Creator? _____
 4. Adam first had the Sabbath as a sign that Christ is the _____, and after he sinned the same Sabbath also became a sign that Christ is the _____.
 5. What are two of the leading purposes for which Christ gave man the Sabbath according to Ex. 31:16, 17; 20:8-11 and Ezek. 20:12? _____



CHRIST'S EVERLASTING MEMORIAL 2

"He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered." Ps. 111:4.

The two outstanding works of the Lord for humanity are creation and redemption—life for man in this world, and life eternal in the hereafter.

Christ has appointed certain memorials to help us keep in remembrance His creative and redemptive works. One of the most significant of these is His Sabbath, a weekly reminder that He is our Creator and Redeemer. Hence the proper observance of Christ's Sabbath is one way whereby we may honor, exalt, and worship Him as our Creator and Saviour. Such is the high value of true Sabbath keeping. On the other hand, to dishonor or repudiate the Sabbath is to dishonor and repudiate Him as our Creator and Saviour.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Divinely Appointed Commemoration**
Ex. 20:8; 31:17
2. **The Everlasting Foundation**
Mark 2:28
3. **Blessed Forever**
Gen. 2:3
4. **The Only Right Day**
Ex. 20:10, 11
5. **Relevant to Christianity**
Luke 23:56
6. **Honored Throughout Eternity**
Isa. 66:22, 23

July 2

Part 1
DIVINELY
APPOINTED
COMMEMORATION
Ex 20:8; 31:17

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

"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."

It was noted in last week's lesson that the Creator, in whose honor the Sabbath is observed, was Jesus Christ. Just as long as this is true, the seventh day remains the Sabbath.

The fact that the New Testament neither records nor authorizes any transfer of the Sabbath from the seventh day (Saturday) to the first day (Sunday) of the week manifests the falsity of the claim that Sunday should be kept as the Lord's day in honor of Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week.



What is the significance of baptism? Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

In true baptism the believer is buried and rises with Christ. Baptism by immersion is a God-appointed way whereby we are to show our faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as our Saviour.

Notice how the Word presents a record that the same seventh day which was the Sabbath before Christ's resurrection (Luke 23:54-56; Mark 16:1, 2) was still observed as the Sabbath by God's people after the Saviour's resurrection. Acts 13:14, 27, 42, 44; 15:21; 16:13; 17:1, 2; 18:4. In the absence of any command to change this day, the seventh-day Sabbath as the sign of the Creator-Redeemer continues for all Christians.



To what vitally significant events does the ordinance of the Lord's Supper point? 1 Cor. 11:26; Luke 22:17-20.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I observe these memorials—baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Sabbath—for which Christ calls? If I omit any of them, how can my life be what He wants it to be?

"Though sin has entered the world to mar His perfect work, God still gives to us the Sabbath as a witness that One omnipotent, infinite in goodness and mercy, created all things. Our heavenly Father desires through the observance of the Sabbath to preserve among men

a knowledge of Himself. He desires that the Sabbath shall direct our minds to Him as the true and living God, and that through knowing Him we may have life and peace."—"Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 349.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 437, 438.

July 3

Part 2
THE EVERLASTING
FOUNDATION
Mark 2:28

"Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."

Christ made the seventh day the Sabbath at creation. In the Ten Commandments He declares that the seventh day is the Sabbath, because He made the world in six days, rested upon the seventh day, and then blessed and hallowed it. Ex. 20:8-11.



Why did Christ as Creator rest upon this last day of the first week of this world's time? Compare Isa. 40:28 with Gen. 2:3.

He sanctified the seventh day because in it He *had* rested (Hebrew, "ceased," that is, from creating). Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:11.

His rest was preparatory to His blessing and sanctifying; or setting apart, the seventh day of the week as the Lord's day for man. The relation between creation and redemption is so close that it affects every day of the week, for during the labors of the six working days we must remember that we are to prepare to observe the seventh. Ex. 20:8-11; Ezek. 46:1.

The word "Sabbath" is a transliteration of the Hebrew word *shabbath*, which signifies cessation or rest. The Hebrew cognate verb *shabath* means to cease, to rest, to sabbatize, or to keep a sabbath. This verb is used twice in Gen. 2:2, 3, where it is translated as "rested." This is evidence that Christ's rest on the seventh day at the close of His creative work made this day the Sabbath day of sacred rest in the beginning.



How does Christ, in the fourth commandment, identify the seventh day as the Sabbath day as it relates to His work of the creation of our world? Ex. 20:11.

Note how this precept refutes the notion that Sabbath observance was not instituted until the Exodus of Israel from Egypt.

THINK IT THROUGH

Does Jesus become my personal Saviour before I begin to obey Him? Why is the Sabbath not a sign of the Creator-Redeemer in my life until I have been born again and Christ has begun to sanctify me?

"The true ground of divine worship . . . is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. . . . It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the

fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial."—"The Great Controversy," pages 437, 438.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 307.

July 4

Part 3
BLESSED FOREVER
Gen. 2:3

"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."

There is nothing in the Bible to indicate that Christ has transferred His blessing and sanctification of the seventh day to any other day. Therefore the seventh day still is His blessed and sanctified day for all people.

In the New Testament there is not a word directing Christians to observe the first day of the week.



How does Christ confirm the Old Testament revelation of which the Sabbath was a part? Matt. 5:17-19.

Christ ordained the seventh-day Sabbath as a *perpetual memorial of His creative and redemptive power*. Hence there was no valid reason for uninspired men in postapostolic times to introduce Sunday keeping to commemorate the resurrection of our Lord on the first day of the week.

Christ cannot be divided. His role as Redeemer cannot be separated from His role as our Creator.

The Bible clearly shows that the keeping of the seventh day is a sign of Christ as our Creator and our Redeemer. The keeping of Sunday to commemorate redemption in Christ is in effect an attempt to deny that our Saviour is also our Creator.

The very doctrine on which men have based their keeping of Sunday is, as a matter of fact, contrary to Christ in His dual and inseparable role as both our Creator and our Saviour. Gladly we keep the Sabbath, which gives to Christ honor due to Him as Redeemer and Creator.

THINK IT THROUGH

Can any person really make a day holy or truly bless it? What else then can we do but keep holy the seventh day as sacred to Christ, who has blessed and hallowed it for us?

"In Eden, God set up the memorial of His work of creation, in placing His blessing upon the seventh day. The Sabbath was committed to Adam, the father and representative of the whole human family. Its observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgment,

on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their Creator and their rightful Sovereign; that they were the work of His hands and the subjects of His authority."—
"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 48.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 25, 26.

July 5

Part 4
THE ONLY
RIGHT DAY
Ex. 20:10, 11

"The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: . . . for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, . . . and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

This is why the Lord commands the observance of the seventh day instead of any other day of the week.
Thus Christ Himself, in Ex. 20:8-11, has made it clear that the *seventh day is the only right day of the week for man to observe as the Sabbath.*

Christ, as our Creator, put His blessing and sanctification on the last day of the week because He *had rested* upon it. Gen. 2:3. Hence it is impossible for man to transfer these two things to any other day of the week.

These God-given reasons for keeping the seventh day holy—because He made the world in six days, and rested upon the seventh day, and then blessed and sanctified it—have an important meaning.

Some declare that the obligation to keep the seventh day is merely a Jewish ordinance which did not originate until the Israelites came out of Egypt. But Christ based His command to keep the seventh day on what He did when the world was created.



How did Christ show that the Sabbath is not for the Jews only? Mark 2:27. See also Isa. 56:2, 6, 7.

As every soul today needs Jesus as his Creator-Sanctifier, even so he needs the Sabbath as a sign of this acceptance of Him as such.

THINK IT THROUGH

Since Christ blessed and sanctified the seventh day for me, what should I do about it? Heb. 5:9; Luke 6:46.

"It [the Sabbath] 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 sev-

enth day signify 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."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 307.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 451-455.

July 6

Part 5
RELEVANT TO
CHRISTIANITY
Luke 23:56

"And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment."

Many Christians think that the keeping of the Saturday Sabbath was a religious obligation only under the Mosaic dispensation, which ended at the crucifixion of Christ. They believe that after Christ's death on the cross, the first day of the week became the Lord's day to commemorate redemption through Christ's death and resurrection. The New Testament does not substantiate this.

Christ's seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment continued to be applicable to men in the new Christian age, even as did the other nine precepts. This Sabbath commandment is specifically referred to in Luke 23:56, as being binding the day after the crucifixion. See also Heb. 4:10.



What laws were abolished at the cross? Eph. 2:15.

The Ten Commandments, as God's eternal rule of right, continued to be binding after the crucifixion of Christ. Thus the keeping of the seventh day is as relevant today as is the command, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," or "Thou shalt not steal," or any of the other precepts of the Decalogue.

It is significant that Christ sanctified the seventh day for man before he sinned. This shows that the keeping of the seventh day cannot be reckoned as one of the sabbaths referred to in Col. 2:16, 17, as "a shadow of things to come." This is evident from the fact that, in the world to come, "all flesh" will come to worship before Him "from one sabbath to another." Isa. 66:22, 23.

These Scriptural considerations indicate that the keeping of the seventh day is one link in the chain of the truth as it is in Jesus. It is a part of a full commitment to Christ.

THINK IT THROUGH

If man had never sinned, how many in this world would observe the seventh-day Sabbath? How much crime, sickness, strife, trouble, sorrow, and death would there be? When will God's ideal in this matter be realized?

"The sign of obedience is the observance of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. If men keep the fourth commandment, they will keep all the rest."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 7, p. 981.

upon to restore it [the seal] by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority."—"The Great Controversy," page 452.

"The disciples of Jesus are called

July 7

**Part 6
HONORED
THROUGHOUT
ETERNITY**

Isa. 66:22, 23

"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."

All of the saved will honor the Sabbath as a day of worship throughout eternity in the new earth. It will continue to be remembered forever in that coming perfect world. Says the Eternal One: "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips." Ps. 89:34.

When we compare Gen. 2:1-3 with Isa. 66:22, 23, we see that the Sabbath spans the arch of time from the creation of this world past its re-creation in the future. Thus the seventh day is Christ's Sabbath for His people in all ages.



How does the Lord speak of Sabbath observance as a perpetual practice? Ex. 31:16, 17.

The Sabbath was here *before* sin entered our world. It will be here *after* sin has been banished from it. It spans the gulf from Paradise lost by man's lack of faith in God and its resultant disobedience to Paradise regained by man's faith in Him and his resultant obedience. The Sabbath is a continuing sign pointing to Christ as the Way to Eden restored.

Every Sabbath, as it comes at the end of each week, brings to us a double, delightful outlook. It points us back to the time when the earth was perfect and happiness reigned supreme. It points forward to the time when the earth will be perfect again and filled with everlasting happiness.

THINK IT THROUGH

What decision will everyone have made who is admitted through the gates of the City of God? Isa. 26:2.

"The Sabbath was not for Israel merely, but for the world. It had been made known to man in Eden, and, like the other precepts of the Decalogue, it is of imperishable obligation. . . . So

long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power."—"The Desire of Ages," page 283.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 7, pp. 105-109.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. According to the Scriptures, how many major memorials has Christ established for His people to observe? 2, 3, 4, 5.

2. Indicate what these memorials are:

3. Sunday keeping is not a true memorial of Christ's resurrection, because there is no _____ for it in the New Testament.

4. Why couldn't the churches, by common agreement, transfer Christ's sanctification from the seventh to the first day of the week?

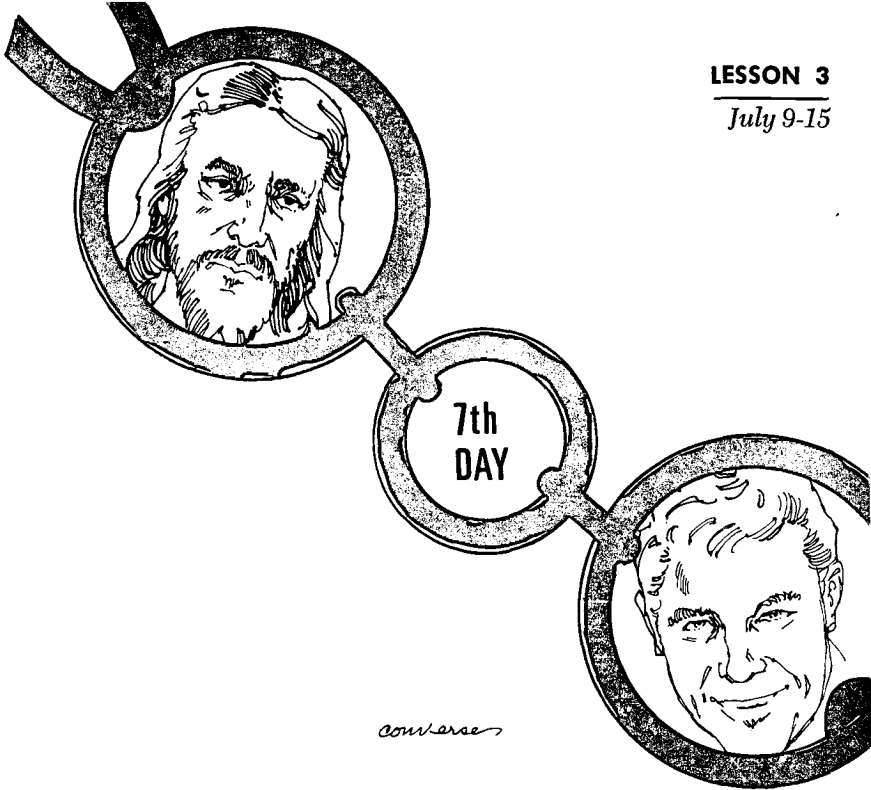
5. The Sabbath is a memorial of Christ's _____ and _____ power.

6. "The Sabbath was not for _____ merely, but for the _____."

7. Christ has shown that the seventh day is the true Sabbath because He made the world in _____, and rested on the _____.

8. Where does the Bible show that the seventh day will be honored in the new earth? _____

Answers: (1) 3; (2) baptism, Lord's Supper, Sabbath; (3) authority; (4) because on no other day than the seventh did He rest upon, bless, and sanctify it; (5) creative, redemptive; (6) Israel, world; (7) six days, seventh; (8) Isa. 66:22, 23.



A LINK OF LOVE 3

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father." John 14:21.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have bound Themselves to humanity with an everlasting love. Jer. 31:3; John 3:16. When a soul responds to this love in obedience to God, it makes love a link uniting him with God.

Christ's seventh-day Sabbath is a symbol of His love as our Creator-Saviour. Thus true Sabbath keeping is a link of love, binding the believer to his Lord. It bestows the joys and delights of divine love. But trying to keep the Sabbath without the love of Christ in your heart is drudgery, restriction, and a burden.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Sealed by the Cross
Rom. 5:8
2. Love Spells Obedience
1 John 5:3
3. An Example of Love
1 Peter 2:21
4. For Our Good
Deut. 6:24
5. The Right Motivation
Ps. 40:8
6. Day of Delight
Isa. 58:13, 14

July 9

**Part 1
SEALED BY
THE CROSS
Rom. 5:8**

"God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Creation and redemption are manifestations of the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for man. The Sabbath, as a sign of our Creator-Redeemer, is a link of love, extended by Him to bind our hearts to His heart. It is said of the Ten Commandments: "The fourth is the connecting link between the great God and man."—*The Story of Redemption*, page 141.

▷ **What relationship is there between the hallowing of the Sabbath on your part and having a personal knowledge of God? Ezek. 20:20.**

▷ **What connection is there between obedience to Christ and abiding in His love? John 15:10.**

Christ the Creator was manifest as Christ the Redeemer in His all-sufficient sacrifice at Calvary. A wooden cross is a perpendicular post with a crossarm extending in each direction. The creative power of Christ may be likened to the upright post, by which all things are upheld. Heb. 1:2, 3. His redemptive power may be likened to the crossarm, extended to all and reaching from the entrance of sin to the close of probation. The Sabbath, as a sign of Christ's creative and redemptive power, bears the imprint of His cross.

Think how this links true Sabbath keeping with the grand center of all attraction—Christ and Him crucified. It reveals its inseparable relationship to Christian living. The cross of Christ casts the halo of Heaven's redeeming love around His Sabbath.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is my Sabbath keeping a link of love binding my heart close to that of Christ? Does it bring to me joys and delights of His love and presence?

"The Sabbath points then to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption. While it calls to mind the lost peace of Eden, it tells of peace restored through the

Saviour. And every object in nature repeats His invitation, 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.'"—"The Desire of Ages," page 289.

July 11

Part 3
AN EXAMPLE
OF LOVE
1 Peter 2:21

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

The Son of God took upon Himself our human nature. Thus He forever linked His divinity with our humanity. When He lived on earth, He kept the seventh day. Mark 1:20, 21; Luke 4:16, 31. This makes the keeping of the seventh day one of Christ's "steps" for us.



How do we know that Jesus has not changed? Heb. 13:8.

Since He has not changed and He kept the Sabbath when He lived here, what day would He observe if He lived on earth today?

Sunday keeping was introduced among Christians by some church leaders after the apostles Paul, Peter, and John had died. The call of God for our day is to turn from tradition to His way.



What made the ground around the burning bush holy? Ex. 3:2-6.

The presence of Christ in the burning bush made the very ground surrounding it holy. Likewise He has hallowed the seventh day by putting His own presence into it. He Himself kept it first as our Creator in the beginning and later when He came to live here as our Redeemer. We should walk in His steps by keeping it, too. The Sabbath observance hallowed by His example affords us a deeper consciousness of His presence.

The consciousness of the Saviour's abiding presence is one of life's greatest joys and imperatives.

THINK IT THROUGH

If Jesus were here on earth today, what would He do on Sabbath? What must I do to follow in His steps?

"It [the Sabbath] was a memorial of the work of creation, and thus a sign of God's power and His love. . . .

"And since the Sabbath is a memorial of the work of creation, it is a token of the love and power of Christ.

"The Sabbath calls our thoughts to

nature, and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day."—"The Desire of Ages," pages 281, 282.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 281, 283, 288, 289.

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FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 281, 283, 288, 289.

July 12

**Part 4
FOR OUR GOOD
Deut. 6:24**

"And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always."

When we truly love God, we know in our inmost soul that all of His commandments are for our good always. We also understand that he who sins against God wrongs his own soul. Prov. 8:36. Then our uppermost desire is to obey Christ. This leads to a lasting decision to follow Him faithfully all the way to the end. Then we understand that the keeping of the Sabbath is not ordained to deprive us of time for our own activities. It is enjoined to provide us time to maintain in a special way a closer fellowship with Christ.



How are we blessed both spiritually and physically by keeping the Sabbath? Isa. 58:13, 14.

The best experiences in this life and in the never-ending life to come are bound up in remembering the Lord in all the affairs of our life.



Why do not the boundaries of Saturday, as reckoned by man, coincide exactly with the seventh day of the fourth commandment? Gen. 1:23, 31; Mark 1:21, 32; Lev. 23:32.

The observance of the seventh day, as Christ commands, is from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday.

Remembering the Sabbath projects its spirit into the other days of the week. The Sabbath must be remembered in our plans, appointments, and transactions, so that nothing will conflict with the proper keeping of God's holy day when it comes to us. Thus it is designed to keep the will of the Creator and Redeemer prominent in our life. It helps us to set the Lord always before us as did the psalmist. Psalm 16:8.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I keep the Sabbath in mind all during the week? Is my Sabbath keeping truly a sign that the Creator has made me into a new person and is sanctifying me?

"If the people of God would appreciate His word, we should have a heaven in the church here below. Christians would be eager, hungry, to search the word. . . .

"Weariness would be forgotten in the

sunlight of heaven. Truth would be interwoven with their lives, and its heavenly principles would be as a fresh, running stream, constantly satisfying the soul."—"Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 193.

July 13

Part 5
THE RIGHT
MOTIVATION
Ps. 40:8

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."

Do we obey God because we "have to"? Or because we desire to? The answer may reveal whether we are living under the old covenant or the new.



What is the primary purpose of God in giving us a new mind? Ezek. 11:19, 20; Rom. 8:7.

Some ask, "Isn't it hard to keep Saturday as the Sabbath?" The answer is Yes or No according to whether or not Christ is living His life in you. The keeping of the Sabbath is a spiritual experience.

It is good to obey God from a realization of our obligation; but it is better to have the love of God in our hearts to the extent that we obey because we truly wish to do it. True Sabbath keeping is a token of mutual love between our best Friend and us. John 14:21.

In the performance of every duty it should be that "the love of Christ constraineth us." Then His yoke is easy. In fact, we find true rest in having His yoke upon us. Matt. 11:28-30.

Love makes it easy to do what otherwise would be difficult and burdensome. Does mother love find it hard to keep a trying night vigil at the bedside of a sick child?

A devout Christian has raised and answered this question, "Why is it so hard to lead a self-denying, humble life? Because professed Christians are not dead to the world. It is easy living after we are dead."—*Messages to Young People*, page 127.

It is easy to live in accordance with God's law when we are "crucified with Christ" and He "liveth" in us. Gal. 2:20. On the other hand, it is hard to do if we are not dead. So each of us decides whether or not he will cooperate with the Holy Spirit in order to enter into and maintain the right Christian experience.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I keep the Sabbath because I love God or from a feeling of duty? Have we been remiss in urging the Sabbath upon people, from the law, without letting the gospel arouse love's desire to keep it?

"If we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying

Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses."—"The Desire of Ages," page 668.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Messages to Young People," pages 27-32.

July 14

Part 6
DAY OF DELIGHT
Isa. 58:13, 14

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, . . . then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord."

The Sabbath of Christ has in it today the love and joy of the original in a perfect creation and of the future in a perfect restoration. It is an indication of eternal love and joy.

The keeping of the seventh day originated in Eden when all was perfect. Each Sabbath brings to us a breath from Eden. It is also a foretaste of Eden restored in the earth made new, where sin, sickness, sorrow, and death will be no more. The successive Sabbaths are like lights along the highway to that better world.

The perfect delight of the first Sabbath in Eden may be recaptured to some degree by true Sabbath keeping now. It will be fully recaptured by God's redeemed in the new earth as we come to worship before Him from one Sabbath to another.



How is keeping the Sabbath linked with delighting oneself in the Lord? Isa. 58:13, 14.



How is pleasing the Lord linked with keeping the Sabbath? Isa. 56:1, 2, 4, 5.

The Sabbath is not merely a day of physical rest. Any day would do for that. It is not exclusively a day for spiritual renewal. It is both of these and more. It is a sign of allegiance to Christ as our Creator and Saviour.

The seventh-day Sabbath has lost none of its Scriptural significance as a memorial of Christ's creative and saving power. Every soul who receives Christ as his personal Saviour needs to keep His Sabbath as a sign of his acceptance of Christ as both his Creator and Saviour.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is Sabbath observance truly a delight to me? If it was essential before man sinned, is it not more so in this present world of sin?

"Great blessings are enfolded in the observance of the Sabbath, and God desires that the Sabbath day shall be to us a day of joy. . . . It is the sign

that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest."—"Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 349.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 349-352.

Answers: (1) "The Story of Redemption," page 141; (2) Matt. 22:35-40; Rom. 13:8-10; (3) God's presence; (4) Friday sunset, Saturday sunset; (5) because of the lack of the love of Christ in the heart; (6) by keeping Sabbath he reaffirms his belief in God as Creator of heaven and earth.

to the last day of each week? _____

6. How does the believer show his faith in Christ as the Creator in reference _____

life and to obey all of God's commandments? _____

5. Why is it that many professed Christians find it hard to lead a self-denying _____

4. The Sabbath, according to the Bible, begins _____ and ends _____

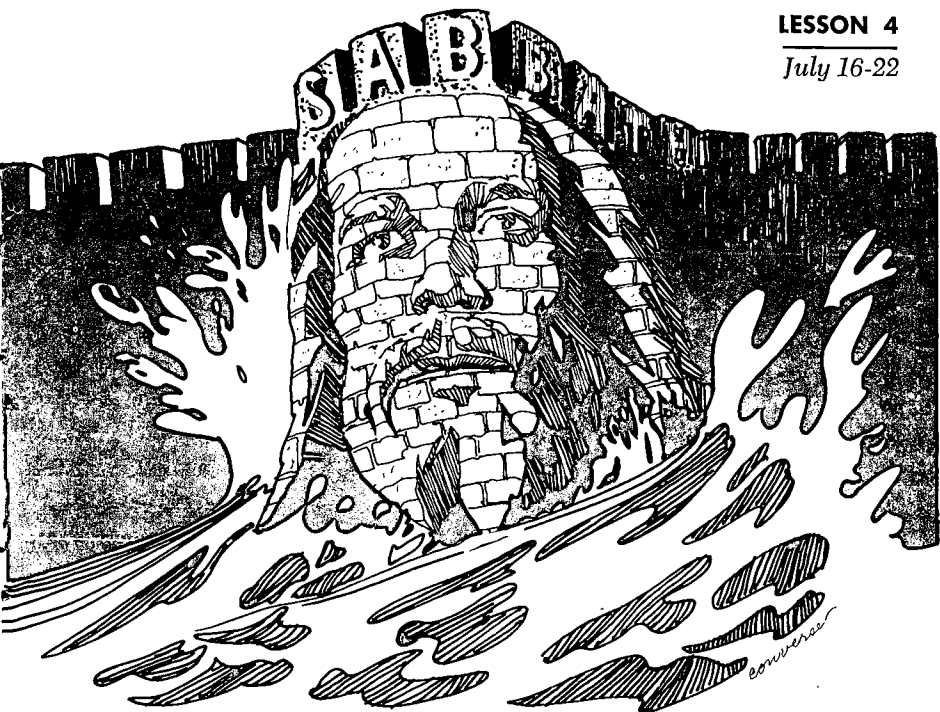
3. What made the burning bush holy? _____

commands. _____

2. Give two texts that express the idea that one who loves God will keep His _____ link between God and man? _____

1. Where does the spirit of prophecy speak of the Sabbath as a connecting _____

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**



A BULWARK OF TRUTH 4

"His truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Ps. 91:4.

True Sabbath keeping has been wisely designed as a sign of allegiance to Christ and as an effective barrier against error and false worship. There is a direct relationship between keeping the true Sabbath and honoring the true Christ by following the truth as it is in Christ.

The author of all error (John 8:44) is aware of this. Hence it has been his studied purpose from the beginning to pervert, distort, set aside, conceal, and repudiate the Sabbath truth. The result is that it is the most misunderstood, opposed, and disregarded of the doctrines of Christ. This is a call to search out its significance as "The Bulwark of Truth."

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Mark of True Worship**
Ex. 31:17
2. **Preventive of False Worship**
Rev. 14:7
3. **Worldwide Witness**
Ex. 20:9, 10
4. **Precludes Evolutionary Theory**
Heb. 11:3
5. **A Sign Between Us and God**
Ezek. 20:20
6. **Truth Sanctifies**
John 17:17

July 16

Part 1
MARK OF
TRUE WORSHIP
Ex. 31:17

“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.”

There can be no house without a builder. Every house is proof that a builder has made it. Thus the Bible points to the existence of the world and the objects therein as evidence that there is a Creator-God (Rom. 1:20) and that He is the only true God. Ps. 96:5; Jer. 10:10-12.



What did Christ, as our Creator, give man to be his continual means of acknowledgment of the only true God, and as a sign of his supreme allegiance to Him? Ex. 20: 8-11; 31:16, 17.

Those who truly keep the Sabbath show thereby that they worship the Creator as the only true God. This makes Sabbath keeping a mark of true worship. In the Decalogue the Sabbath command (Ex. 20:8-11) is the only precept in which the Lord (YHWH) is identified as the Creator and therefore the only One to whom we should render worship and supreme allegiance. Thus Sabbath keeping is a distinguishing mark between true and false worship.



How does the Word of God emphasize that supreme, heart-motivated obedience to God is true worship? 1 Sam. 15:22; Ps. 40:6-8.

True Sabbath keeping shows our commitment to obey God supremely. A person cannot keep the Sabbath as Christ directs if he serves other gods. A true Sabbath keeper is a true worshiper of the Father and the Son. True Sabbath observance must not be omitted if we would worship God in spirit and in truth as Jesus directs. John 4:24.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I have any gods before the Creator? Am I allowing anything or any person to hold me back from rendering full and supreme obedience to the Lord?

“The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God—because He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foun-

ation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this.”—J. N. Andrews, as quoted in “The Great Controversy,” page 437.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: “SDA Bible Commentary,” Vol. 7, pp. 980, 981 (Ellen G. White Comments on “The Mark of Distinction”).

July 17

Part 2
PREVENTIVE OF
FALSE WORSHIP
Rev. 14:7

"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."

These words are a part of the message given in the final phase of the gospel, which God has foreordained shall be proclaimed to every nation shortly before the second advent of Christ. Rev. 14:6-15. This message restores forgotten and neglected truths to their rightful place in the preaching of the gospel of Christ.



What kind of Christian people are raised up by acceptance of this heaven-sent message?

This last-day message provides certainty amid uncertainty. The way of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus is the Lord's true way in the midst of all the confusing and conflicting doctrines of the last days.

This call to "worship Him that made heaven and earth" requires that men recognize Christ and His rightful place as our Creator and Lord. This in turn calls for the keeping of the Sabbath as His appointed sign that He is our Creator and Redeemer. Ezek. 20:12, 20. Since Sabbath observance is a mark of true worship, it is one test for distinguishing truth from error.



What will the observer of the Sabbath know? Ezek. 20:20.

If Christ's Sabbath had been kept by all men from the beginning, there would be no infidel, atheist, or idolater. And there would be neither Buddhism, Confucianism, Mohammedanism, nor pantheism. Neither would there be materialism or humanism, which leave God out of their reckoning.

Honoring the Sabbath as the sign of loyalty to our Creator-Redeemer sweeps the foundation from under every false system of worship. Is it any wonder that the devil's chief target has been the Sabbath?

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I keep the Sabbath in such a spirit that it signifies that Christ is Lord in all the affairs of my life?

"Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The

keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, 'Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.'—"The Great Controversy," page 438.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 436-438.

July 18

Part 3
WORLDWIDE
WITNESS
Ex. 20:9, 10

"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."

There are twenty-four hours in a day. The period of rotation of the earth upon its axis determines the length of the day. The period of a revolution of the moon around the earth is the natural measure of the month. The revolution of the earth around the sun in a little over 365 days is the basis of the common year of 365 days and the leap year of 366 days.

But whence came the seven-day week? It cannot be accounted for from nature.

▷ **What connection is there between Christ's instituting the Sabbath and commanding its observance, and the reckoning of the days by the recurring cycle of seven? Ex. 20:8-11.**

▷ **To what inspired account must men turn for the origin of the week? Gen. 1:1-31; 2:1-3; Ex. 20:11; 31:17; Heb. 4:4.**

Christ the Creator established the seven-day week when He made the world in six days and rested on the seventh. Then He sanctified the Sabbath, or set it apart as sacred for man to keep holy on every seventh day thereafter. He directed man to confine his secular affairs to the first six days of the week and to devote the seventh day to the worship of the Lord. This is the origin of the seven-day week.

The universal use of seven days for a week reveals how the Sabbath has influenced our world. Each week ending with the Sabbath points to the Creator-God of Genesis 1 and 2, who is Christ. The week bears its own witness that the days of creation week were not long and indefinite periods of time but were evening-and-morning days, seven of which made up the week of creation like every week since that time. The calendar, with its weeks of seven days, bears witness to the identity and continuity of Christ's Sabbath for our age.

THINK IT THROUGH

How did the Lord identify the true week and the right Sabbath for forty consecutive years in connection with the wilderness journey of the Israelites? Ex. 16:4, 5, 16-30, 35.

"I . . . was shown that the first week, in which God performed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day, was just like every other week. The great God in his days of

creation and day of rest, measured off the first cycle as a sample for successive weeks till the close of time."—"Spiritual Gifts," Vol. 3, p. 90.

July 19

Part 4
PRELUDES
EVOLUTIONARY
THEORY
Heb. 11:3

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

"The weekly cycle of seven literal days, six for labor, and the seventh for rest, which has been preserved and brought down through Bible history, originated in the great facts of the first seven days."—*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, p. 90.



How does the fourth commandment indicate that the six days of creation are the same kind of days as those which precede the Sabbath each week? Ex. 20:8-11.

The Lord commands all people to keep the seventh day because He made the world in six days and rested on the seventh, as set forth in Genesis 1 and 2. The keeping of the Sabbath, as Christ directs, commits a person to the acceptance of the doctrine of the direct creation of the world in six literal days of twenty-four hours each.

Can those who believe in the Bible Sabbath, as commanded by Christ, accept the theory that it took millions of years to make the earth as a home for man and that man evolved from the lower forms of life? If professed Christians had kept the true Sabbath, then millions of them would not have been overtaken and ensnared by the evolutionary theory.

Christ our Saviour is Christ our Creator. Rejection of Christ as our Creator in Genesis 1 and 2 is a serious mistake on the part of a professed Christian.

The introduction of the man-made Sunday sabbath by early ecclesiastical leaders, as a substitute for Christ's seventh-day Sabbath, deprived Christendom of one of the Lord's major barriers against the errors of the theory of evolution.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why is it in vain for a person to claim to be a Sabbath keeper and at the same time declare that he does not believe what is written in Genesis 1 and 2?

"God created man in His own image. Here is no mystery. There is no ground for the supposition that man was evolved by slow degrees of development from the lower forms of animal or vegetable life. Such teaching lowers the great work of the Creator to the

level of man's narrow, earthly conceptions. Men are so intent upon excluding God from the sovereignty of the universe that they degrade man and defraud him of the dignity of his origin."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 45.

July 20

Part 5
A SIGN BETWEEN
US AND GOD
Ezek. 20:20

"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."

In seven places in the New Testament Jesus is presented as the Creator of this world and also of all the worlds in the universe. Only Deity can create a world. The true and living God is set forth as the Creator of all, in contradistinction to the vast array of false gods, none of whom have made the heaven and earth. Jer. 10:10-12; Acts 17:23, 24.

God sets forth His seventh-day Sabbath as a sign that He is this Creator. Ex. 31:16, 17. Therefore it becomes a sign of His incomparable standing as God, in addition to His becoming man.

The Sabbath, as it relates to His deity, is especially relevant to Christianity today. Why? Because many professed Christians in various religious denominations which were formerly fully committed to the deity of Christ are now openly expressing their disbelief in this. They laud Him as the best man and the greatest teacher. But they do not regard Him as being truly God as He was truly man.



Why is the acceptance of Christ as being truly God as He was truly man essential to a full appreciation of salvation?

No one can truly hallow Christ's Sabbath and at the same time deny His deity. No one can keep the Sabbath as the Lord's command requires in Ex. 20:8-11 and be committed to the evolutionary theory.

Among the myriads of true Sabbath keepers there are none who deny the deity of Christ or who disbelieve the Biblical account of creation. The true Sabbath is a barrier against certain errors. It is an important link in that interlocked chain of truth as it is in Jesus.

THINK IT THROUGH

What should all Sunday-keeping Christians who still believe in the deity of Christ do to manifest greater faith in His lordship? Ezek. 20:20; James 2:20, 26.

"In the fourth commandment God is revealed as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and is thereby distinguished from all false gods. It was as a memorial of the work of creation that the seventh day was sanctified as a rest day for man. It was designed to keep the living God ever before the minds of men as the source of being and the

object of reverence and worship. Satan strives to turn men from their allegiance to God, and from rendering obedience to His law; therefore he directs his efforts especially against that commandment which points to God as the Creator."—"The Great Controversy," pages 53, 54.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 8, pages 197, 198.

July 21

Part 6
TRUTH SANCTIFIES
John 17:17

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

The adequacy of the Sabbath truth is the adequacy of Christ, because true Sabbath observance is a sign of loyalty to Christ as our Creator and Saviour. Everything that every person ever needs for time and eternity is enfolded in Christ as the Creator and Saviour and Sanctifier.



Why can no person earn merit and thereby save himself by his good works? Eph. 2:8-10.

The Sabbath is a sign that Christ can sanctify any penitent sinner. Ezek. 20:12. True Sabbath keeping is an acknowledgment that He alone can make such a person righteous. Hence no one who keeps the Sabbath as Christ directs is a legalist. Why not? Because true Sabbath keeping is a part of the fruitage of His righteousness as it has been received by faith in Him.



Why does salvation by grace not set aside obedience to the Ten Commandments through Christ? Rom. 3:31; 6:14, 15.

Note what an effective barrier true Sabbath keeping is against error. No false religions. No theory of evolution. No false philosophy substituting its dicta for the truths of God's Word. No legalistic attempt by man to lift up himself by pulling at his own bootstraps. No antinomians advocating that faith in Christ frees a Christian from the obligation to obey the precepts of the Decalogue. No false system of salvation by works. But all honor, and glory, and love, and obedience to the Creator-Saviour-Sanctifier.

He who truly keeps the Sabbath as Christ directs is ready to do everything else that He commands. Why is this? Because the Sabbath, when kept in the manner that God has appointed, is a sign that Christ is sanctifying and saving one from sin (the transgression of His law) by His indwelling presence.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I experience sanctification every day by Christ living His life in me so that I can truly keep His sanctified day at the end of each week?

"In the fourth commandment, God is revealed as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and is thereby distinguished from all false gods. . . . It was designed to keep the living God ever before the minds of men."—"The Great Controversy," pages 53, 54.

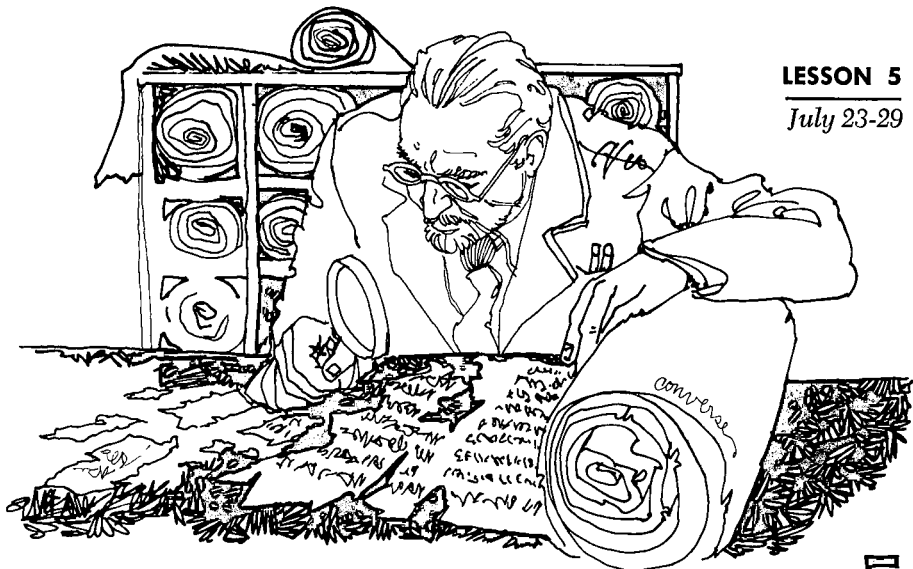
"When the time shall come, in the

providence of God, for the world to be tested upon the truth for that time, minds will be exercised by His Spirit to search the Scriptures . . . until link after link is searched out and united in a perfect chain."—"Testimonies," Vol. 2, p. 692.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. The God of the Bible is the only true God because He is the _____.
2. True Sabbath keeping is a mark of true worship because, according to _____ (list references) the Sabbath is a _____ of God as the _____.
3. The week of seven days is a continuing worldwide witness to the _____ and _____ of the seventh-day Sabbath.
4. True Sabbath keeping precludes acceptance of the evolutionary theory, because it commits the observer to belief in the direct creation of our world in _____.
5. No one who truly hallows the Sabbath denies the deity of Christ, because such observance is a sign of belief that He is _____.
6. Salvation only by grace through faith:
 - (a) releases a Christian from keeping the Ten Commandments.
 - (b) supersedes obedience to the law.
 - (c) is contrary to obeying the law.
 - (d) leads one to obey the Decalogue by having Christ live in him.
7. According to Rev. 14:12, God's true people in our day are distinguished by the _____ and the _____.
8. A true Sabbath keeper will not be a legalist, because his Sabbath keeping is a continual acknowledgment of his utter dependence upon _____ to _____ and _____ him.

Answers: (1) Creator; (2) Ex. 20:8-11; 31:16, 17; continual identification, Creator; (3) creation, continuity; (4) seven days of 24 hours each; (5) God the Creator; (6) d; (7) commandments of God, faith of Jesus; (8) Christ, redeem, sustain.



THE MISSING TEXT 5

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed." Acts 17:11, 12.

They maintained the right attitude toward truth. They tested Paul's preaching by what the Scriptures taught. When they found that his teachings were according to the Word, they gladly moved forward to accept them.

The apostles and the primitive Christians regarded the Scriptures as the ultimate authority for the determination of what is truth. Protestantism was founded upon this safe and sure foundation: that the Bible, and the Bible only, is the authoritative rule of faith and practice.

The Christian princes in the Diet of Spires of 1529 declared concerning the Bible, "This word is the only truth; it is the sure rule of all doctrine and of all life, and can never fail or deceive us. He who builds on this foundation shall stand against all the powers of hell, while all the human vanities that are set up against it shall fall before the face of God."—*The Great Controversy*, page 203.

Today millions of Protestants, who traditionally accept the Bible as their only guide, believe that the keeping of Sunday is

sanctioned by the New Testament. This situation demands that a search be made to see if there is such evidence in the New Testament.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Resurrection on Sunday
Mark 16:9, NEB
2. Resurrection's Relationship to Sabbath
Luke 23:54-56; 24:1, NEB
3. Doubting Disciples Convinced
John 20:19, NEB
4. An All-night Meeting
Acts 20:7
5. Sunday Provision for Needy
1 Cor. 16:2
6. A Man-made Predicament
Matt. 22:29

July 23

Part 1
RESURRECTION
ON SUNDAY
Mark 16:9, NEB

"When he had risen from the dead early on Sunday morning he appeared first to Mary of Magdala, from whom he had formerly cast out seven devils."

This is a definite statement that Christ arose early on Sunday morning. But there is not a hint that Sunday is to be honored because the Lord arose on that day.



How does Mark show that the Lord's holy day is the one which precedes Sunday? Mark 16:1, 2.

Regardless of how earnestly one may try, it is impossible to keep the Lord's holy day on Sunday. Why? Because Mark 16:1, 2 shows that *the Sabbath was past* when the women came to the tomb at daybreak on Sunday.



How does John refer to the day when Mary found the tomb empty? John 20:1.

John wrote this account about sixty years after the resurrection of Christ. Some claim that during these sixty years the keeping of Sunday by Christians was established in the place of that of the seventh-day Sabbath. If this were true, wouldn't John have mentioned this when he spoke of the first day in direct connection with our Lord's resurrection?

The fact is that Christians in the days of the apostles kept Saturday and not Sunday. In Acts 18:4 the record declares that at Corinth Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. This happened about A.D. 54, or twenty-three years after Christ's resurrection.

The Jews assembled in their synagogues according to their custom every week upon the seventh day, or Saturday. The Holy Spirit, speaking through Luke in Acts 18:4, identifies their meeting days as being every Sabbath. This indicates that this day on which they met for worship was observed as the Sabbath twenty-three years after the resurrection of Christ.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why can no one adequately harmonize Sunday keeping with Mark 16:1, 2?

"Protestants now urge that the resurrection of Christ on Sunday made it the Christian Sabbath. But Scripture evidence is lacking. No such honor was

given to the day by Christ or His apostles."—"The Great Controversy," page 54.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 51-54.

July 24

**Part 2
RESURRECTION'S
RELATIONSHIP
TO SABBATH**

**Luke 23:54-56;
24:1, NEB**

"It was Friday, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had accompanied him from Galilee followed; they took note of the tomb and observed how his body was laid. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes; and on the Sabbath they rested in obedience to the commandment. But on the Sunday morning very early they came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared."

These verses present three notable facts:

1. Christ was crucified on Friday, the day before the Sabbath. Mark 15:42 designates the day of the crucifixion as "the day before the Sabbath."

2. Christ arose from the dead on Sunday, the day after the Sabbath. Mark 16:1, 2, NEB, declares that "the Sabbath was past" when the women went to the tomb on Sunday at daybreak. Matt. 28:1, NEB, says, "The Sabbath was over, and it was about daybreak on Sunday, when Mary of Magdala and the other Mary came to look at the grave."

3. The day in the middle between the Friday of the crucifixion and the Sunday of the resurrection was "the sabbath day according to the commandment" of the Lord. Luke 23:56; Ex. 20:8-11. Thus everyone can be sure, according to Luke 23:54-56; 24:1, that the seventh day—Saturday—is the day which the Lord asks us to keep holy.

▶ What evidence do you see in Luke 23:54-56; 24:1 that the followers of Jesus came to the tomb to do on Sunday what they would not do on Saturday?

Some think that changes in the calendar have made it uncertain whether or not Saturday is the true seventh day of the week now. The calendar changes have pertained to the numbering of days in certain months. There has been no change of the fixed order and number of the seven days in the weekly cycle.

THINK IT THROUGH

Since the followers of Jesus were expected to keep the Sabbath from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset on the weekend of the crucifixion, what does the law of God require of me every week?

"Each Sabbath institution [the true Sabbath and the false sabbath] bears the name of its author, an ineffaceable mark showing the authority of each. The first day of the week has not one

particle of sanctity. It is the production of the man of sin, who strives in this way to counterwork God's purposes."
—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 7, p. 981.

July 25

Part 3
DOUBTING DISCIPLES
CONVINCED
John 20:19, NEB

"Late that Sunday evening, when the disciples were together behind locked doors, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them."

It is claimed that the apostles had gathered together to begin the keeping of Sunday in honor of Christ's resurrection. But note there is not a word in the text to indicate this.

▷ **How do we know that when they came together on that occasion, they did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead? Mark 16:9-14.**

▷ **Why is it wrong to read into a text something different from what it says? Prov. 30:6; 2 Peter 3:16.**

In John 20:26 the apostle records that after eight days from this Sunday-night meeting, Jesus appeared again to His apostles. According to Jewish method of reckoning days, this second meeting took place on the next Sunday. Some claim that this was the setting apart of Sunday as the Lord's day for worship instead of the seventh day. But there is no hint of such a purpose in this text. Jesus came to convince doubting Thomas.

The first recorded Christian council convened at Jerusalem about A.D. 52, or approximately twenty-one years after Christ's resurrection. See Acts 15. It is worthy of note that in the official letter of this council to all the churches, the day observed by the Jews was recognized as the Sabbath. It referred to the reading of the Scriptures in the synagogues "every Sabbath day." Acts 15:21. There was then no other Sabbath than the seventh day of the week. So it is today and forevermore. Isa. 66:22, 23.

THINK IT THROUGH

If it was the Lord's plan for Christians to keep Sunday, wouldn't the New Testament so declare it? Since such a thing is not mentioned at all, is it according to Christ's plan?

"Christ rested in the tomb on the Sabbath day, and when holy beings of both heaven and earth were astir on the morning of the first day of the week, He rose from the grave to renew His

work of teaching His disciples. But this fact does not consecrate the first day of the week, and make it a Sabbath."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 5, p. 1113.

July 26

Part 4
AN ALL-NIGHT
MEETING
Acts 20:7

“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

Many claim that this passage shows that it was a regular practice there for Christians to assemble on every Sunday for worship. We must not read into the Scriptures something that is not there.



How do we know that, according to Biblical mode of reckoning of the twenty-four-hour day, this meeting at Troas was held on what we call Saturday night? Gen. 1:19; Mark 1:32; Acts 20:7, 8, 11.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week at Troas would not sanctify Sunday for Christians to keep as the Lord's day. The celebration of the first Lord's Supper by Jesus and His disciples on a Thursday night did not make that a holy day.

This first-day meeting at Troas does not represent *regular* Christian practice. It lasted all night long. Acts 20:7, 8, 11. No church customarily holds regular meetings during the entire night.

This meeting was not held because it was Sunday, but because Paul was “ready to depart” early the next morning. Verses 7 and 11. He went on foot on Sunday morning to Assos. Verses 13, 14.

It was logical that he would hold this farewell meeting on the night previous to his departure, a Saturday night doubtless, and celebrate the Lord's Supper with them.



What New Testament Christian leaders speak of the day on which devout Jews and some Gentiles assembled for worship as the Sabbath? Acts 13:27; 15:21; 18:4.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why does it take more than the holding of a meeting on Sunday to make it a divinely appointed weekly holy day for Christians? Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:8-11.

“The simplest way to view this passage would seem to be that the meeting was held, not because it was Sunday, but because Paul was ‘ready to depart,’ . . . that Luke includes an account of the meeting because of the

experience of Eutychus, and that his note that it was ‘the first day of the week’ is merely a part of his continuing chronological record of Paul's journey.” —“SDA Bible Commentary,” on Acts 20:7.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: “SDA Bible Commentary,” on Acts 20:7.

July 27

Part 5
SUNDAY PROVISION
FOR NEEDY
1 Cor. 16:2

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Some declare that this means that a collection was taken every Sunday at the church in Corinth. Evidence indicates, however, that the believers at Corinth were Sabbath keepers. See Acts 18:1-4, 11. But 1 Cor. 16:2 does not say anything about a weekly church collection.

▶ **What words in our text indicate that Paul is not here calling for a public collection to be taken up in a church service?**

The money was to be laid aside perhaps at home. The RSV rendering: "Each of you is to put something aside and store it up." NEB: "Each of you is to put aside and keep by him a sum." Phillips: "Let everyone put so much by him." Today's English Version: "Each of you must put aside some money." The Roman Catholic New Testament Confraternity Version: "Let each one of you put aside at home and lay up whatever he has a mind to." The Jerusalem Bible: "Each one of you must put aside what he can afford."

Paul was then gathering funds to help the needy saints at Jerusalem. He planned to stop at Corinth for this purpose, and he advised the believers there to lay aside some money on the first day of each week for this relief fund which he would take to Jerusalem.

▶ **Why is it unscriptural to assume that "the Lord's day" in Rev. 1:10 is Sunday?**

The Bible repeatedly states that the seventh day is the Lord's special day for man. Ex. 20:8-11. God calls it specifically "my holy day." Isa. 58:13. Jesus declared that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. Matt. 12:8.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I show by the way I use it that from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset is the Lord's holy day?

"It was on the Sabbath that the Lord of glory appeared to the exiled apostle. The Sabbath was as sacredly observed by John on Patmos as when he

was preaching to the people in the towns and cities of Judea."—"The Acts of the Apostles," page 581.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 3, p. 413; "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 6, p. 815.

July 28

Part 6
A MAN-MADE
PREDICAMENT
Matt. 22:29

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."

This statement was made in reference to the Sadducees' ignorance of the resurrection. It could well portray the condition of those who endeavor today to defend Sunday observance by the Bible.

If there is Scriptural authority for keeping Sunday, then we would expect to find it in connection with the eight passages which specifically mention the first day of the week. But they contain no Scriptural evidence in favor of the observance of that day.



What is the decisive test as to what we should follow in matters of religion? Isa. 8:20.

What six things can be said concerning the lack of Biblical evidence for keeping Sunday?

1. Christ and His apostles never changed the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week.
 2. Jesus and His apostles never observed the first day of the week as the Sabbath or Lord's day.
 3. There is in the New Testament no divine command to keep holy the first day of the week.
 4. In the Bible there is no indication that the first day is to be kept as sacred for any reason.
 5. There is no indication that Sunday observance took the place of the keeping of the seventh day of the week as holy during Bible times.
 6. Neither God, Christ, holy angels, nor divinely inspired men have ever said one word in favor of Sunday as a holy day.
- In direct contrast, the keeping of the seventh day is plainly commanded by Christ in the Ten Commandments. Ex. 20:8-11. It is inseparably connected with the acceptance of Christ as Creator (Ex. 31:16, 17), Saviour (Ezek. 20:12), and Lord (Ezek. 20:20; Matt. 12:8).

THINK IT THROUGH

When a person who is keeping Sunday or any other day finds that there is no Bible authority for it, what should he do?

"It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to

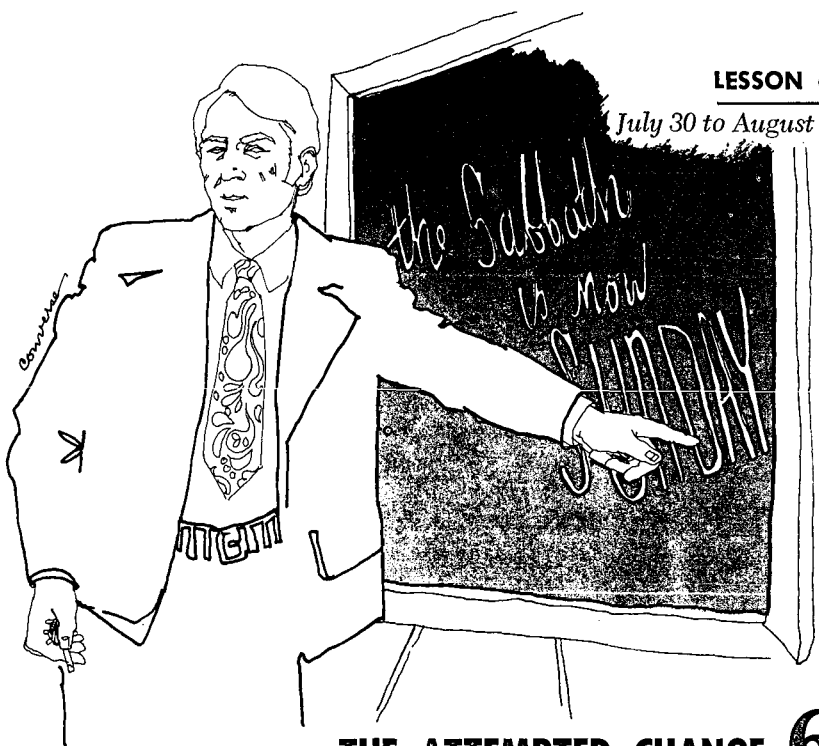
walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example."—"The Great Controversy," page 598.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. The first day of the week is mentioned _____ times in the New Testament.
2. How many of these first-day texts say anything about Christians keeping the first day as a weekly holy day? _____
3. How many times in Acts is the Sabbath identified as the day on which Jews and Gentiles assembled for worship? 5? 8? 7? 6?
4. What day was kept as a rest day after Christ died, and how careful were His followers in its observance? _____

5. Which day of the week is spoken of as the Sabbath in the statement of the presiding elder at the first recorded Christian council? _____
6. In how many places in the Bible is it said that the first day of the week is the Lord's day? _____
7. Where does the Bible show that Christ is inseparably connected with the keeping of the seventh day? _____
8. If a person follows the Bible, and the Bible only, what day will he keep?

Answers: (1) 8; (2) none; (3) 7; (4) the Sabbath, the day before the first day of the week; the women waited to embalm Jesus' body until the Sabbath was past (see Luke 23:54-56; 24:1); (5) the Jews worshiped on the seventh day of the week, which James spoke of as the "sabbath day"; (6) none; (7) Ex. 31:16, 17; Ezek. 20:12, 20; Matt. 12:8; (8) the seventh.



THE ATTEMPTED CHANGE 6

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Heb. 13:8.

Christ never changes. He established the Sabbath for man upon the seventh day as an everlasting sign that He is the Lord, the Creator, and the only Saviour. Therefore His Sabbath cannot be changed by man, even as Christ cannot be changed from being the Lord and the Creator-Saviour.

Men can change and have changed the practice of the people with regard to the day of rest. But Christ's Sabbath is still the last day of the week, as originally established by Him. Those who have attempted to change the Sabbath have by so doing tried to exalt themselves above the Lord.

Today the vast majority of the followers of Christ are keeping the first day of the week, instead of the seventh day which Christ has appointed in the Decalogue. This practice raises questions: Who was responsible for this attempted change? When was it changed? Why was it changed?

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Not Changed by God**
Ps. 89:34
2. **Unchanged Under New Covenant**
Jer. 31:31-33
3. **Not Changed by Apostles**
Acts 15:21
4. **The Attempt Foretold**
Dan. 7:25, ARV
5. **History Confirms Prophecy**
Isa. 48:3
6. **A Decisive Test**
Rom. 6:16

July 30

Part 1
NOT CHANGED
BY GOD
Ps. 89:34

"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

There is in this world only one code of moral law that came direct from the lips of God to man. It is the law of Ten Commandments, which God also wrote with His own finger on tables of stone.

In the fourth commandment God has said, "The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God." Ex. 20:10. Texts such as Ps. 89:34 declare that God will not alter, or change, the thing that is gone out of His lips. This implies that God is not the one who has attempted to change the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first of the week.

Christ, as the Creator-God (John 1:1-3, 10), made the seventh day the Sabbath by resting on it, blessing it, and declaring it holy. Ex. 20:11; Gen. 2:2, 3. It is unalterably established on the last day of the week.

Those who attempt to make Sunday the Christian sabbath are in effect exalting themselves above God by planning to do what He Himself has not done or authorized anyone else to do.

The jot (*yôd*) is the smallest character in the Hebrew alphabet. A tittle (the tiniest part of a letter of the Greek alphabet) is even smaller; it is the hook or point of such a letter. It is small like the dot on the "i" or the cross on the "t." Christ teaches in Matt. 5:18 that the Ten Commandments cannot be changed in the least as long as heaven and earth stand. This shows that Christ did not change the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first to honor His resurrection.

Christ foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, and it occurred thirty-nine years afterward, in A.D. 70.

He said, "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day." Matt. 24:20. Thus he indicated that the same seventh-day Sabbath which His disciples were keeping before His death would still be the Sabbath of the Lord in A.D. 70, or thirty-nine years after His resurrection.



How has the Lord forbidden men to attempt to change His commandments? Deut. 4:2; 12:32.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is it my steadfast purpose that by the grace of God I will obey His commands without any additions or subtractions?

"Here [in Matt. 5:17, 18] He [Christ] teaches, not merely what the claims of God's law had been, and were then, but that these claims should hold as long as the heavens and the earth re-

main. The law of God is as immutable as His throne. It will maintain its claims upon mankind in all ages."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 365.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 281-289.

July 31

Part 2
UNCHANGED UNDER
NEW COVENANT
Jer. 31:31-33

"I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: . . . I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

"The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. . . . Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 372.

This shows that under the new covenant God writes upon the renewed hearts of converted persons the same law of His Ten Commandments which, in connection with the old covenant with Israel, He had written upon the two tablets of stone. Thus Christ's seventh-day Sabbath stands unchanged in the very heart of the Decalogue under the new covenant.



What is the attitude of a converted person toward God's commandments? Ps. 40:8; Ezek. 11:19, 20; Rom. 7:22.

Some ask, "If the keeping of the seventh day is binding on Christians, then why is there no command concerning it in the New Testament?"

"The New Testament does not reenact the law of the tithe, as it does not that of the Sabbath; for the validity of both is assumed, and their deep spiritual import explained."—*Counsels on Stewardship*, page 66.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I continually maintain so full a surrender to Christ that Ps. 40:8 is true every day with me?

Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist, expressed strong convictions on the fourth commandment. Here are his words:

"I honestly believe that this commandment is just as binding to-day as it ever was. I have talked with men who have said that it has been abrogated, 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. This fourth commandment begins with the word 'remember,' showing that the sabbath already existed when God wrote this law on the tables of stone at Sinai. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away with when they will admit that the other nine are still binding?"—*"Weighed and Wanting,"* pages 46, 47, quoted in *"SDA Source Book,"* page 860.

August 1

Part 3
NOT CHANGED
BY APOSTLES
Acts 15:21

"For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day."

There are still those who say that the apostles introduced the keeping of Sunday in the place of the seventh day. But the book of Acts shows that the apostles regarded the seventh day as the only weekly Sabbath.

There are eight places, in the Acts of the Apostles, where reference is made to the seventh-day Sabbath: Acts 13:14, 27, 42, 44; 15:21; 16:13; 17:1-4; 18:4. If the apostles had changed the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week, they could not have correctly called the seventh day the Sabbath day. These references in the Acts show that the apostles did not change the Sabbath.

In three of these references—Acts 13:27; 15:21; 18:4—three Christian leaders—Paul, James, and Luke—refer to successive Sabbaths on which devout Jews and Gentiles assembled for worship as "every Sabbath day."

Some ask, "If the keeping of the seventh day is still binding, how is it that all of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the New Testament except the Sabbath commandment?"

Only three of the Ten Commandments are repeated verbatim in the New Testament: the sixth, seventh, and eighth. Does this mean that the other seven are not binding? Not at all. It was not necessary for them to be repeated verbatim, or reenacted, in the New Testament to make them binding.

None of them ever was repealed. None expired by limitation. Hence all of them, including the Sabbath, are binding.



What texts show that the apostles taught that all the Ten Commandments are to be obeyed by Christians?
James 2:8-12; Rom. 7:7; 13:8-10; Eph. 6:2.

THINK IT THROUGH

Since it was contrary to the will of God for men to attempt to change the true Sabbath, what should be my attitude toward it?

"Through the setting up of a false sabbath, the enemy thought to change times and laws. But has he really succeeded in changing God's law? The words of the thirty-first chapter of Exodus are the answer. He who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, has

declared of the seventh-day Sabbath: 'It is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations.' 'It is a sign . . . forever.' Ex. 13:13, 17. The changed signpost is pointing the wrong way, but God has not changed."—*"Prophets and Kings,"* pages 184, 185.

August 2

**Part 4
THE ATTEMPT
FORETOLD
Dan. 7:25**

"He 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."

The context reveals that this prediction refers to a religious-political power that ruled over Western Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire in the West. No other power fits the specifications of the prophecy except the papacy.



What one word in Dan. 7:25 indicates not only a deliberate attempt to change the law of God, but also an inability to change it in reality?

One important measurement of time is the seven-day week, as stated in the Sabbath command. Changing the times and the law points to an attempt to change God's Sabbath commandment. Roman Catholic spokesmen plainly declare that their church has changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

In a popular Catholic book we read:

"Q. Which is the Sabbath day?

A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.

"Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church . . . transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."—Peter Geiermann, *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, 1957 ed., page 50.

Thus the Catholic Church admits making this change, as was forecast in Dan. 7:25. Many have noted that in practice the churches keep Sunday, the first day, when the Ten Commandments say, "The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God."

THINK IT THROUGH

How can a person keeping Sunday correct this discrepancy between his practice and God's commandment?

"The soul who keeps the Sabbath is stamped with the sign of God's government, and he must not dishonor this sign. By closely examining the Word of God, we may know whether we have the King's mark, whether we have been chosen and set apart to honor God. . . .

"God will never, never allow any man to pass through the pearly gates

of the City of God who does not bear the signet of the faithful, His government mark. . . .

"God will never insure a man for everlasting life whose anchor is not securely fastened to heaven's unalterable law."—"Medical Ministry," page 123.

August 3

Part 5
HISTORY CONFIRMS
PROPHECY
Isa. 48:3

"I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass."

We find light on future events in the prophecies of the Bible for our day. This prophecy, "He . . . shall think to change the times and the law" (Dan. 7:25, RSV), is one key for unlocking the Sabbath truth as it pertains to our day. "The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfills this prophecy."—*The Great Controversy*, page 446.

History confirms this prophecy. The establishment of Sunday observance instead of that of the Sabbath was accomplished principally under the leadership and domination of the Roman power.

Dr. Nicholas Summerbell, a founding father of the denomination known as the Disciples of Christ, wrote a *History of Christians*, in which he says: "The Roman Church . . . has reversed the fourth commandment, by doing away with the Sabbath of God's word, and instituting Sunday as a holiday."—Pages 417, 418.

Some ask, "When was the Sabbath changed?" No exact date can be given, for in its effect it was a gradual change that took place most significantly from about A.D. 150 to 400.

Christians generally did not refrain from ordinary labor on Sunday until the first Sunday law was issued by Constantine the Great in A.D. 321. The church Council of Laodicea a little later decreed that Christians should not be idle on the Sabbath and, if possible, should abstain from work on Sunday.



What does Christ say about those who follow tradition in violation of His commandments? Mark 7:7-13.

Every Christian should reject this unscriptural change of Christ's Sabbath commandment. In love for Him he should say, "As for me, I will take my stand for Christ's seventh-day Sabbath as commanded in the Ten Commandments."

THINK IT THROUGH

Why is it vain to believe in the validity of the Ten Commandments and not keep the seventh day? James 2:10.

"Satan says, . . . 'Thus I will show the world that the day sanctified and blessed by God has been changed. . . . I will obliterate the memory of it. I will place in its stead a day that does not bear the credentials of God, a day

that cannot be a sign between God and His people. I will lead those who accept this day to place upon it the sanctity that God placed upon the seventh day.'"—"Prophets and Kings," pages 183, 184.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Prophets and Kings," pages 179, 180.

August 4

Part 6
A DECISIVE TEST

Rom. 6:16

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

This is a decisive statement. It reveals that all people by their own choice arrange themselves on one of two sides, either for the Lord Jesus Christ or for Satan.



What, according to Rom. 6:16, shows whose servants we are?

Every soul settles his eternal destiny, for heaven or hell, by whether his faith in Christ leads him to choose to obey Christ. The real test is submission to the rightful supremacy of the Son of God versus the assumed supremacy of Satan.

In this closing age God has ordained that this test concerning the Sabbath truth shall come to every soul. Christ has appointed His Sabbath as a sign of His supremacy as our Creator and God and our only Saviour. The attempted change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday stands as a sign of the unwarranted attempt by the papal power to assume supremacy in religious matters.

This presents a decisive test to every soul. Will your faith lead you to accept the sign of Christ's authority by keeping the seventh day as He commands? Or will you in unbelief follow the sign of the papal authority by keeping Sunday as it directs?

This issue of whether a person keeps the seventh day or the first means far more than whether a person rests on Saturday or Sunday. It involves a choice between acceptance of the rightful supremacy of the Son of God over one's life and submission to the assumed supremacy of the papal power. It means a decision for or against Christ as our supreme Lord.



On what basis should we decide this Sabbath question? Acts 5:29.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why should a person not halt between two opinions in this matter? 1 Kings 18:21.

"Only by changing God's law could the papacy exalt itself above God; whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by

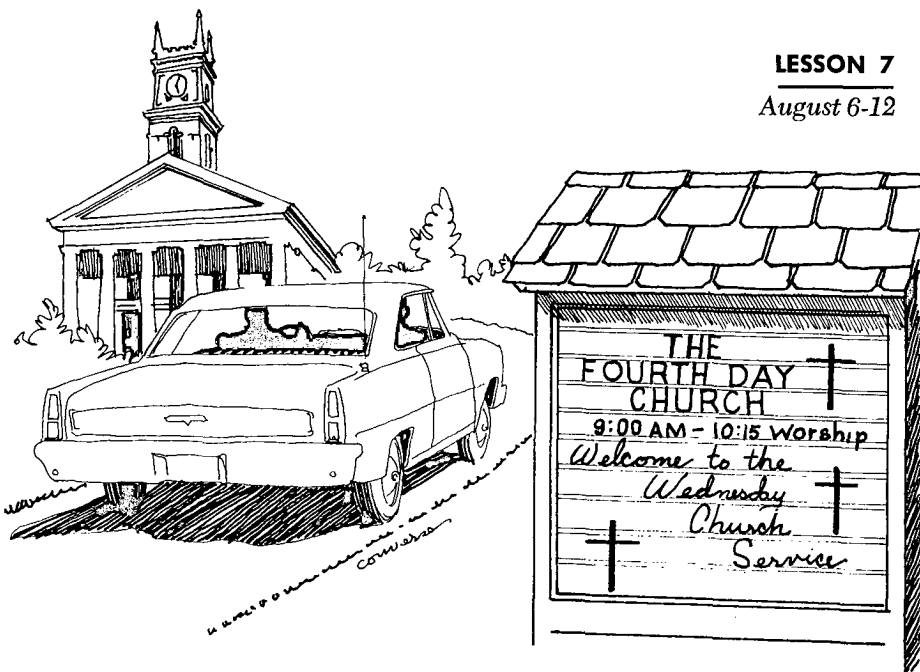
which the change was made. Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be a mark of allegiance to the pope in the place of God."—"The Great Controversy," page 446.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Prophets and Kings," pages 180-184.

Part 7 ◇ SUMMARY QUESTIONS ◇ TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER

1. What two statements of Christ in the Gospel of Matthew indicate that He did not change the Sabbath? (a) _____ (b) _____
2. The seventh day is still the Sabbath for Christians under the new _____, because God _____ the Ten Commandments upon their _____.
3. How many times is the seventh day referred to as being *the* Sabbath in the Acts of the Apostles? Circle the correct figure. 10? 6? 5? 7? 8?
4. Where is the prophecy involving the attempted change of the Sabbath?

5. How does the Catholic Church admit that it changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday? _____
6. The Sabbath presents a test to every soul whether he will obey Christ and keep the _____ day, or keep _____ and thus obey _____.
7. My lasting decision should be to obey _____ by faith.



WHY NOT ANY DAY? 7

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." Deut. 4:2.

The Word of God by precepts, promises, and illustrations repeatedly stresses the fact that God requires implicit obedience to His commands. They were given for our good both here and hereafter. These divine guidelines are needed more than ever in this time of permissiveness and situation ethics.

It is commonly believed that it makes no difference which day in the week a Christian observes as the Lord's day, and that the main thing is that he keep one day in the seven as sacred. Many declare that it matters not whether one keeps any day.

It is true that the Lord does not compel a person to observe the true Sabbath. He has left every man free to choose whether or not he will obey God. But let none conclude that God has left it to man to determine which is the right day to keep.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Creator Settles It**
Ex. 20:10, 11
2. **Optional Yearly Sabbaths**
Rom. 14:5, 6
3. **Typical System Abolished**
Col. 2:16, 17
4. **Situation Ethics Inadequate**
Prov. 16:25
5. **God Is Particular**
Matt. 7:21
6. **Judged According to Light**
John 9:41

August 6

**Part I
CREATOR
SETTLES IT**

Ex. 20:10, 11

"The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work . . . : for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, . . . and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

The Lord commands us to keep holy the same day of the week on which He, as our Creator-God, rested after He had made the world in six days. This cannot apply to any except the seventh and last day of the week.

The idea that it makes no difference which day a person observes is directly contrary to the Lord's Sabbath commandment. The concept that keeping any day in the seven is sufficient contradicts the Creator.

- The reasons why Christ asks man to observe the Sabbath do not apply to any other day in the week except the seventh. He has so designed this Sabbath command that only the proper keeping of the seventh day will meet its requirement.



May we expect the Lord to take notice when men set aside the Sabbath command or any other divine law? Ps. 119:126.

The substitution of any other day than the last day of the week for the Sabbath is disobedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. The difference between keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, when we perceive its validity, and a man-made sabbath on any of the other six days is the vital difference between obedience to the Lord and disobedience to Him. This involves one's eternal destiny.



What solemn warnings given in the last chapter of the Bible stress the importance of following God's Word exactly as He has given it? Rev. 22:18, 19.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I follow Christ's commandments exactly as He has stated them?

"Let no one deceive himself with the belief that a part of God's commandments are nonessential, or that He will accept a substitute for that which He has required. . . . God has placed in

His word no command which men may obey or disobey at will and not suffer the consequences."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 360, 361.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 1, pp. 604, 605.

August 7

Part 2
OPTIONAL YEARLY
SABBATHS

Rom. 14:5, 6

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it."


Does this text mean that Christians need not keep any fixed day in the week as the Lord's day? Is Paul sanctioning thereby the keeping of any day that a person may choose? Not at all. Why not? Because this interpretation would make Rom. 14:5, 6 contradict the Lord's command in Ex. 20:8-11. Also it would make Paul contradict his own teachings that the Ten Commandments are to be obeyed by Christians. See Eph. 6:2; Rom. 7:7; 3:31; 13:8-10.

In addition to the weekly seventh-day Sabbath of the Decalogue, the Lord gave to the Jews seven yearly sabbaths in the ceremonial law. These are listed in Leviticus 23. The requirement for their observance ended when Christ was crucified. No one needed to honor them thereafter.

Many of the Jewish believers continued to observe some of these yearly sabbaths after their conversion to Christianity. Some also observed certain fast days, and some urged that the Gentile Christians should observe them too.

Paul sought to end this dissension and establish Christian tolerance on minor differences not vital to salvation. He urged that the religious observance or nonobservance of a ceremonial feast day was not a matter on which one should judge another.

However, the weekly seventh-day Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-11) is another matter altogether. The Lord requires every soul to keep the Sabbath of the Decalogue. He has not left it to others to decide what day we are to keep.

 **Discuss the distinction between the weekly seventh-day Sabbath and the yearly rest days of Leviticus 23 with regard to time of origin, reasons given for observance, and continuity. See Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:8-11.**

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I practice in my life the main lesson of Romans 14, of not judging others?

"Those believers whose faith enables them immediately to leave behind all ceremonial holidays should not despise others whose faith is less strong. Nor, in turn, may the latter criticize those who seem to them lax. Each believer is responsible to God (Rom. 14:10-12).

And what God expects of each of His servants is that he shall 'be fully persuaded in his own mind' and conscientiously follow his convictions in accordance with the light he has received and understood so far."—"SDA Bible Commentary," on Rom. 14:5.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "SDA Bible Commentary," on Romans 14.

August 8

Part 3
TYPICAL SYSTEM
ABOLISHED
Col. 2:16, 17

"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."

Some have used this scripture in attempting to prove that the obligation to observe the seventh-day Sabbath ended at the cross. Such an interpretation is unsound. Why? Because the Bible does not actually teach such a thing.

In a former lesson we noted eight places in the book of Acts where the seventh-day Sabbath is spoken of during the decades that followed Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. If the seventh-day Sabbath had been abolished at the cross, then the Word of God would not thereafter refer to the seventh day as the Sabbath.

"'Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day,' Christ said. He who made the Sabbath did not abolish it, nailing it to His cross. The Sabbath was not rendered null and void by His death. Forty years after His crucifixion it was still to be held sacred. For forty years the disciples were to pray that their flight might not be on the Sabbath day."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 630.



How does the context of Col. 2:16, 17 show that it applies to the abolition of the Jewish typical system at the cross? Col. 2:14, 16, 17.

Paul is dealing in part with a similar problem in Rom. 14:5, 6. The yearly holy days of the ceremonial law are not binding on Christians. The Jewish ceremonial system met its fulfillment in Christ. Therefore Christians are not obligated to present the burnt offerings, the meal and drink offerings, to observe the new moons, the annual feast days, and the yearly sabbaths.

THINK IT THROUGH

How does the origin of the Sabbath in Eden show that it cannot be included among those typical, yearly Sabbaths which were a shadow of things to come?

"There is no evidence from this passage that he [Paul] would teach that there was no obligation to observe any holy time, for there is not the slightest reason to believe that he meant to teach that one of the ten commandments had ceased to be binding on mankind. . . .

He had his eye on the great number of days which were observed by the Hebrews as festivals, as a part of their ceremonial and typical law, and not to the moral law, or the ten commandments."—Dr. Albert Barnes, quoted in "SDA Bible Commentary," on Col. 2:17.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "SDA Bible Commentary," on Col. 2:14-16.

August 9

Part 4
SITUATION ETHICS
INADEQUATE
Prov. 16:25

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Many people make their decision concerning the Sabbath question by a form of situation ethics. They think the keeping of Sunday, motivated by love, is proper under present-day circumstances. Hence they deem it unnecessary to make any Biblical investigation of the subject.

Prov. 16:25 shows the danger in deciding our course by principles of situation ethics, and the fatal results of following such a course. The way may seem right to a person, but it ends in destruction.



Can he who depends entirely upon his own reasoning find the right way? Jer. 10:23.

The notion behind situation ethics is not new. To a degree Eve made the first human experiment with it in Eden. It seemed right to her understanding of love, under the circumstances, to eat the fruit from the Lord's reserved tree. Yet it was the worst thing she could have done.

Six thousand years of misery and suffering have come upon humanity because Eve reasoned that it wouldn't do any harm to eat the fruit of the Lord's reserved tree. "She disbelieved the words of God, and this was what led to her fall."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 55.

In matters of clear-cut moral duty, God has dealt with the inadequacy of situation ethics. He commanded, "Ye shall *not* do . . . every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes." Deut. 12:8. This verse of scripture overthrows the philosophy of situation ethics insofar as our duty to God is concerned.

Some ask, "If I am not to do what I think is right, what shall I do?" The Lord tells you what to do: "Observe . . . all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, . . . when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the Lord thy God." Deut. 12:28. When the application of His law seems impossible, He will guide us if we are willing.

THINK IT THROUGH

Am I fully committed to follow only what is right in the sight of God, as defined in His Word?

"We may disguise poison by mingling it with wholesome food, but we do not change its nature. On the contrary, it is rendered more dangerous, as it is more likely to be taken un-

awares. It is one of Satan's devices to combine with falsehood just enough truth to give it plausibility."—"The Great Controversy," page 587.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 71-73, 359-362.

Part 5
GOD IS PARTICULAR
Matt. 7:21

"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."

The Lord is particular about how we cooperate with His plan to work in us for true obedience to all His commandments. The Bible shows that admittance into heaven calls for this. Jesus says that many who perform wonderful works in His name will be denied entrance into heaven because they have disobeyed some of His commandments. Matt. 7:22, 23.

Many are unaware of what is involved in their own individual cases in this matter of the Sabbath versus Sunday. It is not merely a choice as to which day one shall observe as God's holy Sabbath.

The real issue is obedience versus disobedience, faith versus unbelief. Shall I obey the Lord in keeping the seventh day as He directs in Ex. 20:8-11? Or shall I obey man in keeping the first day? In this case the only right decision for a Christian to make is to obey Christ.



What is the difference in the end between obeying Christ and disobeying Him? Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22:14; 21:8.



What does Christ want us to do above all else? Deut. 5:29; 10:12, 13; John 14:15, 21.

The idea that it makes no difference which day one keeps, just so he observes a day, lacks validity, even as does the false proposition that it makes no difference which god a person worships, just so he worships a god. The underlying issue in each case is obedience to God versus disobedience. Whom shall I obey as supreme?

Christians need to realize from the Scriptures how the keeping of the seventh day is Christ's appointed way whereby we show our faith in Him as our Creator-Saviour. This shows that making a lasting decision to keep His Sabbath is one of the best things any person can do.

THINK IT THROUGH

Why does Christ want to see obedience in me above all else? John 15:14; Deut. 6:24.

"It is the grossest presumption for mortal man to venture upon a compromise with the Almighty in order to secure his own petty, temporal interests. It is as ruthless a violation of the law

to occasionally use the Sabbath for secular business as to entirely reject it; for it is making the Lord's commandments a matter of convenience."—"Testimonies," Vol. 4, p. 249.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 4, pp. 247-251.

Part 6
JUDGED ACCORD-
ING TO LIGHT
John 9:41

"Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth."

God judges every soul according to the light and opportunities he has had for obeying the truth. If a person has had no opportunity to learn about the true Sabbath, he will not be condemned for keeping the wrong day through ignorance. Acts 17:30. Condemnation comes when a person willfully refuses to obey the truth. John 3:19.



What is the situation when a person knows what is right and fails to do it? James 4:17.

The true Christian obeys the truth when the Word of God points it out. John 8:47; Luke 8:15. God's eye is on every honest soul in every country. 2 Chron. 16:9. He will lead such ones into a fuller knowledge of truth.



How is the vital matter of our cleansing from sin affected by our walking in the light, obeying truth as it comes to us? 1 John 1:7.

What plain Biblical evidences show the inseparable connection between keeping the seventh day and obeying Jesus Christ?

1. The seventh day is the only day of the week that Christ, as our Creator, ever sanctified, or set apart as holy, for man to observe.
2. The seventh day is the only day of the week that the Son of God ever blessed or hallowed for man.
3. The seventh day is the only day of the week that Christ, as the Lord of the Ten Commandments, has ever commanded any Christian to keep as holy.
4. The seventh day is the only day of the week that the Lord has appointed us to keep as the sign that He is our Creator-God and only Saviour.

THINK IT THROUGH

If a person is determined to do what the Lord wants him to do, which is the only day he will honor?

"As the tree of knowledge was the test of Adam's obedience, so the fourth command is the test that God has given to prove the loyalty of all His

people."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 1, p. 1106.

Answers: (1) rested, hallowed, seventh; (2) obedience or loyalty, to Satan or papacy or man; (3) sabbaths, sacred obligation; (4) cross, binding; (5) a. our, God; b. Prov. 16:25; (6) a. obedience versus disobedience; b. seeking God with whole heart; (7) a. only day sanctified and set apart by Christ; b. only day hallowed for man; c. only day commanded by Christ to be kept by man; d. only day appointed as a sign of God's presence.

forever that it is the only right day to observe.

7. State the four Biblical points concerning the seventh day which settle

a. _____
b. _____

6. What two vital issues are involved in the Sabbath versus Sunday?

right in the sight of _____ (b) Where is this found in the Bible? _____

5. (a) Instead of doing what is right in _____ eyes, we are to do what is

was _____ before any types were needed.

seventh-day Sabbath, because the latter was binding after the _____ and

4. The typical, abolished sabbath days of Col. 2:16, 17 cannot refer to the

keeping of the seventh day is not optional, but a _____

to the yearly _____ of the ceremonial law, because obeying God by the

3. The optional observance of the days mentioned in Rom. 14:5, 6 must refer

difference between _____ to Christ or _____

2. The difference between keeping any other day and the seventh day is the

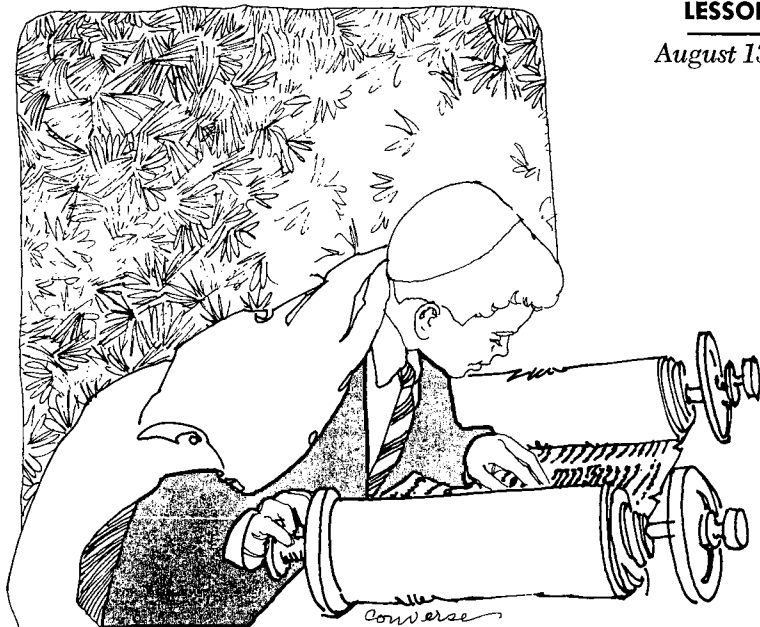
This cannot be any other day except the _____ day.

day of the week on which He _____ and which He _____ for man.

Christ's Sabbath commandment, because He requires us to hallow the same

1. The idea of keeping Sunday or just any day in the week is contrary to

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**



RIGHT DAY—WRONG WAY 8

"And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." Mark 2:27.

When Christ lived among the Jews at His first advent, the Sabbath they were keeping corresponded to the day which the Romans called the day of Saturn (or Saturday). Christ's example made it clear that this is the right day to observe. He kept it and defended it against those who misused it. It is the Lord's day for man—the day blessed and sanctified, or set apart as holy, by Christ our Creator when He made the world.

The Gospels contain no record of any disagreement between Jesus and the Pharisees concerning which day of the week is the right day to observe. He and His disciples observed the same seventh day of the week that the Jews did. The controversy between Him and His opponents was concerning the *manner* in which this Sabbath day should be kept. They were observing the right day in the wrong way.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Senseless Restrictions**
Luke 13:14
2. **A False Charge**
John 9:16
3. **Remedy for Legalism**
Gal. 2:16
4. **Letter or Spirit**
Rom. 7:6
5. **Grace Produces Obedience**
Rom. 3:31
6. **A Continuing Sign**
Ex. 31:17

August 13

Part 1
SENSELESS
RESTRICTIONS

Luke 13:14

"And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day."

The Jewish religious leaders considered it a sin to heal a crippled person on the Sabbath. Isn't this surprising? It shows the senseless extremes to which people will go when they lose the spirit of true religion in a sterile system of righteousness by works. They had buried the proper keeping of the right day under a long list of senseless restrictions of their own devising. Jesus swept away these burdensome man-made exactions. He restored to men the true objective of Sabbath keeping.



How did Christ refute their charge that He and His disciples broke the Sabbath? Luke 13:14-17; 14:1-6; Matt. 12:1-8.



How did He sweep away their exacting man-made regulations concerning the Sabbath? Matt. 12:12, last part.

Jesus was a Sabbath reformer, not by changing the day which is to be kept, but by showing how it is to be observed. Today God's remnant are called by Him to be Sabbath reformers, both as to the identity of His true Sabbath and as to the manner of true Sabbath keeping.

THINK IT THROUGH

In the case of the Jews, how did their burdensome restrictions concerning Sabbath observance reveal their wrong concept of God?

"As the Jews departed from God, and failed to make the righteousness of Christ their own by faith, the Sabbath lost its significance to them. Satan was seeking to exalt himself and to draw men away from Christ, and he worked to pervert the Sabbath, because it is the sign of the power of Christ. The Jewish leaders accomplished the will of Satan by surrounding God's rest day with burdensome requirements. In the days of Christ the Sabbath had become so perverted that its observance re-

flected the character of selfish and arbitrary men rather than the character of the loving heavenly Father. The rabbis virtually represented God as giving laws which it was impossible for men to obey. They led the people to look upon God as a tyrant, and to think that the observance of the Sabbath, as He required it, made men hardhearted and cruel. It was the work of Christ to clear away these misconceptions."—
"The Desire of Ages," pages 283, 284.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 281-284.

August 14

Part 2
A FALSE CHARGE
John 9:16

"Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day."

This does not prove that Christ broke the Sabbath. It does say that His enemies accused Him of doing that. It simply records the false charge of Sabbath breaking that the Pharisees brought against Him.

He who accuses Christ of breaking the Sabbath arrays the Saviour against Himself. Why? Because He, as the Creator, set it apart as holy for man in the beginning. Gen. 2:2, 3; Mark 2:27. He is the Lord God who requires in the Ten Commandments that we keep it holy. He did break the burdensome regulations which the Jewish leaders had made concerning Sabbath observance. But He rightly kept the Sabbath as required in the Old Testament.

▷ **How do we know that Christ kept the Sabbath according to God's commandments? 1 Peter 2:21; John 15:10.**

▷ **What did His enemies decide to do when Christ refused to keep the Sabbath according to their ideas? John 5:16-18.**

The Orthodox Jew today reckons the Sabbath from sunset Friday evening to sunset Saturday evening. But he does not keep this right day in the right way, because he does not have the Lord of the Sabbath. One cannot keep the Sabbath of the Lord correctly unless he has this Lord living in him. And no one can have the Lord living in him until he has been born again as a result of believing in Christ as his personal Saviour.

THINK IT THROUGH **Consider John 5:16 in the light of Rev. 13:15. What test will the remnant finally face as a result of refusing to keep the counterfeit sabbath?**

"Those who hold that Christ abolished the law teach that He broke the Sabbath and justified His disciples in doing the same. Thus they are really taking the same ground as did the caviling Jews. In this they contradict the testimony of Christ Himself, who declared, 'I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.' John 15:10. Neither the Saviour nor His

followers broke the law of the Sabbath. Christ was a living representative of the law. No violation of its holy precepts was found in His life. Looking upon a nation of witnesses who were seeking occasion to condemn Him, He could say unchallenged, 'which of you convicteth Me of sin?' John 8:46, R.V." —"The Desire of Ages," page 287.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 285-287.

August 15

**Part 3
REMEDY FOR
LEGALISM**

Gal. 2:16

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

It has been widely proclaimed that those who keep the seventh day according to the Ten Commandments are legalists trying to save themselves by their own works.

Under the new covenant of grace, he who truly accepts Christ receives a new heart (or mind). Christ writes His commandments upon the believer's heart. Heb. 8:8-10. In doing this, He does not omit the precept concerning His Sabbath. "The fourth commandment is the only one of all the ten in which are found both the name and the title of the Lawgiver." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 307.



When Christ lives His life in the enlightened, surrendered, born-again believer, how many of His commandments will the believer obey? 1 John 2:3, 4; Ps. 40:8.



How does true faith in Christ manifest itself in relationship to the requirements of God's law? Rom. 3:31; Rev. 14:12.

Keeping the Sabbath as Christ directs does not make a Christian a legalist, even as obedience to the other nine precepts of the Decalogue does not make him a legalist. John Wesley was right when he said that after his conversion he wanted the law to keep him to Christ, as he ever wanted it to bring him to Christ. (*Sermons*, Vol. 1, p. 314.)

THINK IT THROUGH

How am I reacting to my greatest need of letting Christ live His life in me? Is Gal. 2:20 true in my life?

"Christ, during His earthly ministry, emphasized the binding claims of the Sabbath; in all His teaching He showed reverence for the institution He Himself had given. In His days the Sabbath had become so perverted that its observance reflected the character of selfish and arbitrary men rather than the character of God. Christ set aside the false

teaching by which those who claimed to know God had misrepresented Him. Although followed with merciless hostility by the rabbis, He did not even appear to conform to their requirements, but went straight forward keeping the Sabbath according to the law of God."—"Prophets and Kings," page 183.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Prophets and Kings," pages 185-189.

August 16

Part 4
LETTER OR SPIRIT
Rom. 7:6

"But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

Some claim that living in the newness of the spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter, means that one may violate the letter of the Decalogue while obeying it in spirit. They apply this false reasoning to the Sabbath commandment; they insist that living in the newness of the spirit means that they need not keep the exact seventh day as specified in the letter and that keeping Sunday is carrying out the spirit of the law.



How did Christ show that a person may obey the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," according to the letter, but be living in violation of the spirit of that command? Matt. 5:21-23, 43, 44.

He who is honest according to the spirit of the command, "Thou shalt not steal," will not act contrary to the letter of it.

A person may follow the letter of the law and yet not obey the spirit of it. But no person who obeys the law in spirit will live contrary to the letter of it. Let no one deceive himself in this. There is no such thing as keeping the Sabbath in spirit while directly violating the letter of the Sabbath precept.

The spirit of true Sabbath keeping is a manifestation of supreme love to Christ as our Creator and Saviour. By His creative power a penitent sinner is made into a new person. Then he must let Christ sanctify him by His indwelling presence every day. Thus his Sabbath keeping becomes a real sign that Christ the Saviour is his Creator-Sanctifier.

THINK IT THROUGH

Does my Christianity go beyond the letter of the law and into the deeper, inner spirit of it for true obedience?

"In the new birth the heart is brought into harmony with God, as it is brought into accord with His law. When this mighty change has taken place in the sinner, he has passed from death unto life, from sin unto holiness, from transgression and rebellion to obedience and loyalty. The old life of alienation from God has ended; the new life of recon-

ciliation, of faith and love, has begun. Then 'the righteousness of the law' will 'be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.' Romans 8:4. And the language of the soul will be: 'O how love I Thy law! it is my meditation all the day.'" Psalm 119:97.—"The Great Controversy," page 468.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 309, 310.

August 17

Part 5
GRACE PRODUCES
OBEDIENCE
Rom. 3:31

"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."

A doctrine that is half true and half false is very dangerous. The citing of a few Scriptures to support such a doctrine misleads many who do not know the real teachings of the Bible. It is for our eternal good that we know what is the real truth in Christ.

Some say, "A Christian is not under the law, but under grace. Hence he doesn't need to keep the seventh day as specified in the Ten Commandments." The first part of this statement is true; but the second part is false. This is an example of the way many are led to accept doctrines that are half true and half false.

▷ **How does Paul in Rom. 3:31 show that salvation by grace only, and justification by faith only, do not supersede the obligation to keep God's commandments?**

▷ **What positive evidence is there to show that being under grace does not mean that a person is free to live contrary to God's moral law? Rom. 6:14, 15.**

A converted person is not under the *condemnation* of the law, but under grace. This is the case only when sin—the transgression of God's law—is no longer the ruling factor in his life. Notice the word "for" in verse 14.

Does being under grace give a person license to steal, lie, swear, commit adultery, or worship false gods? Certainly not. God's Ten Commandments forbidding these things are binding forever upon all. So being under grace does not release a believer from keeping the seventh-day Sabbath which God ordained in the Ten Commandments.

When a believer receives Christ for his justification, then by grace the work of sanctification begins. Christ has appointed the keeping of His Sabbath as a sign of this continuing process of sanctification. Ezek. 20:12.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is my Sabbath keeping such that it is an outward sign of the operation of God's grace working in me for my progressive sanctification?

"The claim that Christ by His death abolished His Father's law is without foundation. Had it been possible for the law to be changed or set aside, then Christ need not have died to save

men from the penalty of sin. The death of Christ, so far from abolishing the law, proves that it is immutable."—"The Great Controversy," page 466.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 466-468.

August 18

Part 6
A CONTINUING
SIGN
Ex. 31:17

"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."

This scripture says distinctly that the Sabbath is a sign between God and the children of Israel forever. Some have concluded from this that the Sabbath pertained to the Jewish people solely and exclusively. However, the text shows that the Sabbath is such a sign because God is the Creator of heaven and earth. And this basic reason is applicable to every soul on earth.

The Bible repeatedly refers to the only true God as the God of Israel. Does this mean that the true God is exclusively for the Jews? He is certainly the only true God for every soul. So the observance of God's true Sabbath by the Jews does not preclude its being the only true Sabbath for every soul.

God committed His system of truth—including His Ten Commandments, His Sabbath, and the entrance of His Son into human form—to the Jews because the Hebrew people had been called to witness for Him to all people.



How does the Word point out that all Gentiles and Jews who truly accept Christ are counted as Israelites by the Lord? Gal. 3:29, 7; Rom. 9:6-8.



What shows that the twelve tribes of spiritual Israel continue throughout eternity? Rev. 21:12; Matt. 19:28.

Thus the Lord's declaration that His Sabbath was made for man (Isa. 56:2, 5, 6) and is a sign between Him and Israel forever is conclusive evidence that it is a continuing sign of allegiance to Christ as our Creator throughout eternity in the earth made new (Isa. 66:22, 23).

The Sabbath rests on one immutable, unshakable, indivisible, and everlasting pillar—Christ our Creator and our Sanctifier. Ex. 31:17, 13 presents such a pillar.

THINK IT THROUGH

Does my Sabbath keeping reveal that I am a true subject of Christ's creative and redemptive power?

"Speaking of Israel, He said, 'I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them,'—make them holy. Ezek. 20:12. Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ's

power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God." —"The Desire of Ages," page 288.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 287-289.

Answers: (1) right, wrong; (2) the Ten Commandments, burdensome regulations on how to keep it; (3) sanctified by the Lord; (4) spirit, letter; (5) Rom. 6:14, 15; (6) Christ the Creator, Christ the Sanctifier; (7) spiritual (or both, because literal could also be spiritual).

people, did He mean literal or spiritual Israelites, or both? _____

7. When God said the Sabbath was a sign forever between Him and His _____ and _____

6. The two everlasting pillars that support the Sabbath into eternity are _____

_____ grace in the life?

5. What text shows that true Sabbath keeping is a sign of the operation of _____

the law. But no one who obeys the law in spirit will live contrary to the _____

4. A person may follow the letter of the law, and not obey the _____ of _____

because he will acknowledge continually that he is _____

3. He who keeps the Sabbath according to Ezek. 20:12 will not be a legalist, _____

but He did break _____

2. Christ kept this Saturday Sabbath according to _____

_____ way.) but they were keeping it in the _____

had the _____ day, as identified with the Roman day of Saturn (or Satur-

1. The declarations of Christ concerning the Sabbath reveal that the Jews _____

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**



RECEIVING THE DOUBLE BLESSING 9

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it." Gen. 2:3.

"Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil." Isa. 56:2.

A blessed day and a blessed person meet in true Sabbath keeping. The Creator placed a special blessing on the seventh day *after He had rested* at the close of the first week. The seventh day in each of successive weeks to come was blessed for man. And this blessing is still on every seventh day of the week for everyone who keeps it holy.

Then there is God's promise: "Blessed is the man . . . that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it." We need this double blessing as never before to fulfill His plan for our lives.

Christ's Sabbath is His meeting point for bestowing His double blessing upon the faithful believer. Each person determines the measure of this divine blessing for himself by how he meets Christ in His Sabbath.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Sabbath Reform**
Isa. 56:6
2. **Protecting the Edges**
Lev. 23:32
3. **Preparation Day**
Mark 15:42
4. **Safe Guiding Principles**
Josh. 1:8
5. **Dominates the Week**
Ex. 20:8-10
6. **Great Promises**
Isa. 58:13, 14

August 20

Part I
SABBATH REFORM

Isa. 56:6

"Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant."

This prophecy of Isaiah is quoted in *The Great Controversy*, page 451, where this statement is made: "The work of Sabbath reform to be accomplished in the last days is foretold in the prophecy of Isaiah."

The substitution of Sunday keeping in place of the seventh day of the Ten Commandments makes a breach in one's full commitment to his Creator-Saviour and His law. Also, it takes away the seal from His law. This makes a God-appointed Sabbath reform movement a necessity in this closing period of time. His remnant will restore the seal to His law. Isa. 8:16, 17.



What does prophecy say about God's people repairing this breach by keeping the right day in the right way? Isa. 58:12, 13.

Note that being a repairer of the breach, as stated in verse 12, is expressly conditioned upon the Sabbath reform of verse 13.

In this age of permissiveness and lukewarmness there is a growing trend among many Sabbath keepers to keep the seventh-day in a careless manner as most others keep Sunday. They make it a holiday rather than the Lord's holy day. Every Sabbath keeper is called to resist such a departure from Christ's way. Carelessness in Sabbath keeping begets carelessness in obedience to God's other requirements, in talking, eating, drinking, dressing, associations, recreation, et cetera.



What is the sad result when a believer's actions contradict his profession? Rom. 2:21-24; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is my Sabbath keeping such that it bears the right testimony for the Lord of the Sabbath?

"It [the fourth commandment] declares Him [God] to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. When the Sabbath was

changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it by exalting the Sabbath to the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority."—"The Great Controversy," page 452.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 451-455.

August 21

Part 2
PROTECTING
THE EDGES
Lev. 23:32

"It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath."

This was the rule for the reckoning of the yearly ceremonial sabbath of the Day of Atonement. But the same rule—from evening unto evening, or from sunset to sunset—applies also for beginning and ending the weekly seventh-day Sabbath. Christ's Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday.

▶ **What did Nehemiah, as governor of Jerusalem, do to protect the edges of the Sabbath? Neh. 13:19.**

Those who wait until Saturday morning to begin their observance of the Sabbath have only a partial Sabbath, which really is not right. No one can keep the Sabbath unless he begins its observance when it commences at sunset. If he begins its observance one or two hours after sunset, he is lagging behind the Lord's schedule. Those who go through the gates into the New Jerusalem at the end will not lag behind His schedule.

There is no better way to protect the edges of the Sabbath than to gather around the family altar for worship at sunset on Friday and again at sunset on Saturday. How fitting it is, at the moment of sunset on Friday, to welcome the Sabbath with praise and prayer as it arrives.

This sets the tempo for closer fellowship with God during the Sabbath day. It serves to instill a spirit of reverent regard for its sacred hours.

Then how fitting also at sunset on Saturday to have a season of special worship, to thank God for the blessings of this Sabbath and to ask for His special help to live right during each day of the next week until we welcome another Sabbath at the next Friday sunset. Thus special prayer at sunset at the commencement and again at its close serves to mark off each Sabbath as Christ's holy day in closer fellowship with Him.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I protect the edges of the Sabbath in my way of life?

"God is very particular, and all who think that they are saving a little time, or advantaging themselves by infringing a little on the Lord's time, will meet with loss sooner or later. He cannot

bless them as it would be His pleasure to do, for His name is dishonored by them, His precepts lightly esteemed."
—"Testimonies," Vol. 1, p. 532.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 1, pp. 531-533.

August 22

Part 3
PREPARATION DAY
Mark 15:42

"And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath."

This text, in conjunction with Luke's testimony (Luke 23:54 to 24:1), gives New Testament evidence that Friday, "the day before the Sabbath," was the day of preparation for keeping the Sabbath holy on the following day. God is particular about how we observe His Sabbath. Unless certain matters are cared for on Friday, we cannot keep the Sabbath holy. Hence the use of Friday to prepare for beginning the Sabbath at sunset is God's provision to help us rightly observe His hallowed day.

▷ **How did the Lord point out this duty to His people in ancient times? Ex. 16:22-26.**

▷ **If one does not prepare for the Sabbath on Friday, can he really keep the Sabbath? Ex. 16:27, 28.**

Suppose a dear friend or loved one, in a far distant place, notified you that he would arrive at your house for a one-day visit beginning at six o'clock on Friday evening. Wouldn't you have everything in readiness to welcome him upon arrival? How much more, then, we should be ready to welcome Christ's precious Sabbath at Friday sunset, and then enter into a closer fellowship with Him.

The right use of Friday as the preparation day enables us to welcome the Sabbath immediately when it arrives. Also, it prevents certain worldly cares from causing us to mar God's plan for our Sabbath keeping.

THINK IT THROUGH

How shall I prepare for the Sabbath?

1. Friday's work should be planned with reference to the Sabbath. ("Testimonies to Ministers," page 272.)

2. Mending of clothes should be cared for. ("Child Guidance," page 528.)

3. Baths should be taken, shoes polished, the preparation of food finished. ("Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 355.)

4. Clothing for Sabbath wear should be made ready. ("Ibid.")

5. Children should share in making the preparation. ("Ibid.," p. 356.)

6. Secular work should be laid aside

before sunset. ("Ibid.," p. 355.)

7. Believers should put away their differences before sunset. ("Ibid.," p. 356.)

"Far more sacredness is attached to the Sabbath than is given it by many professed Sabbathkeepers. The Lord has been greatly dishonored by those who have not kept the Sabbath according to the commandment, either in the letter or in the spirit. He calls for a reform in the observance of the Sabbath."—"Ibid.," p. 353.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 353-368.

August 23

Part 4
SAFE GUIDING
PRINCIPLES

Josh. 1:8

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."



Does the Bible show that there should be no buying or selling on God's holy day? Neh. 13:15-18.



What example did Christ leave for us in regularly attending divine worship on the Sabbath? Luke 4:16, 31; Mark 1:20, 21. See also Lev. 23:3.

It was a part of the life of Jesus to attend public worship every Sabbath. So it will be a part of our way of life when we closely follow His way.

Jesus doubtless walked out to see the beauties of nature on the Sabbath, but not at the time of the Sabbath worship service.

All that is permissible on the Sabbath is wrapped into doing well, which was His guiding principle. Matt. 12:12. Relieving the afflicted and doing deeds of kindness and acts of mercy are in accord with this principle. A safe rule is this: Do not leave any secular work to be done on the Sabbath that can be done during the six working days.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I plan my Sabbath observance in accordance with these counsels?

The Sabbath should be the most joyful day of the week ("Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 359), the sweetest and most blessed day of the week ("Child Guidance," page 532), the most interesting day of the week at home ("Testimonies," Vol. 2, p. 584).

Mind and body should be withdrawn from worldly business before the Sabbath begins ("Ibid.," Vol. 6, p. 356). Allow no burdens and business transactions to divert the mind upon the Sabbath ("Ibid.," Vol. 2, p. 583).

Overeating on the Sabbath dishonors God. Sabbath meals should be simple, palatable, and attractive, with some-

thing special as a treat ("Ibid.," Vol. 6, p. 357).

The Sabbath is desecrated by pleasure seeking ("Ibid.," Vol. 2, p. 584), hurrying, jostling, and impatience ("Ibid.," Vol. 6, p. 357), pursuit of school studies ("Ibid.," Vol. 4, p. 114), or by reading secular papers or books ("Ibid.," Vol. 6, p. 355) or by being in a hurry for the sun to set in order to resume business or sports (Amos 8:5).

Work neglected until the commencement of the Sabbath should remain undone until the Sabbath is past ("Patriarchs and Prophets," page 296).

**Part 5
DOMINATES
THE WEEK
Ex. 20:8-10**

"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."

One main objective of the Sabbath observance is that man may continually remember the Lord Jesus Christ as his Creator-Saviour. Thus remembering the Sabbath is not limited to the twenty-four-hour period of its observance during the end of the week. It projects itself into the entire week, as a part of our everyday commitment to our Creator-Saviour.

Your paper boy tells you on Sunday, "This month ends on Saturday. I will stop then to collect." But you say, "Saturday is for me the Lord's Sabbath. Please be so kind as to call either Friday or Sunday and I will pay you." Or, "Let me pay you now, and avoid a special trip." Thus you are remembering the Sabbath on the first day of the week.

On Monday your dealer telephones that the refrigerator which you ordered will be delivered next Saturday morning. But you tell him that you are a Seventh-day Adventist and that you don't transact any business on Saturday because you observe it as the Lord's Sabbath. Suggest he bring it out Friday morning or Monday or on the dealer's next convenient day. In this you are remembering the Sabbath on Monday.

Perhaps on Wednesday a neighbor calls to say, "My little girl has a birthday Saturday. We will have a picnic at the park to celebrate it with a lot of games and a big dinner. We invite you to come along." But you say, "Thanks for remembering me in your plans. But Saturday is the Lord's Sabbath for me, and although I appreciate the invitation, I must decline your kindness." You are remembering the Sabbath on Wednesday.

"All through the week we are to have the Sabbath in mind and be making preparation to keep it according to the commandment."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 353.



What great importance did the Lord attach to the keeping of the Sabbath in reference to the fate of Jerusalem in Jeremiah's day? Jer. 17:21-27.

THINK IT THROUGH

Does my "remembering" the Sabbath all through the week bring me daily closer to God?

"Friday is the day of preparation. Time can then be devoted to making the necessary preparation for the Sabbath and to thinking and conversing about it. Nothing which will in the sight

of Heaven be regarded as a violation of the holy Sabbath should be left unsaid or undone, to be said or done upon the Sabbath."—"Testimonies," Vol. 2, pp. 702, 703.

**Part 6
GREAT PROMISES**

"If thou 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, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Isa. 58:13, 14

Here God makes three promises to those who truly hallow His Sabbath. (1) "Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord"—true and abiding happiness. (2) "I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth"—spiritual prosperity. (3) "I will feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father"—an eternal home in the new earth.

The word "heritage" means an estate that a person receives by descent or as an inheritance. The inheritance of Jacob is that of Isaac his father, whose inheritance is that of his father Abraham. The real inheritance of Abraham is the new earth. Rom. 4:13; Heb. 11:13-16. Those who are truly Christ's are fellow heirs with them to this inheritance. Gal. 3:29.

What greater promise could God make to those who hallow His Sabbath than to give them the heritage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—an eternal home in the new earth? It will be free from all sickness, sorrow, trouble, and death. How much is it worth? What an encouragement for every true Sabbath keeper! "It means eternal salvation to keep the Sabbath holy unto the Lord."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 356.



What three things does God specify that we are not to do on the Sabbath, if we would have His three promises fulfilled to us? Isa. 58:13, 14.

THINK IT THROUGH

Am I doing my part in regard to all that God asks of me in keeping the Sabbath?

"God requires not only that we refrain from physical labor upon the Sabbath, but that the mind be disciplined to dwell upon sacred themes. The fourth commandment is virtually transgressed by conversing upon worldly things or by engaging in light and trifling con-

versation. Talking upon anything or everything which may come into the mind is speaking our own words. Every deviation from right brings us into bondage and condemnation."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 703.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. Sabbath reform is indicated in Isa. _____, and Isa. _____, and Isa. _____.

2. There is no better way to begin the observance of the Sabbath at sunset than _____

3. The use of Friday as preparation day is necessary for keeping the Sabbath, because _____

4. If we follow Jesus in keeping the Sabbath, where will we go every Sabbath?

5. A good rule is: Refrain from doing anything on the Sabbath which could be cared for on _____

6. What does the word "heritage" mean? _____

7. (a) In Isa. 58:13, 14 God asks us on the Sabbath to refrain from:

(b) Then God promises: _____; and _____,
and _____

Answers: (1) Isa. 8:16, 17; 56:6; 58:13; (2) with family worship; (3) we must observe the whole Sabbath; (4) to God's house; (5) some other day; (6) an estate or inheritance; (7) a. doing our own ways, finding our own pleasure, speaking our own words; b. "then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord," "I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth," "feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father."



A SIGN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH **10**

"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Phil. 3:9.

Man may take either of two roads in seeking righteousness: (1) righteousness by faith in Christ as the Lord's true way of obtaining it, or (2) righteousness by works as the counterfeit way. These point up the differences between true and false worship.

The two classes were exemplified at the gate of Eden when the world's first two young people came to worship the Lord. Abel's offering signified righteousness by faith in Christ. See Heb. 11:4. Cain's offering represented an attempt to make himself righteous by his own works. He substituted a way of his own devising for the way of Christ.

It is important that everyone understand that the keeping of the Sabbath day in the right way is a sign of true righteousness by faith operating in the life.

LESSON OUTLINE

- 1. Summary of Gospel**
Rom. 1:16, 17
- 2. Fruitage of Faith**
James 2:17, 18
- 3. Self-righteousness Exposed**
Rom. 10:3
- 4. Christ's Rest**
Matt. 11:28
- 5. True Sabbath Keeping**
Isa. 58:13
- 6. Test of Obedience**
Ex. 16:4

August 27

Part I
SUMMARY OF
GOSPEL
Rom. 1:16, 17

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: . . . for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation because it is "God's way of righting wrong, a way that starts from faith and ends in faith." Rom. 1:17, NEB. The gospel of Christ is summed up in righteousness by faith in Him.

Some have declared that keeping the seventh day is related to righteousness by works. Such is not the case, even as obedience to the other nine commandments by the born-again believer is not.

In true Sabbath keeping the faithful believer does not keep the Sabbath to make himself righteous. He keeps the seventh day because he has received the righteousness of the Lord of the Sabbath. The righteousness of Christ leads to full obedience to God's commandments. See Rom. 8:3, 4.



In what words does Paul set forth Christ as both Redeemer and Creator? Col. 1:14-16.



Of what is the Sabbath declared to be a sign? Ex. 31:16, 17; Ezek. 20:12.

The Sabbath, as the appointed sign of loyalty to Christ as our Creator, signifies that He alone can re-create a penitent sinner into a righteous person. Thus it signifies that man cannot save himself by his own works. He must depend wholly on Christ to save and sanctify him. Thus true Sabbath keeping stands as a Christ-appointed sign of the all-essential experience of righteousness by faith.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is my Sabbath keeping merely a formal, legal transaction, or the natural fruitage of my justification and sanctification by the righteousness of Christ?

"We are not merely to observe the Sabbath as a legal matter. We are to understand its spiritual bearing upon all the transactions of life. All who regard the Sabbath as a sign between them and God, showing that He is the God who sanctifies them, will represent the principles of His government.

They will bring into daily practice the laws of His kingdom. Daily it will be their prayer that the sanctification of the Sabbath may rest upon them. Every day they will have the companionship of Christ and will exemplify the perfection of His character."—"Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 353, 354.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 281-289.

August 28

Part 2
FRUITAGE OF FAITH

James 2:17, 18

"Even so 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."

God has appointed various ways whereby we may show our faith in Christ. True faith always manifests itself in appropriate works. So the true Christian does not keep the Sabbath to make himself righteous.

An apple tree does not become an apple tree by bearing apples. First, it had to be an apple tree in order to bear such fruit. Then the apples came as a natural fruitage of the tree.



What really counts for a true Christian experience, according to Gal. 5:6?



How will love for God manifest itself? 1 John 5:3; 1 Cor. 7:19.

A Christian who is keeping Sunday may find the real truth for himself by accepting the Biblical answers to certain questions.

Do I believe that Jesus is my Creator and only Saviour?

Since I believe what the Bible says about Him, my answer is in the affirmative. In fact, such an answer is essential to my salvation.

"Every soul in our world is the Lord's property, by creation and by redemption. Each individual soul is on trial for his life. Has he given to God that which belongs to Him? Has he surrendered to God all that is His as His purchased possession? All who cherish the Lord as their portion in this life will be under His control, and will receive the sign, the mark of God, which shows them to be God's special possession. Christ's righteousness will go before them, and the glory of the Lord will be their reward [rear guard]. The Lord protects every human being who bears His sign."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 969.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I show my faith in the various and appropriate ways that the Lord has appointed?

"The Sabbath is a golden clasp that unites God and His people. But the Sabbath command has been broken. God's holy day has been desecrated. The Sabbath has been torn from its place by the man of sin, and a common

working day has been exalted in its stead. A breach has been made in the law, and this breach is to be repaired. The true Sabbath is to be exalted to its rightful position as God's rest day." —"Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 351, 352.

August 29

**Part 3
SELF-
RIGHTEOUSNESS
EXPOSED
Rom. 10:3**

"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

What indicates how the Pharisees followed the wrong principle in attempting to make themselves righteous by their works? Luke 18:11, 12; Matt. 6:1-5.

"By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Rom. 3:20. No person can make himself righteous by means of his own good works.

When the Pharisees kept the Sabbath in order to make themselves righteous, their Sabbath keeping became a part of a false righteousness by works. It was not a sign of righteousness by faith.

True Sabbath keeping is a continual acknowledgment of a person's dependence and reliance upon our Creator for the gift of life day by day, and upon our Redeemer for the gift of salvation. The Sabbath can be kept holy only as one has received righteousness by faith and continues in this experience; for "the just shall live by faith."



Why does the substitution of ecclesiastical tradition in place of the Lord's commandments constitute righteousness by works? Mark 7:1-13.

The final issue upon which men must decide for or against Christ will be the worship of the Creator versus the worship of the beast and his image—the reception of the seal of God versus the acceptance of the mark of the beast. Rev. 14:6-12; 7:1-3. The basic issue is righteousness by faith versus righteousness by works. In keeping with this thought, we have been told that righteousness by faith is the third angel's message in verity.

THINK IT THROUGH

Does the Sabbath truly stand in my life as a sign of righteousness by faith?

"As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out

from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law." —"Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 349, 350.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pp. 302-310.

August 30

Part 4
CHRIST'S REST
Matt. 11:28

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

This promise never fails when we comply with the condition. Everyone who comes to Christ in true penitence enters into His rest. He alone can bring us rest from the guilt and dominion of sin.



How does the Lord show that rest to the soul is the fruitage of loving obedience to Him? Jer. 6:16; Isa. 32:17.



What is the token of Christ's rest for the believer? Ex. 20:8-10.

The Lord of this commandment is Christ the Creator. Ex. 20:11.

The word "sabbath" is a transliteration of the Hebrew word *shabbath*, which means a cessation, rest, or sabbath. The expression "the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord" really signifies for the Christian that the seventh day is the sacred rest day of Christ the Lord.

The Sabbath, then, is primarily a day of spiritual rest in Christ. It is our Saviour's loving provision for the believer to enter more fully into His rest. This is true Sabbath keeping.

The fourth chapter of Hebrews mentions that God "spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works." Heb. 4:4. Then from this comes the conclusion that "he that is entered into his [God's] rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Heb. 4:10.

THINK IT THROUGH

Am I making the Sabbath merely my own rest, and not entering into Christ's rest?

"And if the Sabbath was thus appropriate, thus necessary, in Eden, what shall we say of it since the fall? With sin came man's estrangement from God, and his proneness to forget his Maker, and wander away from him. How much more needful the Sabbath, then, that he might not entirely break away from the moorings which held

him to the heavenly world. The flood of sin and crime has rolled broader and deeper with each succeeding year; and the further we come from Paradise, the weaker and more prone to sin do we find the race, and hence more in need of God's great memorial."—James White, "Signs of the Times," Nov. 15, 1877.

**Part 5
TRUE SABBATH
KEEPING**

Isa. 58:13

"If thou 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, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words."

God declares that we are not to speak our own words upon His holy day. Conversation that is proper concerning secular matters on the other days is to be avoided on the Sabbath. The conversation of the true Sabbath keeper will be centered upon sacred themes during the Sabbath hours.

Without Christ's righteousness within, no person can refrain from speaking his own words on the seventh day regardless of his resolutions. He will talk upon secular matters that come into his mind. He is unable to bring the thoughts and intents of his heart into harmony with the sacredness of the Sabbath.

▷ **Why is an unconverted person unable to keep Christ's Sabbath? Rom. 8:7.**

▷ **What must a person have before he can receive Christ's rest? Phil. 2:5.**

No one can keep Christ's Sabbath unless he first has Him living within to control his mind and affections. This experience can make true Sabbath keeping a manifestation of righteousness by faith.

There is an important difference between being a nominal Saturday keeper and a real Sabbath keeper. An unconverted person can lay aside his ordinary work and attend church regularly on Saturday. But to be a real Sabbath keeper, one must experience progressive sanctification as a result of Christ's living in him every day.

The mere acceptance of the Biblical evidences showing that the seventh day is the only right day to keep can make a person a Saturday keeper. But nothing except the converting power of Christ can make us Christian Sabbath keepers.

THINK IT THROUGH **Am I merely a Saturday keeper, or a true Sabbath keeper?**

"All who love God should do what they can to make the Sabbath a delight, holy and honorable. They cannot do this by seeking their own pleasure in sinful, forbidden amusements. Yet they can do

much to exalt the Sabbath in their families and make it the most interesting day of the week."—"Testimonies," Vol. 2, pp. 584, 585.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 349-353.

September 1

Part 6
TEST OF
OBEDIENCE
Ex. 16:4

"Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no."

God brought a test upon the Israelites, whereby each one by his own choice demonstrated whether or not he would obey the law of God. The context shows that the test was how he would regard God's holy seventh day as the Sabbath. Ex. 16:4-28.

In this closing age God is calling His people to come out of the false religious sisterhood led by Babylon the Great and to unite with the remnant of His true church. Rev. 18:4; 12:17. God's test for all today is how each one, by his own choice, will regard His commandments. The keeping of Christ's Sabbath is to be the sign of loyal obedience to Him, the Lord of the Sabbath.



On what twofold basis is every person obligated to render supreme obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ? Acts 14:15; Isa. 43:11.

In these lessons we have learned from the Bible that Christ's seventh-day Sabbath has a twofold significance: first, as a sign of loyal allegiance to Him as Creator of all (Ex. 20:8-11) and, therefore, the only true God (Ezek. 20:20); and, second, as only Sanctifier, or Saviour (Ezek. 20:12). This makes the Sabbath a precious sign of His authority by requiring of us supreme obedience to Him above all others.

The Sabbath stands for supreme obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. The keeping of the Sabbath on our part signifies submission to His supreme authority. Its proper observance means that we accept His control over our lives. True Sabbath keeping is inseparably connected with living for Christ.



What does a presumptuous refusal, or neglect, to keep the Sabbath mean concerning one's attitude toward Christ? Ezek. 20:13.

THINK IT THROUGH

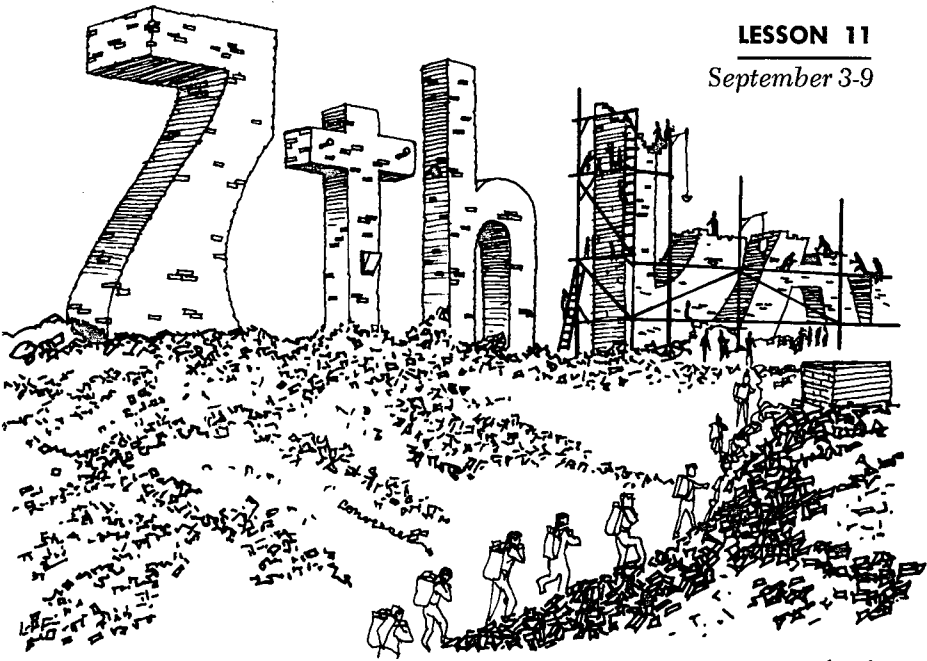
Does my Sabbath keeping mean the control of Christ in the other areas of my life?

"To those who keep holy the Sabbath day it is the sign of sanctification. True sanctification is harmony with God, oneness with Him in character. It is received through obedience to those principles that are the transcript of His

character. And the Sabbath is the sign of obedience. He who from the heart obeys the fourth commandment will obey the whole law. He is sanctified through obedience."—"Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 350.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. The heart of the gospel is Christ as the _____ and _____.
2. Christ has appointed His _____ as a _____ that He is the Creator-Redeemer.
3. True faith will always manifest itself in _____.
4. Sabbath keeping is primarily a _____ rest in _____.
5. No one can truly keep Christ's Sabbath unless he first has _____ living within for the _____ of his mind and affections.
6. Where is the text that indicates that the keeping of the Sabbath was a testing point in Israel for obedience to God's law? _____
7. True Sabbath keeping signifies our continual _____ to the supreme authority of _____.
8. When a person truly understands the Sabbath, a refusal or a neglect to keep it is _____ against Christ.



THE PREDICTED RESTORATION **11**

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.

LESSON OUTLINE

- 1. The Falling Away**
Acts 20:29, 30
- 2. Need for Restoration**
Dan. 8:12
- 3. Time of Restoration**
Dan. 8:14
- 4. Message of Restoration**
Rev. 14:12
- 5. The Restoration Movement**
Rev. 14:6, 7
- 6. Sabbath Restorers**
Isa. 58:12

The sure word of prophecy has indicated that there would be a widespread departure from the way of truth by professed Christians in postapostolic times. This makes restoration a necessity.

Prophecy has pointed out also that a full restoration of lost and neglected truths would come in this closing age in which we are living. These prophecies are designed to give us an understanding of our times so that we may know what God wants us to do in such a time as this. This is of utmost importance.

Part I
THE FALLING AWAY

Acts 20:29, 30

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."



What departure from the truth would take place after Paul's oversight of the churches should cease? Acts 20:29, 30.



How did Peter and John counsel Christ's followers to remain true to the teachings of Jesus? 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6.

After the apostles passed away, certain church leaders began to mingle erroneous teachings with the pure religion of Jesus. Rites, ceremonies, and customs which Jesus and His apostles never taught crept into use. Soon men urged these upon the believers as being of divine authority by tradition. One of these innovations was the honoring of Sunday in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ.

Some Christians began to meet at about sunrise on Sunday for a brief religious service, after which they went about their regular work. But as the second and third centuries passed, Sunday began to take on more and more of the aspect of a regular day of worship. The result was that Sunday keeping gradually became widely established and preferred above the seventh-day Sabbath of the Ten Commandments.

This general apostasy from the truth called for a divinely inaugurated reformation. This began in earnest in the sixteenth century under Martin Luther and other Reformers. What they did in restoring certain lost truths was only a good beginning. Bible prophecy indicates that this great work of reformation and restoration would continue in successive generations until every error would be exposed and the full truth in Jesus for His people would be restored. Rev. 14:6-11. This does not mean that all professed Christians would fully accept the restored truths, but a "remnant" would. Rev. 12:17; 14:12.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I follow the teachings of Jesus without subtractions or additions?

"The spirit of concession to paganism opened the way for a still further disregard of Heaven's authority. Satan, working through unconsecrated leaders of the church, tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set

aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified . . . , and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as 'the venerable day of the sun.'"—"The Great Controversy," page 52.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," Chapter 3.

September 4

Part 2
NEED FOR
RESTORATION
Dan. 8:12

"And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered."

This refers to the same power that is set forth in Dan. 7 under the symbol of the little horn—the papacy. Paul spoke of this power, too, as the one who would exalt himself above God, "so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." See 2 Thess. 2:3, 4.

▶ **What does Dan. 8:12 declare this power would do with the truth?**

"The truth" in this case means the pure gospel preached by the Lord Jesus and His apostles. They designated their teachings as "the truth" (John 8:45, 46, 31, 32; Gal. 3:1; 2:14). The Sabbath of Christ our Lord, as the sign that He is the Creator-Sanctifier, is an essential part of the gospel truth cast down to the ground by the little horn.

Dan. 7:25 (RSV) declares that this power would attempt to "change the times and the law." In fulfillment of this prophecy, this power attempted to change the fourth commandment. It gradually set aside the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath as the Lord's day (Matt. 12:8; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5) and set up the keeping of Sunday in its place.

▶ **Why is the truth of God that is cast down to the ground sure to rise again? Ps. 100:5; 111:7, 8.**

God's truth was destined to be restored from being buried under the false teaching of man. This same prophecy of Daniel 8 pointed out the time when God would inaugurate a reformatory movement to restore His downtrodden truth.

"In every age there were witnesses for God—men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath. How much the world owes to these men, posterity will never know."—*The Great Controversy*, page 61.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I appreciate this line of witnesses, many of whom suffered death to preserve gospel truth for generations to come?

"As foretold by prophecy, the papal power cast down the truth to the ground. The law of God was trampled in the dust, while the traditions and customs of men were exalted. The

churches that were under the rule of the papacy were early compelled to honor the Sunday as a holy day."—*"Ibid.,"* p. 65.

Part 3
TIME OF
RESTORATION
Dan. 8:14

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

This is God's answer to the question in the preceding verse "How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?" Dan. 8:13.

How long shall the truth be cast down to the ground? The answer in Dan. 8:14 implied that new light would appear—particularly concerning God's sanctuary—at the end of the 2,300-day period. These symbolic days represent 2,300 literal years. See Ezek. 4:6.

▷ **What shows that the seventy weeks, or the first 490 days of the 2,300, were allotted to the Jewish nation? Dan. 9:24.**

▷ **What, according to Gabriel, is the beginning point for the 2,300 days? Dan. 9:25.**

This decree for the restoration of Jerusalem to the Jews is recorded in Ezra 6:14 and 7:11-28. It was issued in the seventh year of Artaxerxes I, king of Persia (Ezra 7:6-9), which was 457 B.C.

This is the beginning date for the seventy weeks (or 490 years), the first part of the 2,300 day-years. The 490 years, beginning in 457 B.C., extend to A.D. 34, the end of the seventy prophetic weeks. The remaining 1,810 day-years of the 2,300 extend from A.D. 34 to 1844, the terminal date of the period of 2,300 prophetic day-years. See *The Great Controversy*, page 328.

THINK IT THROUGH

What should be my attitude toward the truth once cast down to the ground but now breaking forth upon all mankind?

"Then I was shown that the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ relating to the shut door could not be separated, and that the time for the commandments of God to shine out with all their importance, and for God's people to be tried on the Sabbath truth, was when the door was opened in the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary, where the ark is, in which are contained the ten com-

mandments. This door was not opened until the mediation of Jesus was finished in the holy place of the sanctuary in 1844. Then Jesus rose up and shut the door of the holy place, and opened the door into the most holy, and passed within the second veil, where He now stands by the ark, and where the faith of Israel now reaches."—"Early Writings," page 42.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 324-328.

September 6

Part 4
MESSAGE OF
RESTORATION
Rev. 14:12

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

This is the concluding statement of God's last-day message which restores lost and neglected truths. Three angels are represented as heralding the three parts of this final gospel message for all the world as recorded in Rev. 14:6-12.

The preaching of the gospel to all people has been committed to Christ's followers. Mark 16:15. Hence these three angels prefigure the raising up of a special people, in this closing period of history, who will proclaim the everlasting gospel, accompanied by certain special truths, to all the world.



What are the two chief points identifying the remnant people of God in this closing age? Rev. 14:12.

God's true people keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This shows that they are a people who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, for the fourth precept of Christ's Ten Commandments requires it. Ex. 20:8-11. Thus Rev. 14:12 is a forecast of the restoration of the observance of the true Sabbath under this final proclamation of Christ's everlasting gospel.



What essential of true worship is called for in the very first part of this last heaven-sent message? Rev. 14:6, 7.

The Bible shows that the worship of Christ as our Creator is inseparably connected with the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath. Ex. 20:8-11; 31:16, 17. He has ordained the keeping of His seventh-day Sabbath as a distinguishing sign that we recognize Him as our Creator. Hence this last-day call to "worship him that made heaven, and earth" (Rev. 14:7) is another evidence that His true Sabbath, the memorial of the creation of earth (Gen. 2:2, 3; Ex. 20:11), will be restored among His followers in the time of the end.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is my life such that the Lord includes me among those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?

"When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, He requires every

person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message."—"The Great Controversy," page 594.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 7, pp. 827-832.

Part 5
THE RESTORATION
MOVEMENT

Rev. 14:6, 7

"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."

These words, "for the hour of his judgment is come," pinpoint the time when God's Sabbath-restoring movement would commence. Related Biblical evidences establish that the hour of God's judgment in Rev. 14:7 arrived in the year 1844, when the prophetic period of 2,300 days in Dan. 8:14 ended.

In 1844 a small company of Christians, some at Washington, New Hampshire, and others elsewhere, turned from keeping Sunday and began to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. Soon Christians in other places accepted the Sabbath and the other special truths of the threefold message. In 1860 these Sabbath keepers chose the denominational name, "Seventh-day Adventist."

From this small beginning in 1844, this divinely appointed movement for restoring the true Sabbath and other lost truths has spread into all the world. There are now more than two million people in this movement which began in answer to prophecy. It is a part of God's predetermined plan to enlighten the whole world with His last message of truth.

Behold, then, the fulfillment of Rev. 14:6-12 in the rise, teachings, and worldwide extension of the movement for Sabbath reform as carried forward by the Seventh-day Adventists. This movement is here in response to the sure word of prophecy. It represents what the Lord has planned to be done at this time.



How has the Lord cautioned men against rejecting the work He is doing before their very eyes? Acts 13:40, 41

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I appreciate the prophetic implications of being a Sabbath keeper in this great advent movement?

"In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired. God's remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the law of God is the foun-

ation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God."—"Prophets and Kings," page 678.

September 8

Part 6
SABBATH
RESTORERS
Isa. 58:12

"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

"This prophecy also applies in our time. The breach was made in the law of God when the Sabbath was changed by the Roman power. But the time has come for that divine institution to be restored. The breach is to be repaired and the foundation of many generations to be raised up."—*The Great Controversy*, page 453.



What shows that the prophecy of Isa. 58:12, 13, includes the restoration of the true Sabbath?

The phrase, "the restorer of paths to dwell in," is rendered, "restorer of paths leading home," in Rotherham's translation of Isa. 58:12. The path of obedience to Christ's commandments does lead men closer to God and to their everlasting home.



Where does the path of obedience to God's commandments lead the faithful? Rev. 22:14; Isa. 26:2.

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath." Isa. 58:13. God has appointed a special vindication and revelation of His downtrodden Sabbath in these closing days. The world at large has had its foot on Christ's Sabbath by using it as an ordinary working day instead of honoring it as His holy rest day. Now it must be removed.

Those whom God designates as His chosen restorers in Isa. 58:12 are those who observe the Sabbath as He specifies in Isa. 58:13. They keep the right day in the right way. In this closing age, the Sabbath is to be presented by a people who place righteousness by faith first in their way of life and in their teachings to others.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I meet the conditions laid down in Isa. 58:13 for being one of God's restorers?

"If ever a memorial of the great God and a golden link to bind man to heaven, was needed, it is needed now. And the necessity of this institution will even yet increase through the few remaining days of peril. Can we dispense with it? Never. More and more sacredly should we cherish it, while with ear-

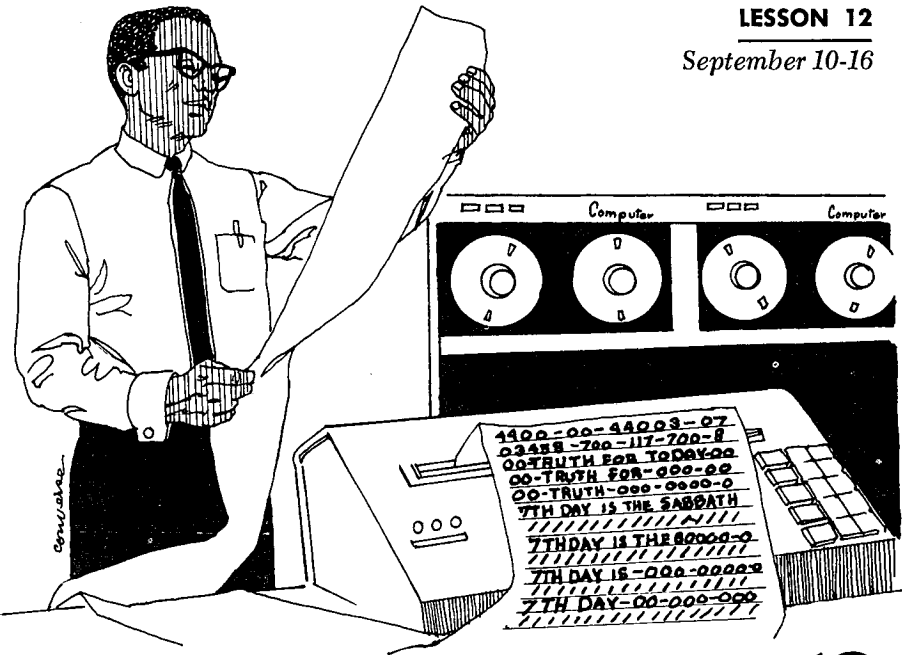
nest hearts we breathe the prayer,
"Let earth, O Lord, again be thine,
As ere with vengeance cursed;
And let the holy Sabbath shine
As glorious as at first." "

—James White,
"Signs of the Times,"
Nov. 15, 1877.

Answers: (1) cast down; (2) 2,300; (3) 457 B.C., A.D. 1844; (4) observe the seventh-day Sabbath, Creator; (5) 1844, small company; (6) world, two million; (7) the sight, all.

1. Under the rule of the Roman power truth was _____ to the ground.
2. The Scriptures indicated that a restoration movement would be inaugurated at the end of _____ days.
3. These 2,300 day-years began in _____ and ended in _____.
4. The people of this restoration movement are identified in Rev. 14:12, 7 as those who _____ and worship Christ as the _____.
5. This predicted Sabbath-restoring movement began at first in _____ with a _____ of people.
6. It has grown into a _____ movement composed of over _____ Sabbath keepers.
7. This prophecy of Rev. 14:6-12 is being fulfilled in _____ of _____ people.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**



TRUTH FOR TODAY 12

"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth." 2 Peter 1:12.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Prophetic Certification
John 1:21, 22
2. The Truth of the Advent Near
Matt. 24:33
3. The People of God Identified
Rev. 17:14
4. The Needed Certainty
Luke 4:21
5. God's Called-out Ones
Acts 15:14
6. Remnant Identified
Rev. 12:17

The Bible contains both timeless messages and messages particularly applicable at certain times. There are general teachings which apply to every soul in every generation. They include such doctrines as faith, repentance, conversion, love, obedience, righteousness by faith, et cetera.

In addition to these, there are *special* truths applicable only to the particular time for which God has appointed them. Examples of these are: Noah's 120-year warning of the coming of the Flood, Jonah's forty-day warning to Nineveh, John the Baptist's message of preparation to receive the Messiah at His first advent.

September 10

**Part I
PROPHETIC
CERTIFICATION**

John 1:21, 22

"And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?"

There were at that time various religious sects among the Jews. The Bible mentions some of them: Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Zealots. John the Baptist had arisen as a new preacher proclaiming a new and startling message.

Questions naturally arose concerning his teachings. What divine authority did he have for his message? How could his listeners be sure that his teachings presented the right way for them to follow, in preference to the currently popular religious ways?



What evidence did John cite to certify that his teachings were God's present truth for the people of his day? John 1:23.

John cited Isa. 40:3 as the prophecy which his work and teachings were fulfilling. If the message of Isa. 40:3 had not been proclaimed at that time, the Bible would not be a true book. The Lord had raised up John the Baptist at the right time, to preach the right message, to show the right way, to men at that time. His work and teachings were a remarkable fulfillment of prophecy.

Strong evidence that God has ordained certain religious teaching is shown when that message is indicated in prophecy and it is proclaimed according to the prophetic timetable.

The Sabbath reform advocated by Seventh-day Adventists may be compared to the work of John the Baptist. "In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 332.

THINK IT THROUGH

How can I be sure which way the Lord wants me to go when there are so many conflicting messages proclaimed by so many different religious denominations?

"As a prophet, John was 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' In preparing the

way for Christ's first advent, he was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming."—"The Desire of Ages," page 101.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," Chapter 10.

Part 2
THE TRUTH OF
THE ADVENT NEAR
Matt. 24:33

"So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

The Bible shows that John the Baptist prepared the way for the arrival of the Messiah at His first advent by proclaiming the God-appointed message for that time. Matt. 3:1-3. Similarly, the Scriptures have designated the Heaven-sent message that is preparing the way for the second advent of this same Lord.



How is Christ's second coming portrayed in Rev. 14:14?

Rev. 14:6-14 plainly reveals that the preaching of the three angels' messages to every people, as set forth in verses 6-12, leads directly to the second advent described in verse 14. This threefold message is the one that God wishes all people to accept in this closing age preceding the second coming of Christ. It is His present truth for this time.

Such is the prophetic certification from God for this modern Sabbath-reform movement. Candid investigation reveals that Seventh-day Adventists are the only people publishing these special truths to all the world.

The prophecy of Rev. 14:6-12 is being fulfilled in the rise, work, and teachings of Seventh-day Adventists, even as Isa. 40:3 was fulfilled in the teachings of John the Baptist. The Adventists are proclaiming the divinely appointed and foretold message to prepare the way for Christ's second advent.

The Sabbath is today "present truth" and has been since 1844. The obligation is clear now to keep the seventh day holy.

"I saw that the present test on the Sabbath could not come until the mediation of Jesus in the holy place was finished and He had passed within the second veil; therefore Christians who fell asleep before the door was opened into the most holy, when the midnight cry was finished, at the seventh month, 1844, and who had not kept the true Sabbath, now rest in hope; for they had not the light and the test on the Sabbath which we now have since that door was opened. I saw that Satan was tempting some of God's people on this point. Because so many good Christians have fallen asleep in the triumphs of faith and have not kept the true Sabbath, they were doubting about its being a test for us now."
—*Early Writings*, pages 42, 43.

THINK IT THROUGH

Can anything else be more vital to me than to heed God's truth for this day?

"The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation

of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls."—"The Great Controversy," page 609.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Early Writings," pages 258-261.

September 12

Part 3
THE PEOPLE OF
GOD IDENTIFIED
Rev. 17:14

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

The worldwide Sabbath-reform movement fostered by Seventh-day Adventists owes its existence to the Heaven-sent threefold message of Rev. 14:6-12.

Seventh-day Adventists are not merely another church or religious denomination. They represent God's last-day plan for the restoration of the original gospel work of Jesus.



How does Rev. 15:2, 3 mark out the glorious destiny of those who have won the victory over the beast, its image, and its number?

Can we be sure that the particular people described in Rev. 15:2, 3 passed through the period of the preaching of the last-day threefold message of Rev. 14:6-12? Most assuredly, for they had gotten the victory over the beast and his image mentioned in the third message. Thus it is established by Rev. 15:2, 3 and 14:6-15 that the advent movement of the threefold message will go through to eternal victory and to heaven. The sure word of prophecy has marked it through to the sea of glass before the throne of God.

These scriptures show that the same movement by which the threefold message is proclaimed to every nation will sweep forward without a break to eternal victory at the coming of the Lord. *This is the divinely appointed destiny of the advent movement for a sure and everlasting triumph.*

THINK IT THROUGH

Isn't this a most impelling and decisive reason for accepting this message and staying by it to the end?

"God is leading out a people and establishing them upon the one great platform of faith, the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus. He has given His people a straight chain

of Bible truth, clear and connected. This truth is of heavenly origin and has been searched for as for hidden treasure."
—"Testimonies," Vol. 3, p. 447.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," Chapter 26.

September 13

Part 4
THE NEEDED
CERTAINTY
Luke 4:21

"And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."



To what scripture did Jesus refer? Compare Luke 4:16-21 with Isa. 61:1, 2.

Some 700 years before Christ preached in the synagogue of Nazareth, Isaiah had foretold what the Messiah would do and say when He appeared. Christ opened the book of Isaiah to this prophecy and read it to the assembled worshipers. Then He said, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Christ cited the fulfillment of Isa. 61:1, 2 in His work and teachings as a sure evidence of the right way for His day.



How did Apollos show that Jesus is the true Messiah? Acts 18:28.

Note how truth was substantiated in the first sermon by the apostles after Jesus ascended. Peter cited the particular prophecy in Joel which foretold the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." See Acts 2:14-21; Joel 2:28-32. He cited also the particular prophecies which foretold the resurrection of Christ. Acts 2:24-36.

John the Baptist preached present truth in announcing his own teachings as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isa. 40:3.

During Christ's ministry present truth involved the fulfillment of such prophecies as Isa. 61:1, 2.

So the question for our day is this: In what teachings and movement is God's appointed message for our day, as foretold in Rev. 14:6-12, being fulfilled? In answering this, we see that Heaven's seal of certainty rests upon the message and work of Seventh-day Adventists.

THINK IT THROUGH

Since this threefold message is the one which God has appointed to be preached, believed, and obeyed at this time, what else should I do but stand by it to the end?

"We do not go deep enough in our search for truth. Every soul who believes present truth will be brought where he will be required to give a

reason of the hope that is in him. . . . They must know that they do know what is truth."—"Testimonies to Ministers," page 119.

Part 5
GOD'S CALLED-OUT
ONES
Acts 15:14

"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name."

Since the time of the fall of Adam and Eve, God's purpose has been manifested in calling out from the world a people fully committed to obey Him. The great masses have walked in the ways of their own devising. But in every generation God has had a remnant people who have remained true to His commandments and kept His Sabbath. This is how the knowledge of God and His truth have been preserved through the centuries.



How many faithful souls did God have in His remnant church when the Flood came in the time of Noah? 1 Peter 3:20. And how many in the time of Elijah? Rom. 11:3, 4; 1 Kings 19:18.

Paul declared that in his day God had a remnant according to the election of grace. Rom. 11:5. The vast majority of the professed people of God had departed from the truth by following their traditions and doctrines instead of the word of God. But there were many faithful ones in the Jewish church who gladly accepted God's truth for that time. The Lord gathered them out in many lands and used them to form His true church at the beginning of the Christian age.

Likewise the Bible prophecies foretell what will happen in the closing age. All the world, except a small remnant, will obey the apostate power by keeping the false sabbath. Rev. 13:8, 12-17. This false system is spoken of as Babylon the Great. Rev. 14:8; 17:5; 18:1-4. Many of God's people are in the various religious bodies which compose the great family of spiritual Babylon today.

That Babylonian coalition has set aside God's seventh-day Sabbath and instituted the Sunday sabbath in its place. Those who respond to the call of God to come out of Babylon will help to restore the Sabbath to its rightful place in the gospel message.

The Lord is searching in every nation, kindred, tongue, and people for those who will rightly represent Him. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect [or truly sincere] toward him." 2 Chron. 16:9.

THINK IT THROUGH

Will God find in me the object of His quest?

"The story of . . . the carrying out of the plan of the ages by a goodly remnant to whom are to be fulfilled all the covenant promises—this has been the

theme of God's messengers to His church throughout the centuries that have passed."—"Prophets and Kings," page 22.

September 15

Part 6
REMNANT
IDENTIFIED
Rev. 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.”

By the symbol of a pure woman, Revelation 12 has foretold the story of the true church during the centuries from the ascension of Christ to the end of the 1260 years of papal supremacy in 1798. And Rev. 12:17 foretold the remnant, the last segment of Christ's church in the closing age. These are identified as those “which keep the commandments of God.”

One of God's commandments pertains to the keeping of the seventh day. Ex. 20:8-11. Since this remnant of the true church would keep the commandments of God, they would have to be a Christian people observing the seventh-day Sabbath.

The people of this same remnant are designated in Rev. 14:12 as follows: “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” The context shows that they are the people of the threefold-message movement of Rev. 14:6-12. They go into all the world to proclaim the everlasting gospel, including certain special truths. They began to appear in 1844, the year when the judgment-hour message was due to be given.

Rev. 12:17 declares that this remnant “have the testimony of Jesus.” Rev. 19:10 says, “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Theirs is a six-point pattern:

1. They keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.
2. They keep the seventh-day Sabbath.
3. They preach the message of Rev. 14:6-12.
4. They began to appear in 1844, when the judgment-hour message was due.
5. They became a worldwide movement.
6. They have the spirit of prophecy.

Where do you find a Christian people who conform to this six-point pattern? There is only one group that fulfills these prophetic specifications. Since you desire to belong to Christ's true church, doesn't this confirm the group with whom you should be identified?

THINK IT THROUGH

Will I, by the grace of God, be one of Christ's remnant people to the end?

“Let all be careful not to make an outcry against the only people who are fulfilling the description given of the remnant people who keep the com-

mandments of God and have faith in Jesus, who are exalting the standard of righteousness in these last days.”—
“Testimonies to Ministers,” page 58.

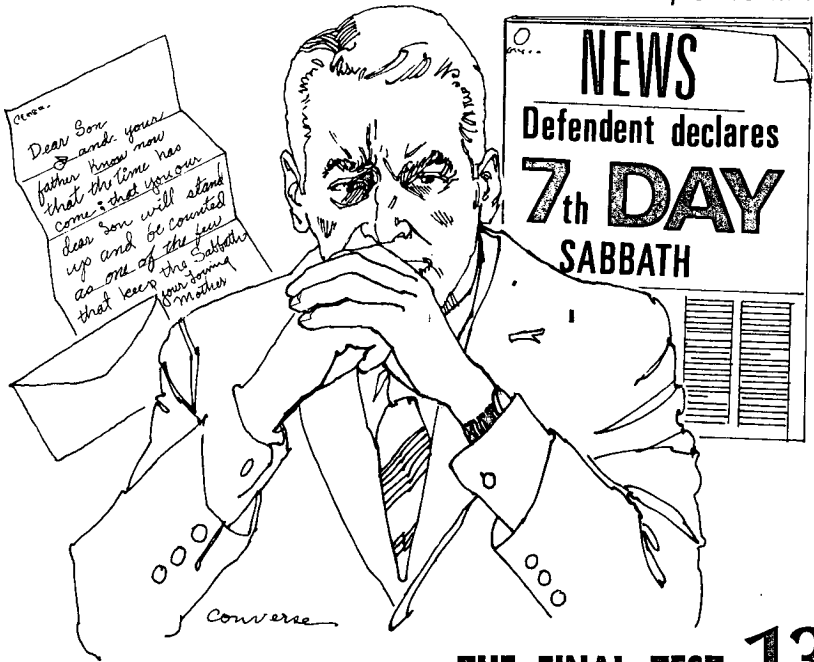
FOR FURTHER STUDY: “Early Writings,” pages 277-289.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. (a) John the Baptist's teachings were a fulfillment of the prophecy of _____. (b) This was a _____ proof that his message was the _____ way for every person at that _____.
2. (a) The Sabbath-reform message of the Adventist people is fulfilling Rev. 14: _____. (b) This is the strongest _____ that their teachings are the _____ way for every _____ to follow at this _____.
3. What sure evidence is there that this Sabbath-reform movement is going through to eternal victory in heaven? _____
4. What evidence did Jesus cite in His sermon at Nazareth as the basis for the acceptance of His message? _____
5. The Bible identifies Christ's remnant in this closing age as _____.
_____. (a) They keep the _____ and the _____ according to _____. (b) They keep the _____ day Sabbath according to God's commandment in _____.
(c) They teach the special truths mentioned in Rev. _____.
6. Who are the only people who fit into this pattern? _____
7. Am I determined by the grace of God to be one of this remnant to the end? _____

Answers: (1) a. Isaiah; b. clear, one, time; (2) a. 6-12; b. proof, only, believer, time; (3) Rev. 15:2, 3 shows them completely redeemed; (4) His teachings and His works; (5) keeping the commandments; a. commandments, faith of Jesus Christ, Rev. 14:12; b. seventh, Ex. 20:8-11; c. 12:17; 19:10; (6) Seventh-day Adventists.

September 17-23



THE FINAL TEST 13

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

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Seal of God
Rev. 7:2, 3
2. Mark of Rejection
Rev. 14:9, 10
3. Issue of Destiny
Jer. 21:8
4. The Master Deception
Rev. 13:8
5. The Supercrisis
Rev. 13:15
6. Moment for Decision
1 Kings 18:21

These words constitute a fateful decree of the heavenly Intercessor, which will mark the close of human probation. Shortly before this there will be a final test of decision for or against Christ.

The book of Revelation indicates this final test will be the true seventh-day Sabbath of the Lord Jesus Christ versus the spurious Sunday-sabbath of the papal power. A world-dominating church-state coalition will enforce this spurious sabbath upon all by boycott and the death penalty. Rev. 13:15-17. The acceptance of God's message for this time will prepare the obedient for this final test.

September 17

Part 1
SEAL OF GOD

"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, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."

Rev. 7:2, 3

In the final phase of the gospel work, God warns every soul against receiving the mark of the beast. Rev. 14:9-12. The acceptance of God's message will result in placing the seal of God upon God's servants as stated in Rev. 7:2, 3.

The final test involves the reception of the seal of God versus the reception of the mark of the beast. Hence it is of the utmost importance to find out from the Bible what is meant by the seal of God and the mark of the beast.



How does 1 Kings 21:8 show that the seal of a ruler is the sign of his authority?



What has Christ, as the Creator, appointed as a sign? Ex. 31:16, 17; Ezek. 20:12, 20.

The Sabbath commandment is the only precept in the Decalogue which identifies the Lord as the Creator of all and, therefore, the rightful Ruler of all. This imparts validity to the other nine precepts. This makes the Sabbath commandment the seal of God's law and the sign of the rightful supremacy of Christ.

There are four places in the Bible where the Sabbath is spoken of as a sign that He is the Lord. This is fourfold evidence that the true Sabbath stands as the sign or seal of God. When you yield yourself to Christ in full understanding and obedience and keep the Sabbath holy, then it becomes a sign, or seal, in your life, indicating that the true God is your God and that you are His loyal child. Ezek. 20:20.

"God's claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is based upon the fact that He is the Creator, and that to Him all other beings owe their existence."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 336.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is the character of Christ being reproduced in me more completely every day?

"The fourth commandment alone of all the ten contains the seal of the great Lawgiver, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Those who obey this

commandment take upon themselves His name, and all the blessings it involves are theirs."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 350.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 6, pp. 349-352.

September 18

Part 2
MARK OF
REJECTION

Rev. 14:9, 10

"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 into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."

A comparison of this scripture with Rev. 7:1-3 shows that the mark of the beast is the opposite of the seal of God. It has been shown in Part 1 of this lesson that the seal of God is connected with the keeping of Christ's seventh-day Sabbath. The mark of the beast, as the opposite of the seal of God, is connected with the keeping of the Sunday sabbath as a man-made substitute for the true Sabbath.

▶ **What is the only way any person can escape receiving the mark of the beast? Rev. 14:12.**

When the final test comes, all will obey the apostate power and receive the mark of the beast except the remnant who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Because they keep the commandments of God, they observe the seventh-day Sabbath according to His law.

Those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath as the Lord commands are distinguished as His true followers. But those who disobey Him and keep the first-day sabbath of the papacy in opposition to the truth are distinguished as followers of apostasy. Thus a final test will come when all men will have to make a choice between Christ's true Sabbath and the man-made sabbath; between whose authority they will accept—God's or man's; between who they will obey—Christ or Satan.

"The Sabbath question is to be the issue in the great final conflict in which all the world will act a part."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 352.

▶ **What shows that those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will obtain the victory over the mark of the beast? Rev. 15:2, 3.**

THINK IT THROUGH

Will I, by the grace of God, keep the true Sabbath and be victorious over the mark of the beast?

"Since those who keep God's commandments are thus placed in contrast with those that worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, it follows that the keeping of God's law, on

the one hand, and its violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast."—"The Great Controversy," pages 445, 446.

September 19

Part 3
ISSUE OF DESTINY
Jer. 21:8

"And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death."



How, according to 1 John 2:3, 4, does every believer show whether he is a real Christian or a make-believe Christian?



According to Rom. 6:16, what shows which side I am on in conflict between Christ and Satan?

"To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are." Rom. 6:16. Anyone who applies this Scriptural principle to the Sabbath-versus-Sunday issue will see for himself what identifies the worshipers of the Creator and only true God. He will see, also, what identifies the worshipers of the beast and his image. Too, he will know what he ought to do about this question.

When a Christian faithfully keeps the seventh-day Sabbath as the divinely appointed sign that Christ is his Creator and Redeemer, to whom is he rendering service? He is obeying his Lord Jesus Christ. This marks him as a worshiper of Christ, his Lord, Creator, and Saviour. His servant he is, to whom he obeys.

When a Christian knows the Sabbath truth, but still keeps Sunday, whom is he obeying in this respect? Many Sunday keepers honestly think that they are obeying Christ because He arose from the dead on this day. But according to the Bible, Jesus has never required anyone to keep the first day of the week as sacred for any reason whatsoever.

When a Christian keeps Sunday after he has been enlightened about it, he is obeying the apostate power, which has attempted to make Sunday, instead of the Sabbath, God's holy day of rest for man. His servant he is to whom he obeys. He is honoring the papacy above the Lord Jesus Christ, "Lord even of the Sabbath." Matt. 12:8. In such a case, the only safe decision that a Christian can make is to obey Jesus by keeping the holy day as He has commanded.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do I renew my decision every day to obey all of God's commandments?

"While the worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment,—since this is the sign of His creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage,—

the worshipers of the beast will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial, to exalt the institution of Rome."—"The Great Controversy," page 446.

September 20

Part 4
THE MASTER
DECEPTION
Rev. 13:8

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

This refers to one of Satan's overwhelming deceptions. Countless millions of professed Christians are observing Sunday as the Lord's day without knowing that it is an institution of antichrist and without Biblical authority. They sincerely believe that in so doing they are obeying and worshipping Christ. But in this they are actually rendering homage and obedience to the system of counterfeit Christianity.



Why will God's true people not be deceived by Satan's masterful deceptions? Matt. 24:24, 25.



How will Satan work to enlist, if possible, all men on his side? Rev. 13:13, 14; 16:13, 14.

Christ, as our Creator, made the seventh-day Sabbath to be a sign of allegiance and loyalty to His true system of worship. In direct opposition to this, Satan introduced, in ancient times, the worship of the sun upon the first day of the week as a sign of adherence to his false system of worship. This is how the first day of the week got its name "Sunday."

Satan knew that one of the most telling blows that he could strike against the Son of God would be to turn all people away from keeping His seventh-day Sabbath, because it is the sign of the rightful sovereignty of Christ as our Creator and Redeemer. Thus he has succeeded in establishing his "day of the Sun" in the place of the day of the *Son*. See Matt. 12:8.

Millions have been misled to believe that by keeping Sunday they acknowledge the supremacy of our blessed Saviour. But, in reality, this practice denies His rightful supremacy, for by substitution of the observance of Sunday for that of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Roman Church has placed papal authority above the word of Him who is the Lord of the Sabbath.

THINK IT THROUGH

Am I so fortifying my mind with the truth of God's Word that I will be able to stand fast amid these masterful deceptions?

"The substitution of the false for the true is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. When the laws of men are exalted above the laws of God, when the powers of this earth try to force men to keep the first day of the week, know that the time has come

for God to work. He will arise in His majesty, and will shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 7, p. 980.

September 21

**Part 5
THE SUPERCISIS**

Rev. 13:15

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

Satan attempted through the agency of pagan Rome to destroy the Saviour as soon as He was born. Rev. 12:4, 5; Matt. 2:16. He worked later through civil and religious powers of the earth to destroy millions of Christians during the Dark Ages.

In these closing days Satan will work through a church-and-state collaboration to impose observance of the false Sunday sabbath upon all. Rev. 13:16, 17.



How has God pledged His word that He will deliver His remnant? Dan. 12:1; Joel 2:32.



What will it take, on my part, to share in this deliverance? Rev. 3:10; Luke 21:34, 35.

Everyone will be compelled to choose between the seal of God and the mark of the beast. If a person will not voluntarily surrender his all to Christ, keep His true Sabbath, and receive the seal of God, he will yield to compulsion by civil law to honor the false sabbath and receive the mark of the beast.

THINK IT THROUGH

Will I be one of the overcomers whose name will be retained in the book of life for a home in the better world to come? Rev. 3:5.

"Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that 'all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond' (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand,

the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.

"With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a human enactment receives the mark of the beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God."—"The Great Controversy," page 604.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 603-612.

September 22

Part 6
MOMENT FOR
DECISION
1 Kings 18:21

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him."

God confronts men continually with moments of decision. This is for our own eternal good if we make the right responses.



What moment of decision came to God's professed people in the golden calf apostasy? Ex. 32:19-26.

In the final test preceding the close of probation, every soul will have to decide between the worship of Christ as our Creator-Redeemer and the worship of the beast and his image; between the observance of the true Sabbath of Christ and the observance of the counterfeit sabbath of the papacy.



How did Christ show that no one can be neutral? Matt. 12:30.

Observing Christ's seventh-day Sabbath is a sign of recognition of His authority as sovereign Lord of all, the Creator of all, and the only Saviour of man. Observance of the Sunday institution, after light has come, is a sign of recognition of the alleged authority of the papacy to rule over all God's people. Thus each of us must decide which of these two signs of authority he will accept for himself. This is the basic issue in this impending conflict of Sabbath versus Sunday.

The issue is, in brief, this: Whom shall I obey as supreme? Shall I decide for Christ? Shall I obey Him in keeping His Sabbath as a sign that I choose Him as my Lord-Creator-Saviour? Or shall I obey the papal power in keeping Sunday?

THINK IT THROUGH

As I come to the end of these lessons, shall I pray, "Lord, help me to have Christ in the Sabbath and the Sabbath in Christ?"

"The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power

that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God."—"The Great Controversy," page 605.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Great Controversy," pages 448-450.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **TO TEST YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. In which commandment is the seal of God found? _____
2. The mark of the beast is the _____ to the _____ of God.
3. How can you avoid receiving the mark of the beast? _____
4. Why is the deliberate keeping of Sunday instead of the seventh day a mark of obedience to the Rome power above Christ? _____
5. Who are the only ones who will not be deceived by Satan? _____

6. Between what will each person be compelled to make a decision? _____

7. Each one must choose between keeping the _____ day, as sign of the _____ of _____, and the keeping of the _____ day, as a sign of the _____ of _____.

Answers: (1) fourth; (2) opposite, seal; (3) by obeying God and receiving God's seal; (4) because this power boasts the authority to change God's law; (5) the very elect; (6) seal of God and mark of beast; (7) seventh, lordship, Christ, first, supremacy, Satan.



THE FORGOTTEN BLESSING 14

The purpose of this review is to ask these personal questions: (1) What have we learned or relearned about the Sabbath and Sabbath observance? (2) How will this knowledge be translated into a more victorious daily experience?

For example, we have spoken of the Sabbath as a sign of divine creatorship and redemption. Are we, as a consequence, conscious of renewal and victory in daily life? Reference has been made to a "missing text." Is that just a point for controversy, or does it strengthen your faith in New Testament seventh-day Sabbath observance? We know there is a true and there is a false sabbath day. But do we ask what the divine judgment might be between a really sincere person who unknowingly observes the wrong day, and the man who well knows the true day of rest and yet observes it legalistically and lives an inconsistent life?

In other words, this review is intended to stress the supreme importance of truly living our religious beliefs motivated by the love of Christ, of practicing what we profess, of being what we claim to be.

Otherwise, we can know the truth of Christ and yet be lost because we do not know Him.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Sabbath and Redeeming Love**
Gen. 2:1; Job 38:7
2. **Eternal Love and Man's Obedience**
Deut. 33:2, 3
3. **Creation and Re-creation**
Heb. 1:2; 2 Cor. 5:17, RSV
4. **The Divine Forethought**
Eph. 1:4, 5
5. **Mark of the Maker**
Ezek. 20:20
6. **Evidence of the Saviour's Presence**
Lev. 21:23

September 24

Part 1
THE SABBATH AND
REDEEMING LOVE
Gen. 2:1; Job 38:7

"The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them."

"The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

Notice how these verses are used in *The Desire of Ages* in the context of Christ's finished work of creation as a type of His finished work of redemption while He rested in the tomb on the Sabbath day:

"In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested upon the Sabbath after Their work of creation. When 'the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them' (Gen. 2:1), the Creator and all heavenly beings rejoiced in contemplation of the glorious scene. 'The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.' Job 38:7. Now Jesus rested from the work of redemption; and though there was grief among those who loved Him on earth, yet there was joy in heaven. Glorious to the eyes of heavenly beings was the promise of the future. A restored creation, a redeemed race, that having conquered sin could never fall,—this, the result to flow from Christ's completed work, God and angels saw. With this scene the day upon which Jesus rested is forever linked. For 'His work is perfect;' and 'whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever.' Deut. 32:4; Eccl. 3:14. When there shall be a 'restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began' (Acts 3:21), the creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph's tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing. Heaven and earth will unite in praise, as 'from one Sabbath to another' (Isa. 66:23) the nations of the saved shall bow in joyful worship to God and the Lamb."—Pages 769, 770.



Make a list of some of the "things" that will someday be restored. Acts 3:21.

THINK IT THROUGH

Should we expect the kind of world that knew not Christ during His life on earth to know and observe now the seventh-day Sabbath that He observed?

September 25

Part 2
ETERNAL LOVE AND
MAN'S OBEDIENCE

Deut. 33:2, 3

"And he said, The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words."



What relation has always existed between God's love and His laws?



Is divine love temporary or eternal? Jer. 31:3.

The controversies of the Pharisees with Christ show how they magnified the first four commandments of the Decalogue as of much greater importance than the other six because they reveal the duty of man to His Maker. Consequently "they greatly failed of practical godliness. Jesus had shown the people their great deficiency, and had taught the necessity of good works, declaring that the tree is known by its fruits. For this reason He had been charged with exalting the last six commandments above the first four."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 607.



What is the relation between God's love and man's obedience?

THINK IT THROUGH

In what way does Christ's part in creation prove that He possesses divine attributes? What are some of them? John 1:1, 3, 14.

"The principles of righteousness embodied in the Decalogue are as immutable as the eternal throne. Not one command has been annulled, not a jot or tittle has been changed. Those principles that were made known to man in Paradise as the great law of life will exist unchanged in Paradise restored. When Eden shall bloom on earth again, God's law of love will be obeyed by all beneath the sun."—"Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 50, 51.

"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. . . . 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."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 305.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: See "Redeeming Grace," H. W. Lowe, Chapters 2 and 6.

Part 3
CREATION AND
RE-CREATION

Heb. 1:2;
2 Cor. 5:17, RSV.

"His Son . . . by whom also he [God] made the worlds."

"If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation."

God's eternal purpose in Christ Jesus our Lord (Eph. 3:11) has been to reveal both creation and re-creation as beneficent and redemptive acts.

How can man have the experience of conversion and the new creation? By the grace of God in Christ we may put off the corruption and deceitfulness of sin and thus find in Him new spiritual hope and courage. Eph. 4:20-22.

"Not through controversy and discussion is the soul enlightened. We must look and live. Nicodemus received the lesson, and carried it with him. He searched the Scriptures in a new way, not for the discussion of a theory, but in order to receive life for the soul. He began to see the kingdom of heaven as he submitted himself to the leading of the Holy Spirit."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 175.

Just as creation was a gift of God, so is the new creation. In what way must man accept both God's creation and His re-creation?

"Through faith we receive the grace of God; but faith is not our Saviour. It earns nothing. It is the hand by which we lay hold upon Christ, and appropriate His merits, the remedy for sin. And we cannot even repent without the aid of the Spirit of God. The Scripture says of Christ, 'Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.' Acts 5:31. Repentance comes from Christ as truly as does pardon."—*Ibid.*

THINK IT THROUGH

Does acceptance of Christ as our Redeemer necessitate recognition of Him as our Creator?

"The law given upon Sinai was the enunciation of the principle of love, a revelation to earth of the law of heaven."—"Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," page 46.

"The daily evidence that we are a

living church is seen in the fact that we are practicing the Word. A living testimony goes forth to the world in consistent Christian action."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 6, p. 1071.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "The Desire of Ages," pages 167-177.

September 27

Part 4
THE DIVINE
FORETHOUGHT
Eph. 1:4, 5

"He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ."

Various expressions are used in the New Testament to reveal to us divine initiative and forethought in providing for the salvation of man. This was to ensure that the world would eventually be populated by holy beings. Titus 1:2 speaks of the "hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." True acceptance of Christ and loyalty to Him assure salvation.

The existence of Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4) is clearly seen in various Biblical passages. He was the creator of all things. John 1:1-3, 10. "For by him were all things created . . . : and he is before all things, and by him all things consist." Col. 1:16, 17. This includes the Sabbath, for "the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day," Matt. 12:8. It provides for all other things essential to the welfare and full redemption of man.

THINK IT THROUGH

Is it more logical to think that in the event of man's fall, (1) his redemption would be accomplished by his beneficent Creator, or that (2) man would in time work his own way out of this tragic situation?

"I was shown that the law of God would stand fast forever, and exist in the new earth to all eternity. At the creation, when the foundations of the earth were laid, the sons of God looked with admiration upon the work of the Creator, and all the heavenly host shouted for joy. It was then that the foundation of the Sabbath was laid. At the close of the six days of creation, God rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made; and He blessed the seventh day and sanc-

tified it, because that in it He had rested from all His work. The Sabbath was instituted in Eden before the fall, and was observed by Adam and Eve, and all the heavenly host. God rested on the seventh day, and blessed and hal- lowed it. I saw that the Sabbath never will be done away; but that the re- deemed saints, and all the angelic host, will observe it in honor of the great Creator to all eternity."—"Early Writ- ings," page 217.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 63-65.

Part 5
MARK OF THE
MAKER
Ezek. 20:20

“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.”

Four things should be noted in Ezek. 20:5-12: (1) God's choice of His people; (2) His deliverance of them from heathen abomination and bondage; (3) His desire that His name should not be polluted among the heathen, and (4) the laws He gave to His people as peculiar signs of His presence with them.

In Ex. 31:15-17 the weekly Sabbath is given as one of the marks of God's sovereignty over His people. According to Neh. 9:14, one of the signs of God's presence with them was His holy Sabbath. In 1 Cor. 10:1-4 His guidance and training of them in the desert are attributed to Christ, who is thus indicated as the Lord of both His people and His Sabbath. See *The Desire of Ages*, page 288.



What is meant by the statement in Ex. 31:17 that the Creator “rested, and was refreshed” on the seventh day? Did He need physical rest?

“All was perfect, worthy of its divine Author, and He rested, not as one weary, but as well pleased with the fruits of His wisdom and goodness and the manifestations of His glory.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 47.



Can we find “rest” in the fullest sense if God's blessing is not with us?

THINK IT THROUGH

What alone can make our obedience to God's commandments acceptable in spirit and in truth? Would a deeper acknowledgment of Christ as our Creator and Sanctifier solve our problem of giving proper service to Him?

“The Israelites placed over their doors a signature of blood, to show that they were God's property. So the children of God in this age will bear the signature God has appointed. They will place themselves in harmony with God's holy law. A mark is placed upon every one of God's people just as verily as a mark was placed over the doors

of the Hebrew dwellings, to preserve the people from the general ruin. God declares, ‘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.’”—Ellen G. White Comments, “SDA Bible Commentary,” Vol. 7, pp. 968, 969.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: “The Desire of Ages,” pages 286-288.

Part 6
EVIDENCE OF THE
SAVIOUR'S
PRESENCE
Lev. 21:23

"For I the Lord do sanctify them."

This expression is often used in the Old Testament, and we have seen in Ezek. 20:12 that it is connected with Sabbath observance.

From the lessons of this quarter, what have we learned as the paramount thing in all religious observances?

"No other institution which was committed to the Jews tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath. God designed that its observance should designate them as His worshipers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true God. But in order to keep the Sabbath holy, men must themselves be holy. Through faith they must become partakers of the righteousness of Christ."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 283.

Does history show that the observance of Sunday, the day substituted for the seventh day, has declined into formalism? Was it ever anything else?



Does formal observance of a day inhibit the vital experience of Christ's righteousness by faith? Ex. 31:13.

Should Seventh-day Adventists constantly seek Christ in daily experience in order to witness effectively for truth, especially the Sabbath truth? "God's remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God. . . . Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to cooperate with Him in building up the waste places. They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 678.

THINK IT THROUGH

Do we show God's love by obvious, aggressive effort, or by constancy to Him under all circumstances? See 1 John 5:3. (Moffatt's translation says that "his commands are not irksome.")

"The Sabbath is a sign of Christ's power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God. . . .

"To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ's creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him."—"The Desire of Ages," pages 288, 289.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: "Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 350.

Part 7 ◇ **SUMMARY QUESTIONS** ◇ **A TEST OF YOUR STUDY POWER**

1. True or False: The entrance of sin posed the following situations:
 - a. Man must find a way to get back what he had lost. _____
 - b. God sought a good angel to save this world. _____
 - c. Only the Creator could become man's Redeemer. _____
2. Multiple choice:
 - a. Is law more important, equally important, or less so than love? _____
 - b. If we love, can we ignore obedience? _____
 - c. Which comes first: love or obedience? _____
3. Multiple choice: Does the new birth mean *a.* new manners? *b.* new culture? *c.* an entirely new Christian way of life? _____
4. Was the Creator caught unawares by sin, or had He provided for such a contingency, and, if so, how? _____

5. What mark of our Maker have these lessons indicated? _____

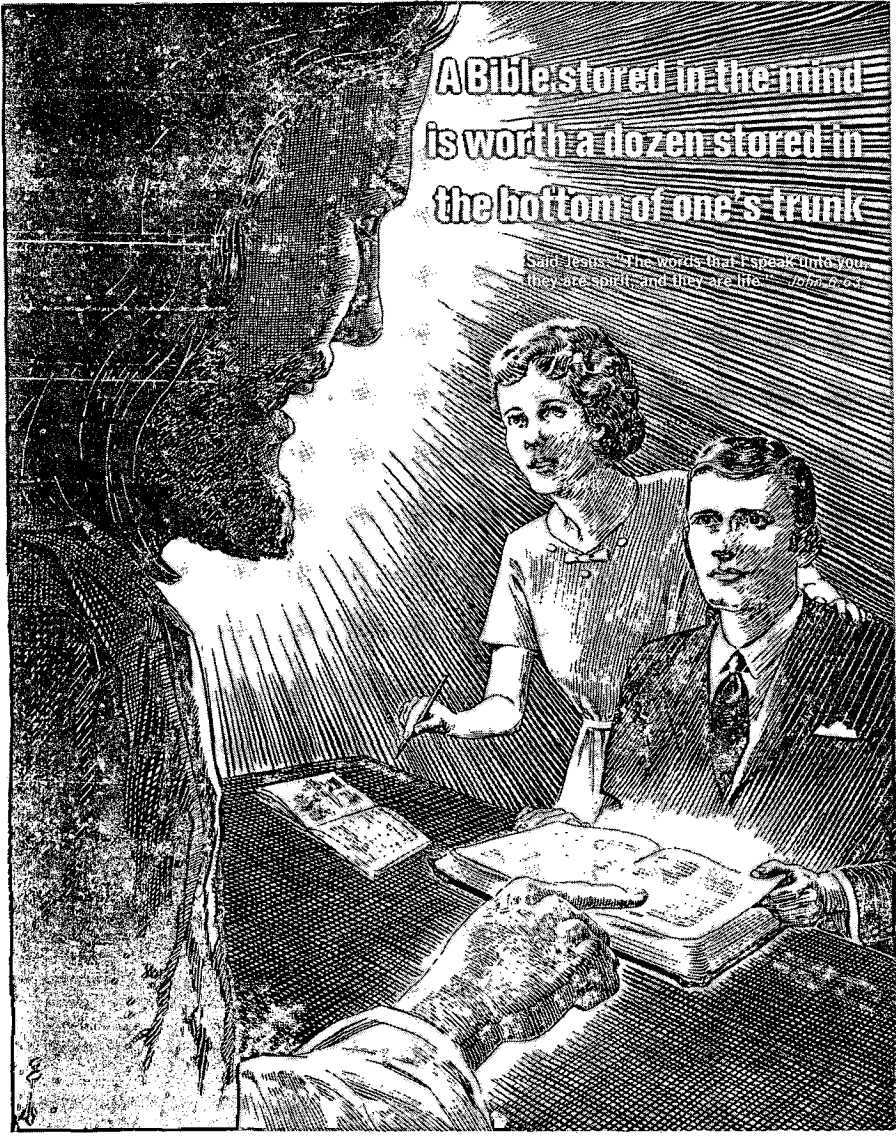
6. Multiple choice: Real evidence of Christ's presence in us is seen in *a.* sincerity; *b.* love; *c.* an ascetic life and strict observances of God's laws. _____
7. What is the best answer to the charge of legalism? _____

8. Do you think the charge of being self-centered legalists is sometimes justified? _____

Answers: (1) a. false; b. false; c. true; (2) a. equally; b. no; c. love; (3) c; (4) He had provided a Redeemer in Christ; (5) spiritual Sabbath observance; (6) a, b; (7) a friendly, courteous, loving life of service to all; (8) yes, but we are not to judge others.

**A Bible stored in the mind
is worth a dozen stored in
the bottom of one's trunk**

Said Jesus: "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." — *John 6:63*



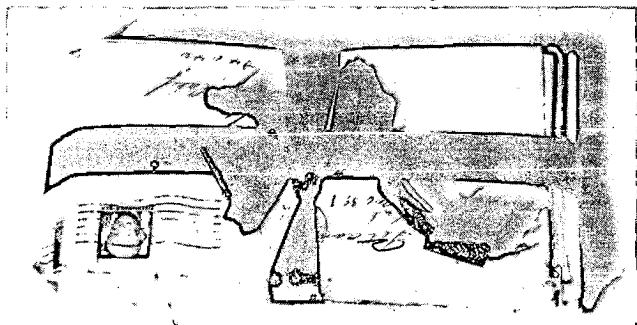
"In God's word we behold the power that laid the foundation of the earth and that stretched out the heavens. . . . In the reverent contemplation of the truths presented in His word, the mind of the student is brought into communion with the infinite mind. Such a study will not only refine and ennoble the character, but it cannot fail to expand and invigorate the mental powers."
— *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 596.



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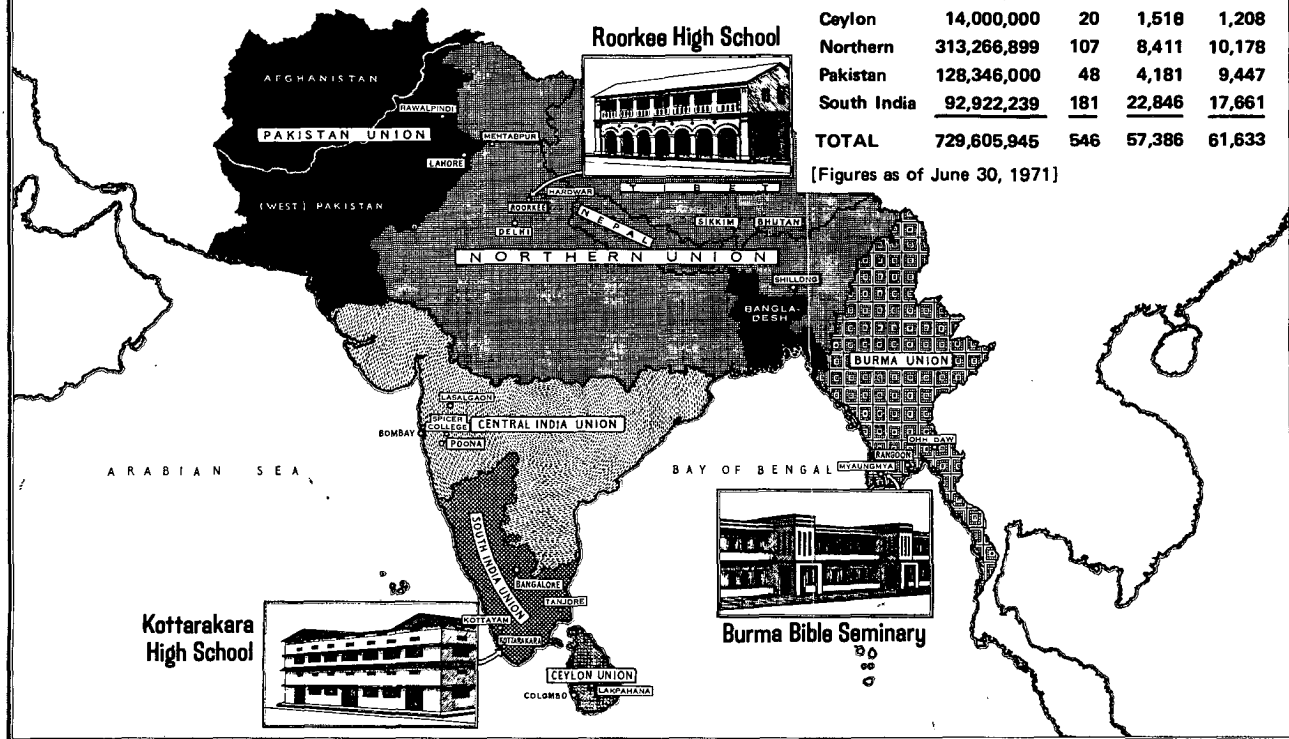
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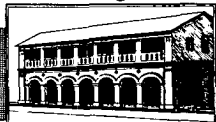
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Burma	28,518,000	78	5,185	6,363
Central India	152,552,807	112	15,245	16,776
Ceylon	14,000,000	20	1,518	1,208
Northern	313,266,899	107	8,411	10,178
Pakistan	128,346,000	48	4,181	9,447
South India	92,922,239	181	22,846	17,661
TOTAL	729,605,945	546	57,386	61,633

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