

The Sabbath Sentinel

"Go set a watchman,
Let him declare what he seeth."
ISAIAH 21:9

JANUARY 1982



The Tale of Three Christians

Only Love Can Fulfill The Law

By R.L. Jantz

A story of three Christians and the 20 mph school zone on the street in front of the elementary school. The term "Christian" is used only in the sense of one who acknowledges the Christ as Savior. His attitude toward the sign represents his attitude toward the law.

OUR FIRST Christian to come along is the lawkeeper. He never exceeds the speed limit any more than what he believes the law will allow. With his intent on keeping the letter of the law, he rapidly slows down at the beginning of the zone to something just above 20 mph. He may be seen looking in his rear view mirror to see if there is a patrol car in the area; then well before the end of the zone he speeds up. Keeping in mind that this Christian's attitude toward the speed zone represents his attitude toward the Creator's law, what is his condition?

He has at least two problems, a need, and will suffer a penalty.

1. He had no regard for the children playing in the schoolyard, because his only concern was his fear of the penalty of the law. The sign

didn't cause him to watch out for children but for patrol cars. He thus failed to fulfill the intent and principle of the last six commandments, which show us how to love and respect our fellow man.

2. The sign was a burden to him, and he did not rejoice in the law speaking that message to him. Thus he did not fulfill the intent and purpose of the first four commandments, which tell us what kind of Creator we have and show how to love and respect Him.

We see in the above a person who really believes that he keeps the law and may even take pride in his simulated obedience. His need is the book of Galatians, and his penalty may be severe because he may never call upon the name of the Eternal our God.

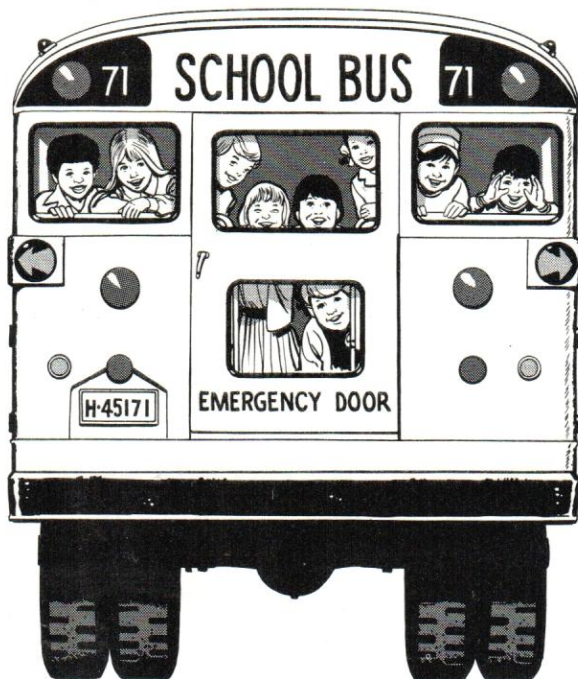
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Our second Christian is one who believes the law has been done away with and that he is totally free "in Christ" to ignore it. He's coming down the street at 40 mph (the speed limit is 35); when he sees the sign, it only reminds him of his position that the law has come to an end, even though he knows his Savior has said, "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than for one dot of the law to become void" (Luke 16:17, RSV). He therefore speeds right on through the school zone "calling on the name of the Lord." He does not look in his rear view mirror, for he has no feeling of guilt; nor does he fear a penalty...Yes, he knows that occasionally he will get a ticket. But he will just turn it over to the Lord, and he has confidence that the Lord in His mercy will pay it. This Christian also has two problems, a need, and will suffer a penalty.

1. He did not love the children, for he had just endangered their lives; thus he did not fulfill the intent and principle of the last six commandments.

2. He took no joy in that the law was speaking to him in the form of that sign, and he did not respect the authority behind the sign. Thus he did not fulfill the principle of the first four commandments.

His need is the book of Romans, and his penalty is that he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. When our Master was discussing the law and the prophets, He plainly stated: "Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of



heaven," (Matt. 5:17-19, RSV).

And now we come to our third Christian. He sees the children playing from afar off and begins to slow down because he loves them. He is reminded that kids tend to forget to look out for cars when they run across the street after a ball or something. Because of his love for them, he fulfills the principle of the last 6 commandments. Then as he gets closer and sees the sign, he rejoices in what that law is speaking to him. He is already going 15 mph, and the 20 mph sign is saying to him that someone in higher authority loves the children also. He is therefore fulfilling the principle of the first four commandments. It is by this means that the just requirement of the law is fulfilled by those who walk according to the spirit, (Romans 8:4).

We see that our first two Christians were still under the law of the 20 mph sign for two reasons: to

attempt to protect the children against their action and to attempt to bring them to some resemblance of what they would be if they loved the children. In the same way the law brings us to Christ, (Galatians 3:23-25). We see also that the only Christian who was not under the law was the one who fulfilled the law, and likewise the only one who rejoiced in the law was the one who was not under the law.

That 20 mph sign that was an annoyance to our first Christian and produced a negative reaction to the law in our second Christian stood as a symbol of love in the mind of our third Christian, for it spoke to him that someone loved the children before he did. The law said 20 mph, not a fraction more, but grace said 15 and maybe less if necessary. The standard of grace is never beneath the requirement of the law, but always above it.

A Misunderstanding Becomes a Great Opportunity

Last September Janyce Royalty, owner of Yakima Drafting Service, contracted Christian radio station KBBO for twelve 30-second commercials seeking a trainee to help in her small business. With two days and three ads to go, she found someone who could fill the requirement and requested a change in the last three spot announcements in order to acquaint listeners with the Bible Sabbath Association.

Because Pete Fretwell, general manager of KBBO felt that Sabbathkeeping is a secondary issue that is not of interest to most listeners, he declined to run the BSA announcements.

However, after correspondence and phone conversations between Janyce and Mr. Fretwell, he decided to let her have, not the 1 1/2 minute of time remaining for her three announcements, but fifteen minutes as guest on a call-in talk show program in order to present her views.

We feel that Mr. Fretwell is to be commended for his fairness in resolving this issue, even though, as he said in a letter to Janyce, "I believe our listeners will not find the issue to be as pressing or as important as you seem to feel."

We shall report on the program in a later issue.

Maybe some of us have been given a bigger opportunity to serve Christ and haven't realized it.

Keeping the Sabbath With Love

By Janyce Lynn Royalty

ON A Sabbath not too long ago we had a guest speaker give the sermon in church. It was a fairly good sermon, and the man had a lot of good things to say. But one thing he mentioned that caught my ear and made me think in reply, Boy — I'm sure glad he can't see me every Sabbath! What was it that would have offended him so?

Eating Out on Sabbath

Last summer I fell and broke my foot. Consequently, I was on crutches for about ten weeks. And I started going out to a local nationally known restaurant once a day in order to have one good solid meal. As I live alone, I found that it took just too much time to prepare a meal, eat it, and then clean up the mess, all the time on crutches, while carrying on a business at the same time. For my meals the rest of the day I'd just snack or quickly make a sandwich or something else that was easy.

It became a habit, and I might add, a pleasurable one, as it became an opportunity to meet new people and sometimes even witness to them. Some are traveling, some are local, some were just working for the summer and have since returned to college, and some are "regulars" like me. This practice of getting one good

meal a day, I do on the Sabbath, as well.

And that is what would have offended him; the fact that I was so "un-Christian" as to eat at a restaurant on the Sabbath. I didn't say anything to him about his remarks, and he went on his merry way, I'm sure, thinking that everyone agreed with what he had to say.

Actually, considering the time I save and the spoiled food that I no longer throw out (anyone who lives alone knows what I'm talking about), it costs me only about half again as much as doing it myself. The relaxation and socializing are worth it to me.

But back to the question: Is it breaking God's Fourth Commandment to eat in a restaurant on the Sabbath? After all, it is like hiring someone to fix me a meal, that is, work for me, isn't it? Or is it?

I could completely shut down on the Sabbath. That's what the Pharisees did 2,000 years ago. But what about me or should I say, my stomach? I do have to eat. I mean, I don't think we're expected to fast every Sabbath. I remember something about Jesus's crew being accused of working on the Sabbath for picking some grain to eat (Matt.



12:1, Mark 2:23, Luke 6:1). Which is the more work: fixing and cleaning up myself or letting a restaurant do it "assembly-line" style?

Well, first of all, are the people in the restaurant really working for me? Yes, I eat the food they prepare, but are they really working for me? Do I tell them when to report for work? Do I hire and fire? (I'd like to sometimes!) Do I withhold their taxes? Finally, if I didn't eat there, would that keep them from working on the Sabbath?

We Can't Stop Everything

If we Christians were to try to observe the Sabbath to the letter of the law, there are some things which are nearly impossible to stop doing or purchasing. Let me give you some examples:

Someone has to watch the gauges, and others have to do assorted work to bring electricity to your home. The meter on your house goes around on the Sabbath too. You *are* buying electricity on the Sabbath; you just pay for it later.

The same is true for your natural gas meter. If you have one, do you go out and turn off the master valve every Friday at sunset?

Most of us subscribe to a newspaper. Do you tell them not to print your copy on the Sabbath? Do you tell them to hold it and deliver it with Sunday's paper?

Do you lock shut your mailbox for the Sabbath?

And if you had an accident, became sick, or needed emergency medical attention, you would never think of going to the hospital on the Sabbath, would you?

Oh, and let us not forget the phone. We've got to be sure we unplug it...it takes people to make that work on the Sabbath too. But we *are* paying for it even if we don't use it; maybe we had better have it disconnected completely on Friday afternoons. It will cost us an additional fifty dollars a week, but, *we'll be keeping the Sabbath!*

Of course we wouldn't dare travel on the Sabbath; why, what if we should need gas or have a flat tire or some other breakdown?

Naturally, we wouldn't bother the fire department or call the police, even if we plugged the phone back in; we must not have them work for us on the Sabbath. We should just stand back and have a giant wiener roast while watching our house burn down. Maybe we should also help the burglars rob our neighbor's house, so that they don't have to work so hard on the Sabbath.

It's all getting a little silly, isn't it? Reminds you of a certain group of self-righteous people mentioned in the New Testament? Well then, what is the answer? How can we solve this dilemma? Is it really all that difficult?

One's Relationship Is Clue

It is vitally important in one's relationship with God to do things for God because we love Him. Not to keep some rule or law in a physical manner, but to keep them in our heart; to keep them in a spiritual way. Not to forget or ignore God's laws, but to keep them in proper perspective in regard to our society, our daily lives, and our fellow man.

I don't think it's all that difficult a problem, and these are my answers. They may not be right for you, and

perhaps you won't agree with all I say, but maybe they will help you find a more suitable answer in *your* relationship with our Eternal God.

Is It Necessary?

I have a small business of my own located in my home. I close for business at Friday sunset. I will not have an employee work during the Sabbath. Having an employee work Sunday is all right *if* it doesn't conflict with his religious views of keeping Sunday. Until he grows more spiritually, that is his "Sabbath."

I have no qualms about making purchases on the Sabbath. I feel that the money I spend was earned at some other time, and believe me, spending money certainly isn't "work" for me!

However, I don't *plan on* shopping on the Sabbath, for that wouldn't be done with the right spirit either. But if I need something, I'll buy it. I also ask myself, "Would that person still work or would that business remain open on the Sabbath if I didn't make that purchase?" If the answer to either is Yes, then I go ahead with the purchase. If No, then I am asking someone to do something wrong; something that they wouldn't otherwise do.

Would I call for emergency services? You bet! I would be a poor steward indeed if I didn't do all possible to protect my property or my human body (the temple of God) from pain, harm, or destruction.

Do I travel on the Sabbath? Well, the price of gas has really put a damper on that activity, but - yes, I do. But most all of the time, Sabbath traveling is connected with church or visitation or just to get out of the city

to be "alone with God." To me there is no building on earth that can compare with the temple God "built"; the trees and wildlife of the forest. I can feel closer to God there than anywhere else on earth.

Now, my profession does not normally require me to work on the Sabbath. But I've often thought about those whose work does. A doctor, nurse, fireman, ambulance driver, even a utility repairman, are good examples. Most of these professions are really needed for the safety, comfort, and health of the rest of us. Usually, schedules for this kind of work rotate employees for weekend work. To me, this would pose no problem. In fact, I believe it would provide an opportunity to serve Christ twice. Let me explain:

First of all, I would work on the Sabbath only if it were a necessary job function that serves my fellow man and *must not cease* on the Sabbath. Being a nurse or emergency utility repairman are good examples. Hospitals must have nurses, power, and communications to function properly. If requested, I would happily and joyfully do that job, but I would give everything I earned on the Sabbath to the needy, the church, or something that would be of help to my fellow man. This would be in addition to my normal tithes.

If I were a nurse, for example, I could be waiting on and helping the sick and infirm on the Sabbath. Because I am giving away my wages, I would thus be devoting the day (only 8 hours anyway) to the service of my fellow man (and serving Christ). Then, by taking those wages and giving them to, say, one of the patients who couldn't afford his necessary medical expense, I would again be serving Christ by helping the

poor. I would get to do two things "unto the Lord," within the same time period.

I would probably take another day off for my personal rest and devotion to God, but the point is, I could do double my good works for my fellow man (Christ). I could *double my value* as a servant of God. I think that would be good stewardship.

Now don't take me wrong. I am not advocating *trying* to seek Sabbath work, nor am I advocating not trying to avoid Sabbath work. But don't forget, your pastor also

works for the glory of God and service to his fellow man on the Sabbath. Aren't we all supposed to be ministers for Christ? Maybe some of us just have been given a bigger opportunity to serve Christ and haven't realized it.

And me? Well, I guess I'm going to continue to "sin" and be "un-Christian" on the Sabbath. Maybe someday, that man will walk into that restaurant, and with surprise, see me there. It wouldn't surprise me at all.

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I Became in Spirit In the Master's Day

By R.L. Jantz

The contents of the book of the Revelation indicate that John had to have been transformed into another time and dimension. The dimension by being "in spirit" and the time by being "in the Master's day." The Greek word *en* is involved here in both places, and such a translation is not beyond reason.

In one popular translation *en* is translated "in" 1863 times and "on" 45 times. Thayer gives the following for the Greek *en*: "1. of Place proper; a. in the interior of some whole; within the limits of some space."

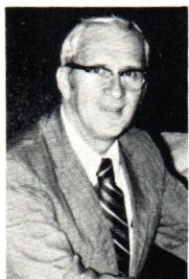
In consideration of the above, must we conclude that John is

writing of a day of the week, and further must we assume that day was Sunday or the first day of the week?

The Catholic Church claims its authority in transferring the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday was by the divine power that Christ bestowed upon it, yet it acknowledges concerning the above mentioned passage in the Revelation: "From this single reference alone, it would be impossible to conclude that the early Christians celebrated the first day of the week, Sunday, as their special day of devotion and rest;" (*The New Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 8, page 990*).

—R.L. Jantz

A World Gone Mad



I HAVEN'T slept well since I read an article in last month's *U.S. Catholic*, entitled "Nuclear War: This May Be Your Last Christmas." In it Dr. Helen Caldicott said, "Our world is almost out of human control."

She gave the effects of one 20-megaton nuclear bomb dropped on Chicago: People up to six miles away would be vaporized, while those within 20 miles would die either instantly or soon after. Those in a 40-mile radius would be permanently blinded. A firestorm would devastate a 3000 square-mile area.

If world powers used only 10 percent of their nuclear arsenals, 80 percent of those living in the Northern Hemisphere would die within thirty days, while those "fortunate" enough to survive would need to stay underground for ten years. Even a three minute exposure to the sun would give them third-degree burns, for the earth's protective ozone layer would have been destroyed.

Is it possible that the only hope for mankind is a return to the law of God and to His message of love?

Eugene Lincoln



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The object of this non-sectarian, nondenominational association is to bring together into one strong organization all believers in the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) regardless of sect, creed, or denomination, for the sole purpose of spreading knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the Creator's Holy Day. The only qualification is belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

Annual member contribution: Regular or subscribing members, \$10.00; family members: \$10.00 (individual certificates issued but only one set of records maintained and only one copy of the Sentinel and other mailings sent); supporting members \$10.00-\$24.99; sustaining members \$25.00-\$99.00; life members, \$100.00 or more during any one year.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced and leave wide margins on all sides. Use only one side of paper. If you wish your manuscripts returned, include stamped, addressed envelope. Address to the editor, 1109 Holton Lane, Takoma Park, Md. 20912. We invite manuscripts on various aspects of the Sabbath, but cannot pay for them.

Opinions in articles are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Bible Sabbath Association.

Who Wrote the First Book of Moses? Surprise! Computer Says Maybe Moses

Computer experts at Israel's Technion Institute fed the book of Genesis into a computer and found that it was probably written by one author, according to *Newsweek* magazine.

Genesis and the next four books of the Bible form the Pentateuch, which has traditionally been considered the work of Moses himself. In the last century, however, some scholars have surmised that the Pentateuch was drawn together from various sources with multiple authors. One prominent theory supposed four distinct sources—a "J" narrative in which God is called Jahweh, and "E" narrative in which "Elohim" is used for God, a "P" or Priestly document containing ritual codes and genealogies, and a "D" or Deuteronomical set of laws. J-E-P-D theorists would point to the first chapters of Genesis and the two parallel Creation accounts to prove their case.

Surprisingly, the Technion computer conducted an exhaustive analysis and found those two accounts linguistically identical. One distinct strain did emerge (JEPD folks would call it "P"), listing genealogy and describing ritual throughout Genesis, but project coordinator Yehuda Radday attributes the linguistic difference to the change in content.

Some liberal scholars have expressed skepticism about the study. Some conservative observers find it strange that it takes technology to tell us that Moses wrote the "books of Moses." Meanwhile, the computer gears up for a probe of Exodus.

—The Advocate of Truth



How Christians Should View the Law

THE LAW is the subject of much controversy among Christians. For many it was "done away" and replaced by grace; they consider Christianity to be liberty from any law except the "law of love," which means different things to different individuals.

At the other extreme are many Christians who take a very strict view of the law; they view the new covenant as merely an extension of the old (except for sacrificing and "rituals"); many legislate stringent dos and don'ts designed to protect people from falling into sin.

Neither of these extremes presents the whole picture of God's law as revealed in the Bible; rather, each represents a distorted view of only one aspect of the subject. For, as is so often the case, the truth of God's Word in this subject is like the proverbial elephant being described by four blindfolded men, each of whom is touching a different part of the beast and getting only part of the picture. To understand what the whole elephant is like, they must take off their blindfolds, stand back, and walk all around it.

We must do the same with God's law. We must step back and look at it from each of the perspectives presented in the Bible.

The Law as Slayer

"Through the law we become conscious of sin" (Romans 3:20, NIV, here and throughout).*

"...because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression" (Romans 4:15).

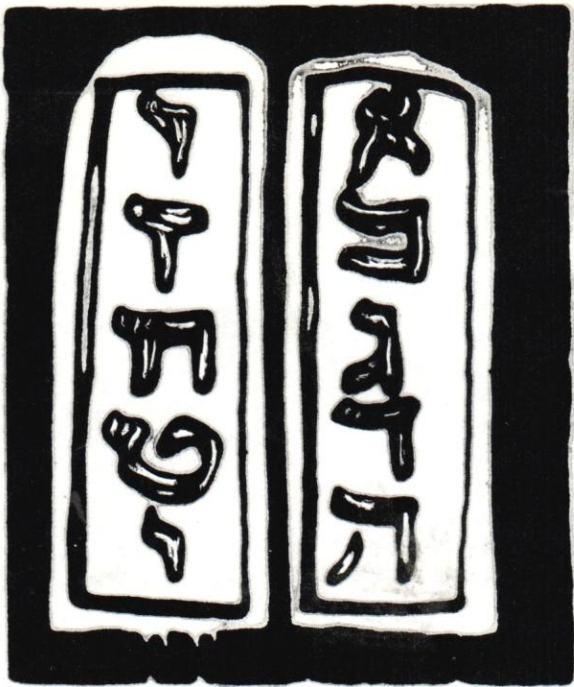
"Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what it was to covet if the law had not said, 'Do not covet.' For sin...through the commandment put me to death" (Romans 7:7-11).

These verses and many others in the Bible show that the law provides a standard whereby sinners can be convicted of their sinfulness and can see their need for salvation through Jesus Christ. For if there were no law, there would be no sin, and hence no need for a Savior (Romans 4:15b; 5:13b; 1 John 3:4).

Law Powerless to Save

But as important as the law is in convicting sinners of sins, it cannot save them from sin. Paul wrote, "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son" (Romans 8:3)..

There is simply no way that any law can atone for sins! No law can translate a human being into God's kingdom. Justification and salvation are available only by the grace of God through faith in the blood of



“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

It is clear that although the law is essential to convict sinners, it is powerless to save them. Only Jesus Christ can do that.

But what about the law once a sinner repents and receives the free gift of salvation? What about us who are Christians, members of the family of God? Do we cast aside the law for “liberty?”

Absolutely not! For according to Paul, the law is spiritual!

“So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good...We know that the law is spiritual...” (Romans 7:12-14).

Something that is spiritual, holy,

righteous, and good is hardly to be cast aside lightly with labels like “Old Covenant,” or “oppressive” or “legalistic.” Indeed, the law of God plays a very important and powerful role in the life of God’s Children, His servants, who should seek to please Him in every aspect of their lives.

Liberty in the Law

As God’s children who have been saved from sin, we should seek to serve Him, to do what He wants his children to do. But how do we know his will for us?

Before conversion, when we sinned, we were slaves to sin; but now we are to be slaves to righteousness.

“Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey - whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to

death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

"You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (verse 18).

And how do we know what righteousness is? Through God's law! It is true, indeed, that as Christians we have liberty - liberty from the curse of the law, which is not the law itself, but sin and death; but we are not at liberty to do anything we please. We are now the servants of God. So how can we go back to sin, (which is breaking His law)?

Paul wrote:

"We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" (verse 2);

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body" (verse 12);

"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life" (verse 22).

Law as the Expression of God's Will

As Christians, our number one concern in life should be doing the will of our Father - serving Him, pleasing Him! For we are His servants, His children. And His law serves as the expression of His will for us. It no longer slays us as it did before we accepted Jesus as our Savior. Neither is it a mere legal code hanging on a wall that we *have to* comply with. Rather, it is written in our hearts; it becomes part of our very nature - it is something we *want to do*, something we choose to do.

"But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the spirit, and not in the old way of the written code"

(Romans 7:6).

Romans 8:6, 7 says that a person controlled by his carnal nature cannot submit to God's law. The implication is that those controlled by the Spirit do obey God's law. In fact, Paul goes so far as to say:

"For in my inner being I delight in God's law...So then, I myself in my mind as a slave to God's law" (Romans 7:22-25).

What a contrast between Paul, who delighted in God's law, and the many Christians who think it is bad, perhaps because they have seen the legalism of other Christians or because they don't really want God to be their Master! What a contrast with the myriad of legal arguments Christians use to do away with a particular part of the law they don't want to obey! But Paul said he delighted in the law (spiritually). So should we. The law should be written in our hearts - it should be part of our nature. For example:

If we *want* to, and know we should and must honor our parents, we'll find ways to do so. With God's Spirit in us, it can become something we delight in - and that's what God wants - obedience that comes from the heart.

If we *want* to be faithful to our mate, we'll devote our time to developing that relationship. We'll flee anyone, anything, or any situation that would cause us to lust or to commit adultery - not just because some code on our wall says, "Don't go to X-rated movies" or "Don't linger long with your neighbor's wife." Rather God's command is part of our mind - and our whole *mind* is set to do His will.

If we *want* to remember the

Sabbath day to keep it holy, we will overcome all obstacles to do so. We won't be thinking, "Can I get away with working on the Sabbath enough to keep my job?" Rather our whole mental orientation will be directed toward resting from our labors in order to fellowship with God and other Christians on His holy day.

Righteousness of Believers

Jesus taught that the righteousness of believers must surpass that of the Pharisees (Matthew 5:20); but He wasn't talking about a more rigorous and precise legal compliance with a set of rules. Rather, he meant that believers must be righteous in an *entirely different* dimension - one that the Pharisees knew nothing about. That dimension is the spiritual one - the one that involves having the law internalized, the one that involves *obedience by choice*, from the heart!

Of course, when a Christian has the law written in his heart, he may express it a little differently than the next Christian does. Not everyone will honor his parents in exactly the same way; not everyone will be tempted by, and hence flee from, the same things; not everyone will remember the Sabbath day in exactly the same manner. But all will be seeking to serve God - from the heart. Because the external expressions of the heart are not exactly the same, Christians have to learn not to judge by superficial appearances. The heart is what God looks at - He is concerned that the heart is set on obeying and serving Him.

For Christians, God's law is not some arbitrary code written on a wall that must be obeyed or else! Rather, it is a spiritual code that is written in our hearts. It's not something we fear or dislike or grudgingly comply with - trying to get away with as much as we

can without actually stepping over the line. We don't ask, "What do we *have* to do?" That's childishness - that's for legalists, for carnal people. Rather, we should ask, "What does God want me to do?" And as maturing Christians, we find that what God *wants* is expressed in His law. Therefore His law is something we *want* to obey, something we delight in - because it is the will of our Father.

Still a Firm, Moral Standard

Of course, the carnal nature still remains in us, and it does not delight in God's law. It entices us into sin. And if we should drift away from serving God, if we should begin to disregard His will, the law still stands as a *firm, moral standard*. If we actually do commit adultery, the law condemns us just as it did before we knew Christ. If we steal, or lie, or disregard the Sabbath, the law is there to condemn us once again as sinners - and to send us back to Jesus Christ for forgiveness. We must not use the grace of God, the liberty we have in Christ, to give in to sin or to the desires of our carnal nature (Galatians 5:13-26; Jude 4; Romans 6:1,2).

But if we are seeking day by day to serve our Father in heaven, we will be far removed from worrying about the law as slayer. That's for sinners to worry about (1 Timothy 1:8,9; Romans 8:1). Our main concern and focus in life will be positive - it will be serving, praising, pleasing, and emulating our heavenly Father - from our hearts. We'll be concerned about loving our fellow man - giving, sharing, and serving him with all the resources God has given us. And we'll do it from the heart - wherein is written God's spiritual law.

*From the Holy Bible; New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978 New York International Bible society.

Soviets Do Not Deliver Foreign Mail to Prisoners

East/West News Service reports that some political and religious prisoners in the Soviet Union are not receiving mail from abroad and have not been for the past two years.

A number of organizations in the West publish the addresses of prisoners and encourage readers to write. Prior to 1979 letters from foreign countries had been delivered, but only sporadically.

Much of the registered mail is now signed for at the International Post Office in Moscow, where a censorship board allegedly peruses every item received.

Mail is evidently held until the prisoner is released. prisoners have no way of monitoring the amount received and of knowing if they are given everything, however.

Prisoners in Perm VS 36, a penitentiary in Mordvinia, have reportedly been denied access to mail sent by their own relatives and friends within the USSR, according to a former prisoner now in internal exile.

At least one prisoner, however, has said that he has received 40 letters from the West. In July 1981 Nikolai Khrapov wrote to Christian leaders in Holland and Australia, thanking them for support.

Georgi Vins, a former Soviet Baptist pastor now living in the United States, says that even if letters are not getting through to the prisoners themselves, he believes it is important to continue sending mail.

Vins says that letters exhibit Western support for the religious and political prisoners, support which he says is noticed by Soviet authorities.

**Welcome to The House of Prayer,
Church of God 7th Day Bible Study
7:30 P.M. Friday
913 W. Tucker Blvd.
Arlington, Texas 76013**

ANNOUNCEMENT

An Open Letter to Sabbathkeepers

Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. Dear ones, we all be brethren. It is time to have a renewed fellowship and brotherhood with one another. All of us claim to belong to Christ and are His disciples. Yet we do not show our love to one another. If we belong to Christ, then we belong to each other. In John 13:35 Jesus makes it plain as to how we are disciples of His; "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

In our divided condition we cannot present the clear distinct message that the Father sent the Son into the world. Brethren, this condition of separation from each other should not exist.

The unity of the brethren is all-important to God and should be to us. In Psalm 133:1; we read, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

With this in mind, we are asking all of you who read this to ask yourselves if you would like to help improve the present condition that exists among us. If your answer is yes, we would like to hear from you. UNICO, the Sabbathkeeping work of uniting God's children, invites you to attend a meeting in the summer of 1982 where you can sit down with other Sabbathkeeping groups and independent ministries to begin a dialogue with one another. Would you like to participate in such a discussion? If you would, let us know.

If you are interested, write to us: UNICO, P.O. Box 02026, Cleveland, Ohio 44102. You are invited to attend and by this express your love to the brethren.

Yours in Christ,
M. L. Bartholomew

A Co-Worker Speaks

Editor's Note: The following letter is so unusual and inspiring that we are publishing most of it as an article and not in the letter column.

Dear Lottie and Lawrence,

The tracts you sent to me are gone now, and I'm needing some more...

- 1 lb. - *Sunday - The Lord's Day?*
- 1 lb. - *The Weekly Rest Day*
- 2 lbs. - *Search the Scriptures*
- 3 lbs. - *The Seventh Day Is the Sabbath*
- 3 lbs. - *Protestant Confessions*
- 3 lbs. - *Has Sabbath Time Been Lost?*
- 3 lbs. - *Sabbath Truths and Sunday Fallacies*
- 4 lbs. - *Roman Catholic Confessions*

I have spent quite a bit of time in organizing my mailing list. I am doing this work entirely through the mail. I think I have a pretty good system worked out now, but since I am working alone and have no help at all, I must realize my limitations. I figure that the above order is about all I care to attempt to handle in one month.

I plan to send you \$_____ about the first of each month, so you can count on sending me the above order as a standing order each month from now on. It seems to me that the above tracts that I have selected are about the best for catching the attention of the type of people on my mailing list. These tracts will be mailed to colleges

around the U.S.A. and in Canada and to the editors of different publishing companies. Also, these tracts will go to some ecumenical groups, like the World Conference on Religion and Peace at the United Nations. I am also sending to the American Bible Society, Moody Institute, and the Salvation Army. Of course the National Council of Churches, the UN, and some of these organizations have many branch offices around the country, and when I can get the addresses, I try to send to these different offices. I had always thought of Moody Institute of being only in Chicago, and I was surprised to find other offices in other states for many of these prominent organizations.

You see, I am convinced that very soon we will be confronted with Sunday laws. There is underground action for this going on, and so I also have some politicians in D.C. on my list. Since they are the ones to vote for Sunday laws, I would like to keep them well informed with these little tracts.

Of course the Lord's Day Alliance and the Moral Majority are on my list. Also The Americans United, in

Silver Spring, Md., need this Sabbath message, and also I think it is important that the World Federalists Association, with their aim for world government should know about the Sabbath before they set up things to take away our liberty. Also I'm mailing tracts to radio and television evangelists around the country when I can get their addresses. I'm also sending to some international missionary groups. Then there are a number of international groups sending Bibles into Communist countries. Bible For the World (Illinois), Jesus to the Communist World (Wurmbbrand in California), and Underground Evangelism and Open Doors (also in California). They are doing a wonderful work, but they need to know about the Sabbath.

Also, a number of Hebrew Christian groups, work for the Jews, and I believe that they would be more successful in their work if they were Sabbathkeepers, so they, too, are on my list. Please don't laugh at me, but even Abby is on my list. You know, she runs that popular column in the daily newspapers across the country. Also The Far East Broadcasting Co., Inc., is on the list, and World Vision. Even the charismatic Morris Cerullo (on TV) is on the list. Oh, yes, and the Wycliff Bible Translators. Why should I go on? You get the idea!

The Lord's Day Alliance is offering a flood of attractive pamphlets, books, large colorful posters, decals, and bumper stickers promoting Sunday worship. Also they publish a magazine called *SUNDAY*. Pastors of different churches are urged to get newspaper publicity. News releases and articles for publications are available to them. Also these pastors are urged to

write letters to editors, legislators, mayors, governors, congressmen, union leaders, industrial leaders, retail merchants, and even to the President of the U.S.A. They are urged to speak to their representatives in government about passing Sunday laws. This working group of pastors is serious about promoting Sunday worship. Their motto is "never be discouraged, and never give up."

Also they have produced a film. This film has been shown over WSBTV and is being shown all over America. There is a 30 minute TV program, which is free to TV stations.

While the Lord's Day Alliance works endlessly to promote Sunday, many Sabbathkeepers are relaxed, thinking that whatever needs to be done will be accomplished by you in Fairview. However, unless we all become co-workers with you in getting this information distributed, it is like a general conducting a warfare without the help of an army of soldiers. You just can't get this job done by yourselves. You need us to help you.

You might suggest to your readers that even if they are invalids at home, sitting in a wheelchair, or even if they are over 70 years old (I am 72, and soon will be 73 years old) that they can still do a grand work. Just tell them to look in the local telephone book and find the important people. In the yellow section, they will find the churches listed. Under "Clergy" they will find the ministers. Under "Religious Organizations" they will find a surprising variety of religious groups to put on their lists. If they look under "Radio Stations", "Broadcasting Companies", and "Television Stations", they will have



more to add to the list. Then they can look for "Attorneys." These men will be important in fighting the coming Sunday Laws. Look under "Fraternal Organizations", "Book dealers", and "Libraries."

After the mailing lists are completed, all they need to do each month is to buy a few hundred stamped envelopes from the local post office. The regular, small-sized envelopes will hold five or six little Sabbath tracts. Each month send a new set of tracts to each name on the list. As more addresses are found, some of the old names can be dropped to make room for the newer addresses received. When one gets mail with return envelopes that are postate-paid, that is an excellent way to send tracts. I figure that every self-addressed, postage-paid envelope that comes to me is a great challenge to send out some more Sabbath tracts.

If each Sabbathkeeper will mail out tracts to the prominent people found locally in the phone book, the army of the Lord will soon get into

step for a glorious "march," promoting the true Sabbath.

I like the little leaflet *The Seventh Day Is the Sabbath*, because it is very important to remember that when a person becomes interested in reading the Sabbath tracts, he needs to know where he can make contact and where he can join the little "branch chapters," which are explained in this tract.

Forgive me for writing such a long letter, but I guess I am kind of "wound up" on this thing.

I'll be looking forward to receiving my standing order each month, from you....You might mention to folks that it is surprising what one can do, if he tries. The Lord will help us, and if we all get busy on this thing, we will accomplish a lot, even sitting at home. The mailman will gladly do the hard work.

May God bless you in the good work you are doing in Fairview.

Most Sincerely,
Kay Cullen

Orchids and Onions

I have written an article about the Sabbath, giving reasons why I do not attend any seventh day church or meet with any other denominational group. I do hope this will be published, as all that I have written is absolutely scriptural and true. (*Editor's Note: It is being held for consideration.*)

Also, I have mentioned before that the seven-point star you used on page 7 of the September issue is in error unless you prefer not to use the Star of David (Christ), which always has only six points, with the center area designated as God. However, this is a minor thing, I presume, and it's doubtful if you or anyone else would consider changing the emblem that you have used for so long.

—Bessie Behrendt,
Great Bend, Kan.

Greetings from the brethren in Melbourne, Australia, and from the other churches of God around this country.

We regularly receive *The Sabbath Sentinel*, and my husband and I were impressed with your short article, "The Sabbath Is Not a Fig Leaf". We have seen this attitude among Sabbathkeepers and indeed have ourselves suffered from this disease in the past. With today's Christians professing you must have love, we feel that

one of the nicest ways you can express love to God is to keep holy the day He sanctified at the end of His creation week. Since reading your article, we have used the Sabbath fig-leaf illustration when talking to other Sabbathkeepers.

Recently the Church of God in Australia held a convention, with brethren coming from several states. Just like salt on a meal, we are not all heaped in one spot but sprinkled all over the country. Four young people were baptized, and the growth of the church goes on steadily. We have just started a new service to the scattered brethren in that we send out cassette tapes of sermons given in Adelaide and Melbourne. This has been really encouraging to brethren who are separated by mileage.

—Mr. & Mrs. Jay Meertehs
Glen Waverly, Vic., Australia

I look forward to *The Sabbath Sentinel* each month, since that is the only way I have of keeping in touch with Sabbathkeepers. I am a widow living alone and the only Sabbathkeeper in the whole community.

Keep up the good work, and may God bless you.

—Lola White Grill,
Keota, Okla.

I enjoy and have been inspired by many of the articles in *The Sabbath Sentinel*.

—Margaret H. Kwilinski,
Tucson, Ariz.

In regard to the letter that the German brother wrote pertaining to the pictures, then the article in response by Janyce Royalty in the October issue of *The Sabbath Sentinel*. I am ONE who kept quiet as long as I could, until I was SURE the Lord was telling me to SPEAK UP. I am NOT complaining, but explaining just what the Creator said.

But I do want to say this: I know that the German brother had the word of the great Creator to back him up. Furthermore, only God Himself knows how many of His people read about all this and personally knew what the Second Commandment says and that it means just what it says. This commandment is just as important as all the other nine, including the fourth one.

Remember, James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

Now let me ask: What is a picture of yourself? Is it another you, or a likeness of you?

Was the German brother complaining, or was he explaining in Godly love just what the Creator said?

God bless every honest heart that will obey the word of the Creator, regardless of what others may think. Please pray about it.

"God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). He commands us to study to show ourselves approved to God, as workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

This is written with Godly love and to the glory of a loving Creator who loves His people.

←Mrs. Laura E. Williams,
McAlester, Okla.

Enclosed is our membership for 1982. We are enjoying *The Sabbath Sentinel* more all the time. We don't know if the people are submitting better articles or if you are being more led by the Holy Spirit as you choose which ones to print, or both. We trust it is both. Praise God! We wish we could share these truths with every Sundaykeeper.

We will continue to share as the Holy Spirit leads us, and we will continue to pray for you to be led of the Holy Spirit as you share, via this magazine, the articles sent in to you.

—Mr. & Mrs. Richard A.
Davis
Federal Way, Wash.

The Honor Roll Raymond Clark

By George Dellinger

RAYMOND CLARK was born in Westwood, New Jersey, on November 24, 1880, the son of a Baptist minister. Early in life he began to disagree with some of the doctrines of the Baptist church. He was about thirteen when he accepted the belief that the dead are unconscious. He accepted the Sabbath under the ministry of Elmer E. Franke and began to keep the seventh day in January, 1907.

Pastor Clark was ordained and served in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for about a year. Around 1908, he became an independent Sabbathkeeper, and he remained independent the rest of his life.

In addition to working at a variety of different occupations, Pastor Clark conducted a ministry consisting of speaking engagements in various churches and the publishing of literature.

While living in California in 1910 he published his first writing, a single page on Sabbathkeeping. This was the beginning of a long and successful ministry of publishing and distributing tracts and booklets on a variety of religious topics.

Pastor Clark returned to New York City about 1912 and spent the rest of his life there. He confined the speaking portion of his ministry to the New York-New Jersey area, but his writings went far.

Some of his best writings were in the area of the Sabbath and the Saturday resurrection of Christ, a doctrine he accepted very early in life. He, like Elmer Franke,



published a number of writings on these two subjects.

Pastor Clark also published original poems, studies of things to come, a tithing study, and a brief autobiography. But he became widely known (at the time) primarily for a study he did on the penitent thief who died beside Jesus Christ.

In 1916 *The New York American* ran a series of articles on the subject of the penitent thief. Determined to show that the thief did not go to heaven the day he died, Pastor Clark submitted an article to the newspaper. That article, entitled "Why the Penitent Thief Did Not Enter Heaven after the Crucifixion," appeared in the *American* on July 9, 1916. It was such a powerful presentation that it proved to be the last article in the series. In fact, it was published throughout the United States in all of the Hearst newspapers. Pastor Clark received considerable acclaim for this article.

After a long and successful life, Raymond Clark died at the age of ninety on September 27, 1971. Although he, like many others who taught God's holy Sabbath day, has largely been forgotten, some of his writings, particularly on the Sabbath, still remain to prove to new generations that God has never changed His command, "Remember the sabbath day."

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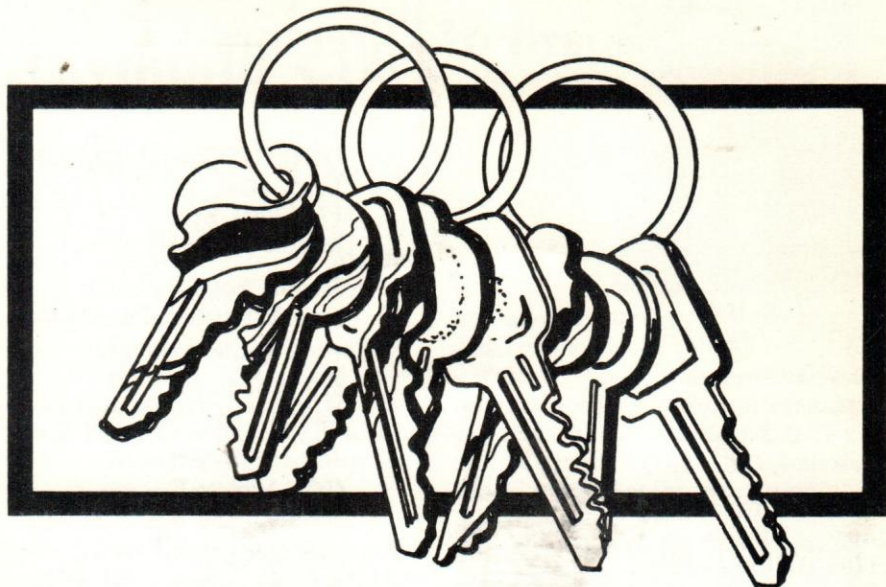
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Errors will still appear (most likely human), and we earnestly solicit your patience and your cooperation in correcting them. Please check your expiration date frequently and help to save expense for the association by promptly renewing without further notice.

Thank you kindly.
—The Staff



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