July 24

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 28

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

The SABBATH is the Most IMPORTANT Day!

DO YOU know that Sabbath-keeping is so important that God performed a GREAT MIRACLE that extended over a period of FORTY YEARS?

Yes, forty long years—the giving of MANNA from very heaven itself in order TO TEACH the Israelites EXACTLY *WHICH* DAY was the SABBATH!

Why did God take utmost care to make sure that the Old Covenant Israelites knew *which* day was the Sabbath rest day? TO MAKE absolutely CERTAIN that the *SABBATH* DAY be KEPT as a day of rest!

JESUS Christ, Himself, TOOK GREAT CARE TO KEEP *THIS* DAY throughout His life—it was His "custom"! And God's EARLY New Testament CHURCH, which Christ built through His twelve APOSTLES, KEPT this exact very same day too!

Immediately after Christ's crucifixion—*when there could be no possibility of time being lost from that day to this*—God again was very careful to point out to us that "the end of the *Sabbath*" day dawns "toward the *first* day of the week"—Sunday (Mat. 28:1).

Why has God done this?

Because He wants to POINT OUT *TO US TODAY* that the *seventh* day of the creation week—the *Sabbath* Day—has *continued* from the time of creation in the same relationship to the other six days that God divinely placed it in. That the SABBATH was, and *still* IS to this day, THE *SEVENTH* DAY—AND *NOT* SUNDAY, which is the first day of the week . . . that it is the *SABBATH* DAY that *WE* MUST KEEP!

There must be an *impelling underlying reason* why God has kept this great day identified down through the ages, and why the people who truly have followed Him have always kept the Sabbath. Let us understand.

WHY the SABBATH is God's MOST IMPORTANT Day

GOD HAS CREATED THIS, the MOST IMPORTANT DAY—the Sabbath, SO that on it WE, mankind, MAY HAVE PERSONAL constructive CONTACT WITH HIM—He who is creating us at this very time to be Sons in His restful Kingdom. No other day in this whole world compares with this remarkable day. Why? Because no other creative work of such supreme magnitude is going on.

The *scope* of what this MEMORIAL DAY TO CREATION portends even exceeds anything that God Himself has ever attempted to do. It portends—pictures to man—the pinnacle of God's creative endeavors, the completion OF US INTO GOD BEINGS, beings by far and away above any other beings or things that exist!

NO WONDER THAT GOD HAS SET THIS DAY TO BE FAR ABOVE ALL OTHERS for the minds of men to observe!! And no wonder that GOD HAS MESHED the *REMEMBRANCE* OF THIS SUPREME CREATIVE ACT INTO THE RECURRING SEVENTH DAY OF the WEEK. NO OTHER DAY ON EARTH CAN EVEN PRETEND TO REPRESENT SUCH LOFTY HEIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENT!! For God is the *Supreme* God! *This* Day is honored by *God's* presence among those who keep it, and among those

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
Bible
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE
LESSON 28
Herbert W. Armstrong, *publisher and editor*
Dr. C. Paul Meredith, *director*
Sent FREE to all who request it, as the Lord provides.
Address all communications to the editor,
Box 111, Pasadena, California
© 1961 Ambassador College 1262
Printed in U.S.A.

NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

who submit themselves to Him as their Creator.

No wonder God, from the very beginning, set one-seventh of man's time to the HONORING of this GREAT WORK OF *CREATION* which GOD IS BRINGING ABOUT WITHIN MAN!

And no wonder it is that THOSE WHO HAVE *REALLY* KNOWN the *TRUE* GOD have, down through the ages, ALWAYS KEPT *this* particular day—not another day of the week which God did *not* command for this purpose, but *this* particular day. They kept the *seventh* day—commonly called *Saturday!!* They did not keep any of the *ordinary* days of the week such as Sunday.

So, now let's understand fully how those who lived in the past and were privileged to know God's plan *did* zealously keep this day. And let us understand that their keeping of the Sabbath is God's inspired example to *us* to rest on this great day. For WITHOUT OUR KEEPING IT there will be NO ETERNAL REST FOR US!

Let us understand, by the lives of the righteous who lived before us, that the keeping of the Sabbath is commanded by *God* and that He expects each of us to *keep* it if we desire to receive the greatest gift God can bestow—eternal rest in His Kingdom!

Final Important Instruction

Now we are ready for the actual lesson.

By writing down all the answers, and by writing down all the words of every Bible passage that answers a question, you will find you will REMEMBER what you have learned. It takes a little more time, but you will really LEARN your lessons that way, and remember them.

YOU CAN *QUICKLY* REVIEW YOUR LESSONS. Also, it will aid you greatly in explaining the Bible to others.

WE ARE GIVING YOU THE BRIEF, COMPREHENSIVE, TRUE OUTLINE OF THE BIBLE. We know of no other place where you can obtain it! You will want to refer to these lessons AND THE EXPLANATION OF THEM IN YOUR OWN WORDS time after time in future years as you apply them to clear up related points in the Bible.

And remember, you are to spend at least a half hour *every* day studying YOUR BIBLE with this Correspondence Course. TESTS WILL BE SENT *after each group of four lessons.*

Now READ THE LARGE TYPE WORDS IN THIS FINAL INSTRUCTION SECTION right down to the end of this section—*pay no attention to the small type.* AND SUDDENLY—YOU HAVE A FLASH REVIEW OF ALL THE IMPORTANT POINTS! These serve as an INDEX, too. Simple and effective. *All the material in the Lessons is written this way.*

Lesson 28

ABRAHAM RESTED on the True SABBATH Day

Would God set apart a certain day of the week, put His blessing on it, make it holy time, command that it be kept holy forever, and then let that day be lost so that we would not know *when* that time is? Absolutely not!

We can be certain that God's seven-day weekly cycle, THE SIX WEEK DAYS—*FOLLOWED* BY THE EXACTLY PLACED *SEVENTH* DAY, THE *SABBATH*—HAS REMAINED *UNALTERED* FROM CREATION UNTIL TODAY! And that the Sabbath Day—the *seventh* day—has been kept by those who have been privileged to be God's own people. Let us understand.

1. Did God create every physical thing of our present world in six days? Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31.

2. And what did *GOD* do ON THE *SEVENTH* DAY—THE *SABBATH* Day? Gen. 2:2. He *RESTED*, did He not? Same verse. "*SABBATH*" MEANS *REST*.

3. Did GOD "*SANCTIFY*"—that is, set apart and MAKE HOLY—THIS SEVENTH DAY by *resting* on it? Gen. 2:3. Note the words, "sanctified it: *because* that in it He had *rested*."

COMMENT: This, then—this special *seventh* day which God here created by *resting*, and here set apart and made Holy, and here PUT HIS BLESSING UPON (verse 3)—is the *special* day out of the seven-day week that God COMMANDS ALL MANKIND TO OBSERVE!!

4. Did righteous ABRAHAM KEEP this *SABBATH* REST? Gen. 26:3, 5. Does this prove that Abraham was not confused as to which day of the week was the true Sabbath? Doesn't Luke 13:28 show that Abraham, because of his obedience,

WILL RECEIVE ETERNAL REST in the Kingdom of God?

COMMENT: God could not have positively stated that Abraham kept all of His commandments if he had been keeping the wrong day. If Abraham were keeping the wrong day for God's Holy Sabbath, he would have broken this one point of God's law and thereby been guilty of breaking the whole law! (Jas. 2:10.)

Also, it was utterly impossible for Abraham to be mixed-up about the weekly cycle, because Jesus Christ (Melchizedek, his close friend—Jas. 2:23; Gen. 14:18-20), was there in Jerusalem to instruct him! Yes, we can be absolutely certain that Abraham kept Holy the right day—the seventh day of the week.

5. Did LABAN the Syrian, father-in-law to Jacob, KNOW the WEEKLY CYCLE? Gen. 29:26-27. Note the word "*week*." Laban lived just a few hundred years before Moses—about 1750 B.C.

6. And EVEN THE *HEATHEN* KNEW WHICH DAY was GOD'S *SABBATH!*

COMMENT: Yes, they did! In the library of King Ashurbanipal of Assyria (6th Century B.C.), archeologists have found *many* clay tablets relating to the epic of creation, according to the limited knowledge of the Babylonians. One of these tablets reads: "On the *seventh* day he [God] appointed a *Holy Day* [the Sabbath] and to cease from all business he commanded" (Henry H. Halley, *Pocket Bible Handbook*, page 64).

Here is absolute proof from the ancient records, collected by this Assyrian king, that the BABYLONIANS KNEW GOD had SET APART, AT CREATION, the SEVENTH DAY OF the WEEK AS A HOLY DAY OF REST! However, with the passing centuries, all semblance of the true Sabbath was lost to the heathen, although many Near-Eastern nations kept a form of a seven-day week. Of this form of the week it is said: "Its antiquity is so great, its observance so widespread... that it must probably be thrown back as far as the creation of man. The week and the Sabbath are thus as old as man himself!" (*A Dictionary of the Bible*, by Wm. Smith, page 745.)

EXACT Day for SABBATH Revealed to Ancient Israel

Recall that the ancient Israelites, descendants of righteous Abraham, had gone down into the land of Egypt—a land which God considered a type for sin (Ex. 1:1). The Egyptians had neither God's seven-day week nor did they rest on the Sabbath Day. Nor did they know the true God. For their pagan ancestors, from the time of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1, 8, 9), *refused* to keep the Sabbath; therefore they had lost sight of the true God.

For hundreds of years the Israelites were in pagan Egypt. During this time the Egyptians, fearing the nation Israel might grow too great in the land, set out on a course of afflicting the Israelites with hard bondage in order to hold down their population growth. The Israelites then became slaves of the Egyptians (Ex. 1:10, 11). Because the Israelites were in pagan Egypt in slavery many generations, they too lost the knowledge of the day upon which the Sabbath rest was to be observed. So, the Israelites dwelt there in *sin*, not keeping the Sabbath day whereby they would know—by reminder—the true Creator God. They therefore did not obey His laws.

That is why God had to reveal to the Israelites exactly which day was the true creation Sabbath shortly after delivering them from Egypt—sin (Ex. 12:41, 51). Study now the astonishing manner in which God revealed exactly which day was the true Sabbath Day, and the *astounding* bearing it has upon *your* life today!!

1. Did God say He would rain Bread from the very heaven? Ex. 16:4. What was the name of this bread—manna? Verse 15.

2. For what *purpose* was this bread to be rained down? Ex. 16:4. Note the words, "My law."

COMMENT: The word "law" here refers to the *Sabbath* Commandment (Ex. 20:8).

3. Was the general purpose of this manna to serve the Israelites also for food? Verse 32. Note that it was.

4. Was each person to gather *twice* as much manna on Friday as they gathered on the other days of the week? Ex. 16:5.

5. Was the *double* amount of manna gathered on Friday enough for *two* days—enough for both the Friday on which it was gathered, and for the next day, *Saturday*, the *Sabbath* Day? Ex. 16:23.

COMMENT: Note that they were to lay up for *Saturday*, the *Sabbath*, what was left over from the *double* portion they gathered on Friday! *Why?* Understand:

6. Did God say He would *not* have them *work* on the *Sabbath Day* at gathering manna as they did on the other six days, for He would *miraculously withhold manna from falling* on the *one* special outstanding day of the week? Ex. 16:26.

COMMENT: Then *NO* MANNA falling on the *SABBATH* DAY as it did on the other six days of the week POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED to the Israelites the EXACT DAY WHICH WAS the SABBATH, did it not? *It certainly did* identify the exact Sabbath day to the Israelites!! This was the great outstanding miracle that identified the Sabbath Day to the Israelites.

NOTE GOD PERFORMED THREE GREAT MIRACLES EACH WEEK BY the use of the MANNA TO POINT OUT to Israel the EXACT

DAY OF the SABBATH that they had lost! — 1. God *gave* them manna on the six week days. 2. God *withheld* the manna each Sabbath Day. 3. God *preserved* the left-over portion of the Friday's manna so that it could be used for the Sabbath, and thereby gave the people a *rest* from gathering on the Sabbath Rest day.

COMMENT: As each and every Sabbath Day made its appearance as the days went by, God identified each of these Sabbath Days to the Israelites by a special miracle of *withholding* the manna fall on the *Sabbath Day* — this special miracle for *each* Sabbath day of the year — and HE DID THIS FOR FORTY LONG YEARS — YEAR IN and YEAR OUT!! God THUS PERFORMED 2,080 SPECIAL MIRACLES SPACED EXACTLY SEVEN DAYS APART, within a period of forty years *SOLELY* FOR the PURPOSE OF BURNING INTO the MINDS OF the PEOPLE that He commanded the *SEVENTH* DAY TO BE KEPT — *not* Sunday, which is the first day!! He commands we keep the *Sabbath* — the *seventh* day.

God has *never*, since He created the world, performed such a continuous set of miracles of like length and magnitude to convince man of man's need of obeying a Commandment! That is just how important the resting on the *Sabbath* day is!!

God identified the Sabbath Day exactly to the people by a miracle of *not* showering their food, the manna, from heaven. There was none in the field that day. THEY *COULD NOT* GO OUT AND *WORK* at gathering their manna ON THE SABBATH *REST* DAY AS they HAD TO ON THE SIX PREVIOUS *ORDINARY* DAYS OF the WEEK — WHICH INCLUDED SUNDAY, etc. GOD CAUSED THEM to *REST* ON the *PROPER* DAY — the *SABBATH* Day — WHICH COMMEMORATES the *ETERNAL REST* which man may enter into.

Yes, for forty long years, year in and year out, they were drilled exactly on *which* day was the memorial day to the creation that was going on within them — the Day which pictures the goal of creation — divine creative rest of man in God's Kingdom.

GOD allowed them enough *ADDED* BLESSING SO that they *DID NOT HAVE TO WORK* at gathering ON God's sanctified SABBATH DAY: God preserved enough of the manna which they gathered Friday so that it would take care of their Sabbath needs. They COULD *REST* on the Sabbath Rest day AND STILL BE AS WELL OFF as though they had worked! And God will bless us also if *we* will only *obediently* rest upon the Sabbath Day which God has commanded, instead of *disobediently* resting on any ordinary days of the week such as Sunday (the day of the sun), etc.

COMMENT: Even though the ancient Israelites had the manna to show them the exact day to keep as the Sabbath, and the Jews — Judah, which composed one of the twelve tribes of Israel — had the correct day to keep as the Sabbath, they did *not* continue to keep it! But Abraham kept the Sabbath and will be in the Kingdom. And David too will be in the Kingdom of God (Ezek. 34:23). Always the righteous of ancient times — and they were extremely few — *did* keep God's true Sabbath.

Christ Kept the SABBATH

Down through the ages, this all-important day — the Sabbath Day — has continued. And the associated, recurring seven-day week, which makes the exact day of the Sabbath so easily identifiable, has continued also.

GOD HAS *NOT CEASED* TO REMIND MAN OF the NECESSITY OF KEEPING the SABBATH REST. Christ, the messenger of the New Covenant, came with *power* — power of the Holy Spirit — power which all of us may share. Power to keep the Sabbath commandment as God really wants it kept! And Christ, by keeping the Sabbath, became our *living example!* — *not* lifeless manna, but a *living flesh and blood* EXAMPLE — TO US to keep it. *CHRIST KEPT* the SABBATH, and all those who *followed* after Him kept it. All these are reminders that endure to this day! All are examples for *us* today! Let us understand.

1. Who was with God from the beginning? John 1:1. Was it He who was known as *the Word*? Same verse.

COMMENT: Remember that in the beginning, before there was any earth, there existed God, who became the Father, and God whom we know as the Logos — the Word or Spokesman — the One who later became the Son, *Christ!*

2. Wasn't it *Christ*, then, who actually created *all* things? John 1:3. *So was it not Christ, Himself, who created the Sabbath?* Same verse. How extremely important!

COMMENT: IT WAS CHRIST WHO ACTUALLY CREATED THE SABBATH. He is the one of the God Kingdom (presently composed of two persons), who created the *Sabbath*, and *all* creation.

3. Isn't this the reason Christ called Himself "*Lord* of the Sabbath"? Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5.

COMMENT: Jesus was the "LORD" or GOD of the Old Testament. IT WAS HE WHO *MADE* THE SABBATH AT CREATION (Gen. 2:2-3), just as He created everything else that exists (Col. 1:16). For this reason Jesus has *authority* over the Sabbath. As the "Lord" — one with authority, the master, the ruler — CHRIST WAS AND *IS* the *ONLY ONE* TO DETERMINE *WHEN* AND *HOW* the SABBATH should BE KEPT!

4. Did the Lord God of the Old Testament (Christ), who created the Sabbath and was (and is) Lord of it, become very God-in-the-flesh, the Christ of the New Testament? Heb. 2:9, 14; I John 4:2.

COMMENT: Christ, from very birth, had the power of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Even at the early age of twelve Christ was *teaching* the *learned* men!! Luke 2:46, 47.

AS Creator of the Sabbath, ruler, and GOD-IN-THE-FLESH, CHRIST KNEW EXACTLY *WHICH* DAY TO KEEP AS the *SABBATH* Day, AND He knew exactly *HOW* TO DO IT. Observe Jesus later rebuking the Jews for wrongly trying to make the Sabbath a burdensome yoke of bondage *by reminding them that He was the Lord who created* it!! Mark 2:24-27, *28*.

Christ, HAVING the fulness of the HOLY SPIRIT from birth, KEPT the SABBATH PERFECTLY.

Jesus *never once* broke the Sabbath! Had He ever broken it in the slightest point, He could not have become our Savior! Hebrews 4:15 says He was *without sin!*

HE TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES, the future LEADERS IN HIS CHURCH, *EXACTLY* HOW He, as the "Lord of the Sabbath," intended that day to be used! Yes, Jesus SHOWED BY His *EXAMPLE* AND *TEACHING* how the true Sabbath ought to be kept, and SET HIS CHURCH AN *EXAMPLE* of how the whole Christian way of life is to be lived (I John 2:6).

God intended the SABBATH TO BE A *BLESSING* for mankind—NOT A *CURSE!* And Jesus showed us by His living example, in principle, and by direct teaching, *how* the Sabbath is to be observed so that it can be a *great joy* and *blessing* to us all!

5. Did Jesus set His Church an example of how the whole Christian way of life is to be lived? I John 2:6. Remember, Jesus teaches us who are His disciples *when* and *how* to keep the Sabbath, for He is the "Lord" of the *Sabbath*—the *true* Lord's Day!

6. Was it CHRIST'S "CUSTOM" TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES ON the SABBATH? Luke 4:16, 31.

COMMENT: Jesus did not meet with the people on the Sabbath because it was a "convenient" opportunity to preach to them. But He met with them in *obedience* to the COMMAND TO CONVOKE FOR WORSHIP SERVICES on the Sabbath (Lev. 23:3). This is the day He would obviously keep Holy since He is the One who originally established and commanded it to be observed in the Old Testament!

It was His "CUSTOM" or *habit* to keep the true Sabbath FROM His early YOUTH. Once a person does a thing consistently for a length of time, it becomes a *habit* with him and a *customary* thing. So it was with Jesus. He did *not* keep Sunday or any other such practice instituted by man.

7. Aren't WE, because Christ lived perfectly in God's sight, EXHORTED TO DO the SAME THINGS AS CHRIST DID—including keeping the Sabbath? I Pet. 2:22, 21, and I Cor. 11:1.

SATURDAY—not Sunday—TO BE KEPT

GOD HAS *CONTINUED* TO SEE that the *PROPER* DAY OF His SEVEN-DAY CREATION WEEK ON WHICH TO REST HAS CONSTANTLY BEEN MADE KNOWN *SINCE* the DEATH OF CHRIST. God has left REMINDERS THROUGH Christ's Apostles, and Church that lived after Him, as to *which* day *we* are to keep. Both the APOSTLES AND the TRUE CHURCH THEY ESTABLISHED kept the *Sabbath* Day. Because THEIR ACTS are to be *EXAMPLES* FOR US THESE are RECORDED in the Bible FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE! They are FORCEFUL REMINDERS for *us* that *we* must keep the Sabbath—*Saturday*. WE now may have the Holy Spirit, and are WITHOUT EXCUSE FOR NOT KEEPING it. Let us understand these examples which are for us today!

1. Did GOD, *AT ONCE*, AFTER CHRIST'S DEATH *conclusively* SHOW—leaving not a shadow of doubt—that *SUNDAY* IS *NOT* THE DAY we are TO KEEP? MAT. 28:1.

COMMENT: Note that Christ had just been crucified. Within only three days after this, God pointed out in clear language for us today that the *SABBATH* DAY, WHICH WE ARE TO REST ON, IS *FOLLOWED BY* THE ORDINARY *FIRST* DAY OF THE WEEK—*SUNDAY*, *a work day*. God pointed out that although Christ was crucified, the *Sabbath still remains*, as always, the *seventh* day of the week... *Saturday*. *Saturday is the day on which we must rest!!*

2. Doesn't MARK 16:2 ALSO VERIFY the fact that *Sunday* is the *first* day of the week, and directly *follows* the *Sabbath* which is still the seventh day of the week? Note the words, "When the *Sabbath* was *past*... early in the morning of the *first day* of the *week*." It is obvious that it does.

COMMENT: Be sure to send for Mr. Armstrong's TWO FREE BOOKLETS, "*Which Day is the Sabbath of the New Testament?*" and "*The Resurrection was Not on Sunday!*"

3. Doesn't LUKE 23:56 verify the fact that it is the Sabbath—Saturday—that we are to rest on?

COMMENT: *NOWHERE* IN YOUR BIBLE IS *SUNDAY* COMMANDED TO BE KEPT!! And NO HINT anywhere that the SABBATH has BEEN DONE AWAY. *Of course not*, after all that

God has done to see that the Sabbath remains identified, down through the centuries!

4. We now see that the Bible clearly tells us that the Sabbath is the *seventh* day of the week, and the next day *following* the Sabbath is the *first* day of the week, which we know as *Sunday*. The question is, where could the erroneous idea come from that *Sunday* is the commanded day of rest – from the Bible? No!! *Nowhere* does the Bible command the *first* day – *Sun*day – to be kept. *SUNDAY*-KEEPING can EASILY BE TRACED TO *PAGANISM* which crept into religion shortly after Christ's death.

COMMENT: The WORD "*SUNDAY*" DOES *NOT* APPEAR ANY PLACE IN YOUR BIBLE (except in the corrupt "New English Bible") – but the phrase "*first day of the week*" is found exactly eight times. *If* the *true* day of rest was changed by *Bible* authority – the *only* authority which we must recognize *as from God, Himself* – we must find that authority in one of these eight texts. We must find it in one of these eight phrases which appear in the Bible or not at all! The eight places of appearance of this phrase are Mat. 28:1; Mark 16:2; Mark 16:9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1; John 20:19; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2. *In not one of these eight texts is there found authority for changing the Sabbath Day of rest to Sunday, the first day of the week!!* Mr. Armstrong's FREE BOOKLET, "*Which Day is the Sabbath of the New Testament?*" will explain each in detail.

Apostles and Early New Testament Church Kept SABBATH

Does history show that the APOSTLES, AND the New Testament CHURCH which THEY FOUNDED, CONTINUED TO KEEP the SABBATH right on after the death of Christ? Let us examine and see that they did!

1. Did the CHRISTIAN WOMEN who came with Jesus FROM GALILEE still OBSERVE the *SABBATH* Day very shortly AFTER JESUS was CRUCIFIED? Luke 23:55-56. Was the first day of the week – SUNDAY, the day *after* Saturday – STILL a REGULAR WORK DAY? Luke 24:1.

COMMENT: Notice the words "according to the commandment" in Luke 23:56. Just a few days after Christ's crucifixion, the early *Christians knew the Sabbath commandment was still in effect and they were keeping it!* And the first day of the week, the day after Christ's resurrection, was still an ordinary work day – the day on which the women brought their spices to anoint Christ's body. However, they first "rested the Sabbath Day."

2. Did Christ, while He was yet alive, *knowing* that His Apostles would establish His Church as a *Sabbath*-keeping Church, also leave a warning to that Church group regarding the improper use of the Sabbath? Mat. 24:20.

COMMENT: Note that the people were warned not to exert themselves greatly even under stress on the Sabbath Day if it were at all possible. CHRIST SHOWED here that HIS *CHURCH* WOULD *RESPECT* AND *KEEP* HIS SABBATH REST COMMANDMENT. His Church – the true Church of God in its infancy – fled from Jerusalem when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans IN 70 A.D. TRUE CHRISTIANS WERE KEEPING THE *SABBATH* at that time! (Part of this great prophecy is dual and yet to be fulfilled.)

3. Was Paul even *personally* taught by very Christ Himself in preparation for his ministry? Gal. 1:11-12, 15-16.

COMMENT: AFTER CHRIST'S DEATH, CHRIST PERSONALLY TAUGHT PAUL–Paul alone – IN ARABIA (Arabia Petraea). Had Christ done away with any of His Father's laws *or* made *changes* REGARDING *the* SABBATH to some other day, He certainly would have revealed it to Paul personally. But NO CHANGES WERE MADE and Paul returned and taught the true Church of God exactly what Christ commanded him to preach regarding it!

4. Does *WORLDLY* RECORDED HISTORY also VERIFY the fact that the APOSTLES OBSERVED the SABBATH?

COMMENT: Notice the frank ADMISSION OF the CATHOLIC CHURCH. It says, "The *Apostles*, too, observed the Sabbath, as did most of the Jewish converts to Christianity." (From page 3 of the Catholic booklet, "*Yes...I Condemned the Catholic Church.*") Note the words, "*The Apostles.*"

5. Christ kept the *SABBATH DAY*. And PAUL the Apostle FOLLOWED CHRIST IN KEEPING IT. What does PAUL COMMAND *US* TO do? I Cor. 11:1.

COMMENT: Christ set the Sabbath-keeping example for His Apostles. And Christ commissioned His Apostles – Paul among them – to follow Him. WE are TO FOLLOW PAUL AS PAUL FOLLOWED CHRIST.

6. Just how was the Sabbath regarded by converts in the early church? Did Paul preach to the Jews and Gentiles on the Sabbath Day? Acts 13:14, 16, 42. After the *Jews* left the synagogue, did the *Gentiles* ask him to preach to them again on the next Sabbath? Verse 42. On the next Sabbath, how many from the city of Antioch came to hear Paul? Verse 44.

COMMENT: Notice carefully that it was the practice of many *GENTILES* to MEET WITH THE JEWS ON THE *SABBATH*. And because these Gentiles were interested in the Gospel, they besought Paul to speak about Jesus again on the very next *Sabbath* Day! Paul, the Apostle to the Gentile nations, said NOT ONE WORD here or

elsewhere, that the GENTILES SHOULD CEASE their practice of ASSEMBLING ON the *SABBATH* FOR WORSHIP!

The Jews and Gentiles attached no sacredness to any other day at that time. If Sunday were the regular set day on which the Gentiles worshipped, as many today falsely teach, these Gentiles would have invited Paul to preach to them on the very next day, Sunday, instead of allowing the whole week to go by *until* the *next Sabbath!* Yes, the Sabbath Day was observed by the early church as God's true day for worship and rest years after Christ's resurrection!

COMMENT: Notice that in verses 13 and 14 Paul preached to the *Jews* on the Sabbath Day. And that in verses 42 44 Paul preached to the Gentiles and everyone. The SABBATH IS FOR *EVERYONE* – whether ISRAELITE or GENTILE.

7. Did PAUL even KEEP the SABBATH by a riverside WHEN NO SYNAGOGUE was nearby? Acts 16:12-13.

COMMENT: Notice that Paul went to the riverside because it was a quiet place where he could rest and pray. There certainly wasn't a group of Jews assembled there which Paul could "conveniently" preach to on the Sabbath! However, he did explain the Scriptures to the women who "resorted thither" – that is, he explained it to women who were there!

8. Wasn't it always the APOSTLE PAUL'S "*MANNER*" TO OBSERVE the SABBATH JUST AS IT was CHRIST'S "*CUSTOM*" TO OBSERVE the SABBATH? Acts 17:1-2. Luke 4:16, 31.

9. Was it Paul's "manner" to keep the Sabbath because he felt like it, or BECAUSE Jesus CHRIST *DWELT* IN HIM THROUGH the INDWELLING OF the *HOLY SPIRIT?* Gal. 2:20. Is CHRIST always changing His mind about which spiritual laws of God are to be obeyed and which day should be kept as the Sabbath? *Or* does Christ's will remain THE SAME FOREVER? Heb. 13:8.

COMMENT: It is quite obvious that Apostle Paul observed the *true Sabbath.* And IF CHRIST LIVES HIS LIFE IN US today, THROUGH the HOLY SPIRIT of God, WE ALSO WILL KEEP the *SAME* DAY JESUS OBSERVED.

10. Did PAUL *LABOR* at a job for SIX DAYS of the week AND then OBSERVE the SEVENTH DAY *SABBATH* BY *RESTING* and PREACHING? Acts 18:1-4, 11.

COMMENT: FOR *EIGHTEEN MONTHS* IN the CITY OF CORINTH, Paul labored unceasingly during the first six days of each week as a tent maker. But he did not preach on the first day of the week (Sunday) – he preached only on the Sabbath, the seventh day!

If we could find even *one* text in the New Testament giving as strong authority for Sunday observance as this one does for *Sabbath*-keeping, we should certainly have *Bible authority* for keeping it. *But we cannot!!* It just isn't there! SEVENTY-TWO TIMES IN EIGHTEEN MONTHS in this one city an EXAMPLE was given to us today TO KEEP THE *SABBATH* DAY!

11. Since PAUL followed the example of Jesus Christ who dwelt in him, did he COMMAND the *GENTILE* CHRISTIANS AT CORINTH TO FOLLOW HIM EXACTLY *AS* HE FOLLOWED CHRIST? I Cor. 11:1. Did HE COMMAND the *PHILIPPIANS* to do LIKEWISE? Phil. 3:17.

COMMENT: Paul taught the converted Gentiles to imitate his obedience to God *as he, Paul, imitated Christ. BECAUSE* OF THIS COMMAND, the GENTILES ALSO ALWAYS ASSEMBLED ON THE *SABBATH* Day *just as Christ did while in human form,* in order to observe the day which God commanded in His Word. IN LIKE MANNER TODAY, ALL SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN CHRISTIANS WILL BE IMITATING the OBEDIENCE OF JESUS Christ, the Apostle PAUL, AND ALL of GOD'S TRUE MINISTERS, BY KEEPING THE SABBATH DAY HOLY! (Rev. 12:17; 14:12).

Time Has NOT Been Lost

The universal historical evidence is that early Christians in God's original Apostolic Church observed the seventh-day Sabbath! The FACTS from the Bible and recorded secular history to this effect is OVERWHELMING!

FOR OVER 1900 YEARS, GOD'S TRUE CHURCH HAS CONTINUED to KEEP the SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH and the "testimony of Jesus Christ" – the teachings of the *Bible!* Read the FREE BOOKLET "*The True History of the True Church.*"

1. What startling FACT CONCLUSIVELY PROVES that the JEWS HAVE *PRESERVED* the WEEKLY CYCLE AND the *TRUE SABBATH* up TO THE PRESENT TIME?

COMMENT: After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Jews were driven into every nation on earth. They HAVE REMAINED scattered and SEPARATED UNTIL NOW.

Throughout the Middle Ages, the Jews in China had no way of communication with the Jews in Africa. Nor did the Jews in Europe have any means of communication with those in other parts of the world. YET, WHEN COMMUNICATIONS WERE RESTORED over every part of the world, we find *ALL* the JEWS OBSERVING the *SAME* SEVENTH DAY OF the WEEK!

If the weekly cycle had been changed or mixed up, the Jews in one part of the world would be

observing one day for the Sabbath, while the Jews in another part would be observing another day. But everywhere, in every nation on earth, we find the Jews have always been keeping the *same identical day* Jesus kept – the seventh day, or *Saturday!*

The Jew is the *MIRACLE* OF ALL HISTORY. He is an IRREFUTABLE PROOF that WE HAVE NOT LOST THE RIGHT DAY FOR GOD'S SABBATH! Jesus said His Word would be preserved – it has been!! In Old Testament times God punished the Jews so terribly, by captivity, for not keeping the Sabbath Day that they have *never since* forgotten which day it is. Send for Mr. Armstrong's FREE BOOKLET "*Has Time Been Lost!*"

COMMENT: Lechler says, "The Christians were accustomed to celebrate the Sabbath with the Jews" (Apostolic and Post-Apostolic Times, Vol. 1, page 57). You also have noticed this fact as you have read the references right out of your own Bible in the lesson.

The Sabbath Day is *not* a day of any man – or group of men – or denomination – or nation – or race. IT'S *GOD'S SABBATH!!* AND THE PEOPLE OF THE *ENTIRE WORLD* ARE TO KEEP IT!

BLESSINGS for Observing the SABBATH

We now know that we must keep the Sabbath Day if we are to receive God's supreme marvellous gift of eternal life with wonderful restful bodies in His Kingdom.

But in addition to this, what other wonderful things does God promise to those who keep this great outstanding day, the Sabbath Day? It is very important to know!

1. How does GOD reveal He will BLESS US *MATERIALLY* if we will keep the Sabbath? Isa. 58:13-14. Note that God will CAUSE US TO "RIDE UPON the *HIGH* PLACES OF THE EARTH."

COMMENT: God will favor us with blessings which those around us who do not keep God's true Sabbath day do not receive – BLESSINGS IN FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING, KNOWLEDGE, *and many other things that it often surprises us to receive.* To be in God's good grace and favor and therefore TO BE BLESSED BY GOD – to be caused to ride upon the *high* places of the earth" – IS *IMPORTANT!* And even more so now in the end of this age when this especially lawless generation is bringing untold suffering upon the *whole world.*

COMMENT: The "heritage of Jacob" is the heritage of righteous Abraham and all the righteous who are Abraham's "seed" – the inheritance of this earth for an eternal possession.

COMMENT: *You can't afford not to keep the Sabbath!*

Here is an excerpt from a typical LETTER the (Radio) Church of God with World Headquarters here at Pasadena receives, and the answer to it, based on the Bible:

"*MY EMPLOYER has told me he will have to FIRE ME IF I DO NOT BEGIN WORKING ON THE SABBATH. Jobs are very hard to find in this locality. SHOULD I KEEP THE SABBATH REGARDLESS, and trust God for another job?*"

The immediate question that always comes into mind when faced with the decision to obey God and keep holy the day He made holy is: "How am I going to support my family?" The answer is that we must not look to the physical circumstances involved, but trust God in BELIEVING FAITH. Have you ever read II Cor. 4:18, 5:7 and Jas. 2:18?

Some of God's people who thought they would lose their jobs have been surprised to learn that their employers changed their minds about firing them. Others, who *have* lost their jobs for refusing to break God's Sabbath Day have soon had equal or better jobs!

We are told in Matthew 6:31-33, "...TAKE NO thought [ANXIOUS THOUGHT or worry], saying, WHAT shall we EAT? or, What shall we DRINK? or, Wherewithal shall we BE CLOTHED? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. *But seek ye first the kingdom of God,* and his righteousness; *and all these things shall be added unto you.*" The person who accepts God at His Word, and is willing to STEP OUT ON FAITH, *exercising* it, and trusting Him to supply every need, is a person upon whom God will look with favor and to whom God will see that work is supplied.

This takes real courage and faith in God; but we know we have His *sure promise* that He will provide for our needs. God may allow you to be temporarily jobless to test your faith, but as long as you obey Him and follow Christ, your perfect example – *and keep looking for a job* – you will find work. GOD WILL NOT FORSAKE YOU (Deut. 4:30-31). But there is one thing to remember, you must be a hard and trusted worker. God will not intervene for one who is lazy!

Pray for God's guidance and intervention on your behalf, so that you will have His help in finding the right job should you be fired. The chances are that you will keep your job, or find a better one if you do lose your present job.

2. Aren't THOSE WHO KEEP the SABBATH PROMISED they will BE REFRESHED PHYSICALLY by the keeping of it? Ex. 23:12. Note the word "refreshed."

3. Now that we have learned the *material* blessings of keeping the Sabbath, let's learn about the far

more important *ETERNAL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS* which will result FROM our KEEPING of the *SABBATH* Day's REST!! *Why* should we forsake our own ways and even our own thoughts about worldly things on the Sabbath? Isa. 55:8-9.

COMMENT: Since the SABBATH is THE "SIGN" WHICH POINTS DIRECTLY TO OUR ETERNAL GOAL – BECOMING SONS OF GOD IN the KINGDOM OF GOD, with eternal rest from this mortal body—we are to learn to be more like God on this day! As human beings we do not, by our very carnal nature, *think* the spiritual thoughts that God thinks constantly. Here's how we learn: We BEGIN TO THINK GODLY THOUGHTS ON the SABBATH *by studying, discussing, meditating* upon God's Word, learning, and *praying* to God!

You might say we are practicing to be very God on the Sabbath when we literally *saturate our minds* with, and think upon, the *principles of God's laws* which reveal God's character – how *God* thinks and acts! So then, by properly keeping the Sabbath, we are acting out or portraying our future destiny – that of being Gods in the very Kingdom of God. What a BLESSING it is to be allowed to do this!! – and with God's own *blessing* upon us for doing it, too!!

COMMENT: Yes, the Sabbath will become a great delight to us as we learn the ways of God and thrill to the prospect of becoming His very Sons. And this day will give us the SPIRITUAL LIFT and INSPIRATION needed to help us do the next six days of work with joy and real purpose of mind. It will help us to realize that our everyday experience of putting God's Word into practice is BUILDING IN US the VERY CHARACTER OF GOD!

Only when we keep the SABBATH in this way can we fully realize why Jesus said it was MADE "*FOR MAN*" – to be a great blessing for us! (Mark 2:27).

4. What kind of a "NAME" does GOD PROMISE those of us who faithfully observe His Sabbath every week? Isa. 56:4-6. Will God make faithful Sabbath-keepers His joyful Sons with POSITIONS OF RULERSHIP IN His own house, HIS TEMPLE – the headquarters church of the whole world? The first 15 words of verse 5; first 18 words of verse 7; and Rev. 3:12. What a tremendous thing!

COMMENT: God specifically promises us that if we do not pollute His Sabbath, but keep it in the *spirit – become Spiritual "eunuchs" with no prospect of rebellion* – as well as *rest physically on the exact true Sabbath day*, we will inherit an "everlasting name," the name "God"! We'll become the Sons of His family – the God Family – and be co-rulers with Christ in the Kingdom of God with headquarters in *Jerusalem, Palestine!*

Just think of the *tremendous reward* awaiting us if we are the obedient servants of God!

5. Does God give us a glimpse of the ETERNAL CITY in which WE'LL LIVE IN as His Sons? Rev. 21:1-2 and 22:14. *Skim rapidly* the rest of the 21st chapter and verses 1-5 of chapter 22 for the glorious description of the breath-taking beauty and splendor that will surround us in THE NEW JERUSALEM!

COMMENT: This is the city that will descend upon our earth after it becomes a molten "hell-fire" mass and is remade into a new planet. (II Pet. 3:10; Rev. 21:1).

COMMENT: ALL of THESE TREMENDOUS BLESSINGS CAN BE YOURS if you have the "sign" of obedience to God that will distinguish you – set you apart – as one destined to inherit God's incomprehensible riches – eternal life of rest and never ending joy and accomplishment in the kingdom of God!

CURSES for NOT Observing the SABBATH

We now know the wonderful glorious breath-taking things that a loving Creator will shower upon those that keep His Sabbath Day.

But what if one does *not* keep this great Sabbath Day that God has commanded to be kept? Is there anything wrong in that? CAN'T WE JUST GO ON IGNORING THIS *SPECIAL DAY* WHICH GOD HAS CREATED? Just keep any day we choose? Or just not keep any day at all?

NO! we can do none of these! God's true Sabbath Day is to be kept!

God gave the Sabbath to *all* people to keep. He gave it from creation – *before* there were *nations*. God placed it in the great Ten Commandments as one of the four which are toward very God Himself. It is the *key* one which brings us into *close* relationship with our Creator!

Let's understand the history of Old Covenant Israel. Israel, the nation that descended from righteous Abraham to whom God promised the earth for an eternal inheritance. And from this history let us see just how *extremely important* God considers the keeping of His Sabbath by man, is!

1. Did GOD PRONOUNCE "*DEATH*" TO ANY PERSON IN ANCIENT ISRAEL WHO did NOT KEEP THE *SABBATH?* Ex. 31:14. Wasn't *SABBATH*-KEEPING *SO IMPORTANT* that GOD MADE A *DOUBLE COVENANT* with the Israelites that THEY would NOT BREAK the SABBATH? Ex. 20:8; 31:13.

COMMENT: The KEEPING of the SABBATH IS *THAT IMPORTANT!!* In Old Covenant times the righteous judgment of God upon those who refused

to keep the Sabbath Day rest was the death penalty (II Cor. 3:7-8). Anyone breaking the Sabbath was immediately put to death! (TODAY the PUNISHMENT is delayed but just AS SURE IF ONE *PERSISTS* in breaking the Sabbath.)

2. What great blessing did God promise the *nation* of Old Covenant Israel if its people would keep the Sabbath? Lev. 26:2. Also verse 3. Note that the Sabbaths are so important that they are mentioned *separately* from the rest of the commandments (Verse 3). How did God say He would *bless* the Israelite nation? Verses 4-13.

3. How else did God say He would bless the nation Israel for obedience to His commandments, among which the Sabbath plays so important a part? Deut. 28:1-13.

4. Did God even promise that *if* the people would keep the Sabbath – Jer. 17:21, 22 – Jerusalem would remain *forever?* Verse 25, first two words and last six words. What a tremendous promise! !

5. *But now we come to the important part of this subject!!*—what CURSES did GOD SAY would COME UPON THE NATION IF THEY DID *NOT* KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS? Lev. 26:14-39. Wasn't *even the land to have its "sabbaths" rest* from their working it, *because they would be away in CAPTIVITY?* Verses 34 and 35. Note the word "sabbaths" is used three times in these two verses.

A *TERRIBLE* PRONOUNCEMENT FOR the BREAKING of GOD'S HOLY *SABBATH* DAY!!

6. What else did God say He would do to the nation Israel if it would not obey His commandments? Deut. 28:15 to the end of the chapter.

COMMENT: Yes *terrible* curses are upon people or nations that do not keep God's Sabbath commandment! !

7. But ISRAEL REFUSED TO KEEP God's commanded SABBATH rests! So did God *carry out* the curses He said He would put upon the nation Israel? Israel, the nation composed of ten tribes, collectively known as the House of Israel, and two tribes collectively known as the House of Judah? He certainly did! What did God do to the House of Israel? II Kings 17:18. Why? Verses 16,17. Did God remove Israel *from His sight?* Verse 23.

COMMENT: In 721-718 B.C., the House of ISRAEL WENT INTO a *very GREAT* national CAPTIVITY AND VERY GREAT PUNISHMENT – a PUNISHMENT extending OVER 2520 YEARS. A truly *great* punishment! ! The REASON for this was *the SAME* FOR WHICH GOD PUNISHED ISRAEL IN the WILDERNESS – for rebelling against Him, and *SPECIFICALLY* FOR BREAKING His *SABBATHS!* It's a common failing of carnal nature! This terrible punishment IS A WARNING TO US ALSO NOT TO BREAK God's SABBATH! !

The HOUSE OF ISRAEL *REFUSED* TO KEEP the SABBATH Day, and THEREFORE LOST SIGHT OF WHO the *TRUE* GOD WAS, so went after strange gods. None were left behind in the land but the PEOPLE OF JUDAH. ONLY they REMAINED FREE FROM ONEROUS AND CRUEL CAPTIVITY. BUT this was to continue for only a short time for the *CURSE* was UPON THEM TOO!

8. And what did God do to Judah, the other part of the nation Israel, for not keeping the Sabbath? Did GOD CAUSE KING NEBUCHADNEZZER OF BABYLON TO *FULFILL* THE CURSES which GOD HAD WARNED JUDAH WOULD FALL UPON THEM IF they REFUSED TO KEEP His SABBATH? II Chron. 36:5-7, 16-19, 21. WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE who were NOT KILLED? Verse 20. A TERRIBLE THING! Note verse 21 – God points out that there is *NO* AVOIDING of the KEEPING OF GOD'S COMMANDED SABBATH REST.

COMMENT: GOD MEANS BUSINESS! ! ONLY *CURSES* can RESULT for disobeying His Sabbath sign! *Mark this well! !*

The sacking and destruction of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzer, which began in 604 B.C., and the captivity of those who remained, was a direct fulfillment of God's warning to the House of Judah!

9. Notice now IN EZEKIEL 20 the *SUMMATION* of WHY GOD PUNISHED ISRAEL SO *FEARFULLY!* Does God mention OUTSTANDINGLY that it was BECAUSE of their NOT KEEPING the *SABBATH?* Verses 12, 13, 16, 20, 21, 24.

10. And didn't GOD, for this reason, POINT OUT that HE would *with fury* rule over them – WITH FURY SEND THEM INTO PUNISHMENT? Ezek. 20-34. Does GOD SAY He will "*purge out*"– REMOVE –"the rebels"– THOSE WHO REBEL AGAINST HIM and do not obey? Verse 38.

COMMENT: THESE CURSES ARE *DUAL!* Sabbath-rejecting persons, and the Sabbath-rejecting world in which they live, are headed toward this *curse*. And *ESPECIALLY* NOW at this time MODERN-DAY ISRAELITE NATIONS, the blood-descendants of Abraham, are FEELING THIS CURSE. Read Mr. Armstrong's FREE BOOKLET, "*The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy*" – it shows *who* is Israel today.

Yes, modern-day Israelite nations – the UNITED STATES and BRITAIN and several other of their blood-related nations–are POLLUTING GOD'S laws, breaking God's SABBATHS. Scan again Deut. 28:15 and verses 16 through 68 and WATCH THESE SAME IDENTICAL PROPHECIES *NOW* STARTING TO BE FULFILLED in these countries before your very eyes! ! There is degeneration

now occurring in these countries which will, after they have been weakened, CULMINATE SUDDENLY IN their CAPTIVITY!

Those Saved for Service Have Sabbath Sign!

Do you know that EVEN CHRIST, the VERY SON OF GOD Himself, *HAD TO KEEP the SABBATH* – IN ORDER TO BEAR the SABBATH SIGN, the sign all must have IF they are to be SAVED? Christ was made a human being exactly as you and I. There was *no way* by which He might regain eternal life other than by the way you and I must obtain it – *by the keeping of God's great Sabbath rest commandment*, and God's other commandments. Let's understand.

1. Was the Word – who had been a very God – actually *changed into* Jesus, the mere *mortal* flesh and blood son of Mary? Heb. 2:9, 14; John 1:1.

COMMENT: While CHRIST was on earth AS THE MORTAL SON OF MARY, HE HAD TO KEEP the SABBATH–HAVE THE SABBATH SIGN–OR DIE ETERNAL DEATH! ! – just the same as you and I. For sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4) – the Sabbath commandment law – and the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). *Eternal* death Christ would have received if he had disobeyed.

COMMENT: BUT, CHRIST KNEW EXACTLY the RIGHT DAY TO KEEP as the Sabbath AND *He* KEPT IT! Made it His custom to keep it SO HE WOULD BEAR the *SABBATH SIGN*. And as a RESULT God the FATHER RAISED Christ up AND SAVED HIM FOR SERVICE in His Kingdom, and so Christ now sits as our High Priest, and coming King.

COMMENT: Remember, JESUS IS *OUR* EXAMPLE, and if He had to keep the Sabbath, we most certainly must.

2. But didn't Christ "*labor*" on the Sabbath Day of *rest?* He certainly did! How? Did Christ "work" mightily at *spiritual* works on the Sabbath *rest* day? Mark 1:21; Luke 4:16, 31; 13:10. Mat. 12:5.

3. How did Jesus uphold this act? Mat. 12:12. Did Jesus not say it was lawful to do *well* on the Sabbath? Same verse.

4. *But* did Jesus, at the same time He was doing these mighty *spiritual* works, also warn against *physical labor* on the Sabbath rest day? Mat. 24:20.

COMMENT: Remember, Jesus *never once* broke the Sabbath! Had He ever broken it in the slightest point, He could not have become our Savior! He was *without sin!* (Heb. 4:15). The "work" Jesus said He and the Father performed were *spiritual* works! In John 5:19-21, Jesus plainly indicated that He was doing the spiritual works of the Father on the Sabbath, and not the *physical* works of men! This was *proper* to do on the Sabbath. He did not sin.

COMMENT: YOU too, although not a minister performing righteous spiritual "works" for others ON THE SABBATH by preaching, SHOULD DO *SPIRITUAL WORKS* TO *PREPARE YOURSELF* TO ENTER INTO GOD'S RESTFUL KINGDOM. Doing this by zealous study of God's Word–the Bible. CAREFUL MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD. EFFECTUAL "WORKS" BY CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER.

You can perform all these spiritual works on this day. You can be literally FILLED WITH God's SPIRIT ON THIS DAY of especially close contact with God – the Spirit which guides one into all truth on this day of worship (John 16:13). And almost imperceptibly–at first–you WILL BEGIN TO GROW. But grow you will! SCHOOL YOURSELF IN the KNOWLEDGE OF the GREAT WORKS WE ARE TO PERFORM in this physical world AFTER we are TRANSFORMED and have spiritual bodies and minds. And also later, when we have been given complete control in service to God in the *universe*.

WHEN you HAVE PROPERLY WORSHIPPED GOD ON the SABBATH AND STUDIED His WORD AND its APPLICATION, and then PUT it INTO DAILY USE and on the Sabbath Day too, then you WILL HAVE God's *SABBATH SIGN* IN the *TRUE* and *SAVING* SENSE. You WILL BE *PREPARED* TO ENTER God's KINGDOM AS a PRIEST and RULER, AND, of course, GOD WILL SAVE YOU and give you an efficient restful body FOR SERVICE in His eternal Kingdom.

5. What does Rev. 14:9-11 point out? Note the word "*mark*."

COMMENT: If anyone does NOT HAVE the SABBATH SIGN, he, in the very near future, is going to BE FORCED by men TO TAKE the terrible MARK of the BEAST – the keeping of *Sun*day.

Your Next Step

If you have sincerely repented and desire to live by every Word of God, you will begin to observe *God's* Holy Sabbath day – commonly called *Saturday* – the same commanded day Christ and His Apostles kept! You will **withdraw at once from all fellowship with this world's false churches** Satan has deceived into **observing Sunday,** a day which God *never* commanded.

You will ALSO WITHDRAW all fellowship FROM any CHURCH which congregates on the Sabbath but does NOT BEAR the *NAME* of God's Church, the "CHURCH OF *GOD*." God has only

one living church, although many false groups have taken this name. You will realize God is not in these churches which merely assemble themselves together on the Sabbath by their own authority, and not by the command of God's called ministers! Yes you will be obeying GOD'S COMMAND: "HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP WITH the UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS . . ."! (Eph. 5:11).

However, we do know IT IS the EARNEST DESIRE OF TRUE BELIEVERS TO MEET TOGETHER with brethren of like understanding ON the SABBATH IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S INJUNCTION found in Hebrews 10:24-25. But for a great number of God's people this MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE because they are scattered as salt of the earth and consequently cannot assemble on the Sabbath. Our Heavenly Father knows about this situation and, therefore, does not expect you to attend a church service on the Sabbath when it isn't possible! Remember that our fellowship must be first and foremost with the Father and with Jesus Christ, and then, if possible, with one another – but only in and through Christ (I John 1:3, 7). **You can have this communion and fellowship with God right in your own home, or wherever you happen to be on the Sabbath!**

But, frequently, zealous brethren who hunger for regular fellowship will ask us to send them the names and addresses of other believers in their vicinity with the idea of establishing regular Bible studies together on the Sabbath and other days of the week, since they have no local minister of God with whom they can assemble. At first glance, this may seem like a wonderful idea. But Scripture teaching and the costly lesson of experience compel us to refuse! Here's why:

In Eph. 4:11-15 Paul explains that CHRIST GAVE EVANGELISTS, PASTORS, TEACHERS, and OTHER MINISTERIAL OFFICES IN the CHURCH "FOR the PERFECTING OF the SAINTS . . . for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man . . . that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness . . . but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things."

Yes, it is the purpose of the *ministry* to instruct the brethren to grow in love and in good deeds – exactly as Heb. 10:24 commands. IT IS *NOT* FOR THE *BRETHREN* TO TEACH ONE ANOTHER. If *brethren* could accomplish this by assembling *without* a *minister*, then Jesus wasted His time by training individuals to become ministers. Then He was mistaken in training His called disciples to spiritually feed the flock, if the flock could feed itself! But Christ, the living Son of God, is not mistaken.

The very fact that the ministry is for the edifying of the Church of God is positive proof that **assembling without a shepherd — a true minister of God — will not lead to unity and perfection** in the knowledge of Christ. Without a trained minister of God, disunity, contention, and error will inevitably arise in a local group. They would SOON BE QUARRELING among themselves, or some dominant personality would lead the others from the truth onto various WILD TANGENTS, or some WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING would come along pretending to be a true minister of Jesus Christ, only to devour and DESTROY the FLOCK! MR. ARMSTRONG'S PAST EXPERIENCE with such unshepherded flocks proves it!

SO DON'T BECOME DISCOURAGED BECAUSE YOU CAN'T FELLOWSHIP with OTHER BRETHREN ON the SABBATH. You can still KEEP in continual CLOSE CONTACT with God's true Church by spiritually feeding upon God's Word THROUGH "THE WORLD TOMORROW" BROADCAST, The PLAIN TRUTH MAGAZINE, *this* BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE, and the OTHER FREE LITERATURE available FROM OUR HEADQUARTERS office in Pasadena, California. Through the *broadcast*, those SCATTERED ONES whom God has called are individually KEPT IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG, the TRUE PASTOR GOD HAS CHOSEN and used in bringing them to the truth and conversion. Yes, *by these means they are continually being fed on the true spiritual food by the mother of us all – the true Church of God!*

Have you realized that you can hear your pastor more often than most worldly church-goers hear their pastors? Every time you listen to "The World Tomorrow" in your own home – it can be heard several times a day in many areas – CHECK "RADIOLOG" IN THE PLAIN TRUTH MAGAZINE – you are, in a sense, attending the greatest church service on earth which is attended by millions of others! !

So GROW in the knowledge of the Bible right IN your OWN HOME on every day of the week, and especially on the Sabbath!

However, if you have fully repented, want to keep the Sabbath Day of God, and all God's commandments, **you will earnestly desire to meet with others of like faith. This may be possible.** If you are one of these, **write to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Post Office Box 111, Pasadena, California, or to our London or Australian addresses, and ask for information** regarding this matter. *Be sure and state that you have completed Lesson 28 of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.*

Clarification of Shaded Text on Page 6

Comment: Note that the people were warned not to exert themselves greatly even under stress on the Sabbath Day if it were at all possible. CHRIST SHOWED here that HIS *CHURCH* WOULD *RESPECT* AND *KEEP* HIS SABBATH REST COMMANDMENT. His Church – the true Church of God in its infancy – fled from Jerusalem when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans IN 70 A.D. TRUE CHRISTIANS WERE KEEPING THE *SABBATH* at that time! (Part of this great prophesy is dual and yet to be fulfilled.)