



Seek The Old Paths

“Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths. . . and walk therein”
(Jeremiah 6:16)

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SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS AND THE SABBATH

*The “Adventist” view of “the Law” is a plain contradiction of Bible teaching.
People today are not under any part of the Old Testament.*

The Seventh Day Adventist Church does not have its foundation in the Bible for it did not come into existence until the mid 1800s. It began under the misguided leadership of William Miller. Mr. Miller was proven to be a false prophet when he predicted the end of the world in 1843 and again in 1844 (cf. Deut. 18:22; Matt. 24:36). When his prophecies failed, William Miller disappeared from the religious scene. James White and his wife, Ellen G. White, became the leaders of Miller’s movement. They added additional doctrines to those taught by Miller. The **Seventh Day Adventist Church** was formally organized in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1863.

Ellen G. White claimed to be inspired by God. She claimed God gave her visions and revelations (she suffered from hallucinations as a result of a childhood accident). In 1847, Mrs. White claimed she had a vision in which she was taken up into Heaven. She said the ten commandments were shown to her and claimed the fourth commandment (“Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy”) had a bright light around it. She interpreted this to mean that keeping the sabbath (Saturday, the seventh day of the week) was required of everyone.

In an effort to prove that all men are to keep the sabbath today, Seventh Day Adventists say there are two laws in the Old Testament: 1) **the Law of God** — incorporating all ten commandments; and 2) **the Law of Moses** — indicating the “ceremonial law.” They further claim that only the Law

of Moses was done away when Christ died on the cross. Adventists say the Law of God (the ten commandments), which includes the command to “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy,” was not done away. They teach it is still binding on all people today.

The “Adventist” view of “the Law” is a plain contradiction of Bible teaching! The New Testament teaches that people today are under no part of the Old Testament law. The following passages clearly show the Law of Moses (the 10 commandments) was done away and no longer binding (Rom. 7:1-7; 2 Cor. 3:1-18; Gal. 3:24-25; Eph. 2:13-16; Col. 2:14; Heb. 7:12; Heb. 8:7).

The Bible also clearly teaches that the “Law of God” and the “Law of Moses” refer to the same law (Neh. 8:1,18; Ezra 7:6; Ezra 7:12; Luke 2:22-23). When Jesus did away with the Law of Moses, He did away with the Old Testament Law of God. The two are identical. They are not two different laws. It’s just two different ways of expressing the same law. The Bible clearly teaches that Christians are to worship on Sunday, the first day of the week. That’s when the church of the first century met (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev 1:10). The Bible reveals that “When” and “How” one congregation worshipped, all congregations worshipped. Paul taught the same Gospel every where and in every church (1 Cor. 4:17). He taught the same “decrees,” “ordinances” and “traditions” that were to be kept in every congregation (Acts 16:4; 1 Cor. 11:2; 1 Cor. 4:17; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6).

Found below are seven reasons

people today are not bound to keep the sabbath (Saturday):

1) In 2 Corinthians 3, a comparison of terms is used to contrast “that which is abolished” (v.13) and “passing away” (vs.7,11,14), with that which “remains” (v.11).

ABOLISHED	REMAINS
Written with ink	Written by the Spirit
Written on stone	Written on the heart
The Old Covenant	The New Covenant
The letter kills	The Spirit gives life
Ministry of Death	Ministry of the Spirit
Glorious	More glorious
Ministry of condemnation	Ministry of righteousness
“The veil”	The mirror
Bondage	Liberty
Moses	Jesus
Israelites only	All mankind
Temporary	Permanent

The ten commandments are included in the list of those things which were abolished / done away with!

2) The letter to the Galatians was

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SDA And The Sabbath...



Editorial...

THE SABBATH

Garland M. Robinson

Sabbatarians believe strongly that the day of worship is Saturday (the seventh day of the week), not Sunday (the first day of the week). There are dozens of such groups such as Seventh Day Adventists, the Worldwide Church of God, and others. They go to great lengths to defend their observance of the sabbath (seventh day of the week). They appeal to the Old Testament book of Exodus and read from chapter 20 verse 8: “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

They claim that man, not God, changed the day of worship from the seventh day to the first day. They twist the Old Testament (and the New Testament) in an effort to make it appear that Sabbath keeping was given to Adam and Eve and has never been rescinded or removed; therefore, it is still binding to this very day upon Christians and the world. However, the order to keep (observe) the Sabbath was not made known until the children of Israel left Egyptian bondage and received the ten commandments at Mt. Sinai. Even then, we learn the ten commandments were only given to the Israelites that were present on that occasion — not their ancestors or the rest of the world. “And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. [Sinai] The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day” (Deut. 5:1-3).

Deuteronomy 5:1-3 says the covenant (the ten commandments), which included keeping the sabbath, was made with Israel. Verse three says it was NOT made with their “fathers”, i.e., their ancestors, those who came before them such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This extended all the way back to even Adam and Eve. It was not made with any other people in the world that were not present at

Mt. Sinai when the Law (two tables of stone) were given to them. It was made with the children of Israel and only with the children of Israel. That being the case, it obviously did not include the Gentiles.

This very point is made abundantly clear, not only in Deuteronomy, but also in Nehemiah chapter nine. When the children of Israel returned from Babylonian captivity, they confessed their sins in returning to God. Nehemiah reminds them of their history. He speaks of: 1) Abraham coming into Canaan, 2) the children of Israel’s bondage in Egypt, and 3) their deliverance from that land. He reminds them of when they received the Law of Moses (the ten commandments) and tells them that God came “...down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: And madest known unto them [children of Israel] thy [God’s] holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant” (Neh. 9:13-14).

The order for man to keep the sabbath (the day God rested from His work of creation, Gen. 2:2-3), had never been given before Mt. Sinai (there’s no record of it). It was there (Mt. Sinai) that God made known to the children of Israel that he wanted them to remember the Sabbath day.

Since the Old Testament Law (the Law of Moses, the ten commandments) was “nailed to the cross” (Col. 2:14), it is no longer valid today. Galatians 3:25 says the Jews are no longer under it, nor is anyone else! It has been replaced with a New Law. The Law of Christ replaced the Old Law of Moses.

In the New Testament, we learn of:

A new, better, **covenant/law** (Heb. 8:6; 10:9-10; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:6-13).

New **ordinances** — commandments, the apostles’ doctrine (1 Cor. 11:2; Acts 2:41),

New **law giver, mediator** (Matt. 17:5; Phil. 2:10; Heb. 9:15; 8:6; 12:24),

A new, more excellent, glorious **ministry, service** (Heb. 8:6; 2 Cor. 3:7-11),

A new **institution** — the church of Christ (Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18; 2:10),

A new **place** of worship — the church of Christ (Eph. 3:21),

A new **day** of worship — the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2),

New words to **express** the new day — “Lord’s Day,” “Lord’s Table,” “Communion” (Rev. 1:10; 1 Cor. 10:16-21).

A new **worship** — in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24),

A new **organization (shepherds, overseers, elders)** to see to it that what is done is done according to God’s Word (Acts 14:23; 20:28; Heb. 13:17),

A new **work**, the great commission of preaching the Gospel to the whole world (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16),

New terms of **entrance** into the fellowship of God: *Hear* the Lord’s words (John 6:45), *Believe* in Jesus the Christ the only begotten Son of God (John 8:24), *Repent* of sins (Luke 13:3,5), *Confess* faith in Christ (Acts 8:37), *Baptized* into Christ to have sins washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16),

A new name, **Christians** (Acts 11:26; Isa. 62:2),

A new **high priest**, Jesus the Christ (Heb. 4:14-15; 7:11),

A new **priesthood**, Christians (1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6),

A new **realm/sphere** of worship — spiritual in nature (John 18:36; 1 Peter 2:5).

If the Sabbath is so important, why does the Bible reveal these marvelous facts about the new day? On the first day of the week...

1. Jesus rose from the dead (Mark 16:1-9; Luke 24:1,13,21,46).

2. Jesus was declared to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4),

3. Jesus met with his disciples repeatedly after his resurrection (John 20:1,19,26),

4. Pentecost was always on the first day of the week (Lev. 23:15),

5. The apostles received the

baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4),

6. The church began (Acts 2),

7. The Gospel was preached for the first time (Acts 2:14-40),

8. Three thousand people (the firstfruits of the new church harvest, Lev. 23:17), obeyed the Gospel and were added to the church (Acts 2:41,47),

9. The church assembles to worship (Acts 20:7; 2:42, 1 Cor. 16:2; 11:2; Heb. 10:25),

10. The church partakes of the Lord's supper, a memorial of Christ's suffering and death on the cross (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-29).

11. Christians give an offering as they have been prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

To return to the Old Testament

and establish Sabbath keeping, makes the New Testament Law of Christ of none effect. Note the words of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:1-7: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the **yoke of bondage**. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is **a debtor to do the whole law**. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are **justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace**. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

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

Beyond any inkling of a doubt, the first day of the week is the day God commands man to worship. Hebrews 10:25 speaks of the seriousness of saints forsaking the assembling of themselves together! Where else would a child of God be than with the gathering of the local church for worship with all the saints on the Lord's Day — the first day of the week?

Where will you be on the Lord's day this Sunday?

LORD OF THE SABBATH

Bill Boyd

If the sabbath had been intended for all the world to keep, it could not have been a sign of Israel's distinction. Jesus fulfilled the law and "took it out of the way" — with it went the observance of the sabbath.

Mark tells two stories, back to back, of Jesus and the sabbath. They come at the end of Mark chapter two and at the beginning of Mark chapter three. They begin peaceful enough, with Jesus walking with his disciples through a field of grain on a sabbath morning (Mark 2:23), but they end with the Pharisees and the Herodians taking counsel together how they might destroy Jesus (Mark 3:6). To understand their anger, we need to understand something of the sabbath.

The sabbath is first mentioned in Genesis 2:3. By inspiration Moses said, "God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work." That passage does not tell us WHEN God set the sabbath apart, only that he did. From Adam to Moses there is no command to keep the sabbath, no example of anyone keeping it, and no penalty for failing to keep it. Nehemiah said that God, "made known unto them thy holy sabbath" at Mount Sinai (Neh. 9:14). It was not known earlier.

The keeping of the sabbath was a distinguishing feature of the Jew's culture in the first century. Like circumcision, and like their dietary restrictions, it was one of their customs that gave them their identity. It was given to make that distinction. In Exodus 31:17 God said, "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel..." — therefore exclusive of other nations. In Ezekiel 20:12 God said, "Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them." In sanctifying them, God set the children of Israel apart from all the families of the earth. The sabbath was a sign of that sanctification. In Exodus 20:19-20 God said, "I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." If the sabbath had been intended for all the world to keep, it could not have been a sign of Israel's distinction.

God prepared the children of Israel for the sabbath in the wilderness (Exodus 16:22-26), but with the giving of the Ten Commandments, God bound the sabbath on Israel for generations to come. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy...in it thou shalt not do any work" (Exodus 20:8-11). Further instructions concerning the sabbath were given in the law of Moses, but these instructions did not go far enough for the Pharisees. With an appeal to the authority of their father's traditions, they had imposed such restrictions on the sabbath that they had turned their day of blessing into a day of oppression. Jesus did not recognize their authority; that is why they felt threatened; that is why they wanted to destroy him.

The disciples plucked ears of grain on the sabbath, and because that violated the Pharisees own stipulations, they accused his disciples of doing that which is not lawful. Jesus appealed to a greater authority when he said; "Have ye never read" (Mark 2:25)? His authority was the scriptures them-

selves. David even did that which was not lawful (according to the Scriptures), yet they would excuse David because he had been anointed king, but Jesus was the Anointed himself, and a greater authority than David. The sabbath law was His law; He was “*Lord of the sabbath*” (Mark 2:25-28).

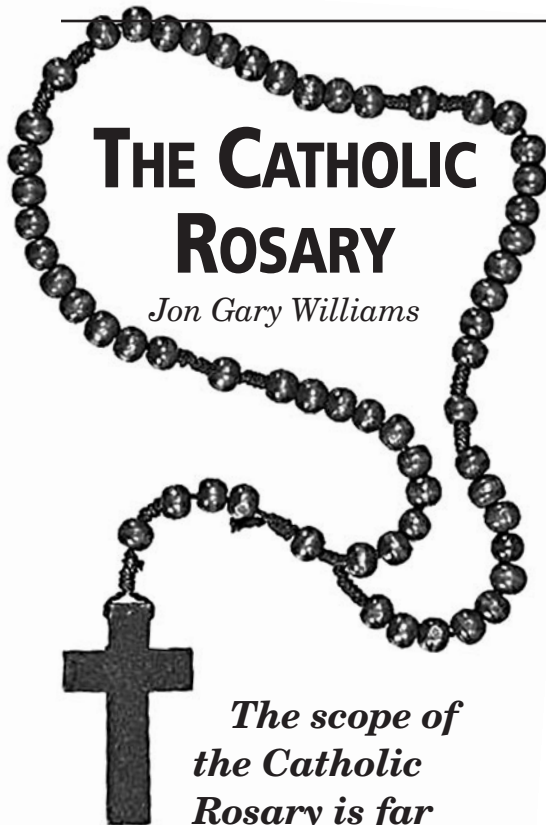
They followed Jesus into the synagogue, “...and there was a man which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.” Jesus took the initiative and said to the man, “*Stand forth.*” He put the accusers on the spot when he

asked, “*Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?*” They “*held their peace*” because they refused to be taught. This angered and grieved Jesus. Doing nothing whereby they could accuse him, Jesus said to the man, “*Stretch forth thy hand.*” The text says, “*And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.*” Jesus demonstrated his authority by his power. It was because of the hardness of their hearts that “*the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him*” (Mark

3:1-6).

Jesus went on to fulfill the law. Having fulfilled it, “*he took it out of the way*” (Col. 2:14), and with it went the sabbath (Col. 2:16). The new covenant (New Testament) did not distinguish between Jew and Gentile. The sabbath had fulfilled its purpose, and in breaking down this “*wall of partition*” (Eph. 2:14) the “*Lord of the sabbath*” (Mark 2:28) showed himself to be “*Lord of all*” (Acts 10:34-36).

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The scope of the Catholic Rosary is far removed from the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. It is nothing more than an invention of man.

Most people not affiliated with Roman Catholicism do not understand what the Rosary is all about. We may have heard it mentioned here or there and we possibly have seen it used in an occasional movie scene, but many do not know of its origins or understand its intended purpose.

The Roman Catholic church began in 606 AD with Boniface III, but the use of the Rosary was not seen for another 600 years in the 13th century — about 1200 years after Jesus established the church. So, this “religious device” is clearly not a part of Christianity as found in the pages of the New Testament.

The Rosary originated when a priest by the name of Dominic supposedly had a vision of “the Blessed Virgin” Mary who presented him with a Rosary along with five special prayers to be introduced into the religion.

Dominic traveled widely, promoting and honoring Mary. His inordinate devotion was evident in the attention his Rosary placed upon this woman. In the ensuing years the Rosary would become another of many religious traditions integrated into Catholicism.

Though there are various forms of the Rosary, the standard Rosary is a necklace-type string consisting of 59 beads (or knots) and one crucifix (cross). Along the enclosed circuit, fifty-three smaller beads are arranged into five groups of ten beads each, and a final group, outside of the loop, which consists of three beads. The five prayers Dominic supposedly receive from Mary are recited in coordination with each section of beads. The prayers read:

The Apostles’ Creed. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the

Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen. Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us. O Holy Mother of God that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. [Clement is the Latin word for merciful.]

The “Rosary” (prayer, recitation) begins by making the sign of the cross on the crucifix and reciting the *Apostles’*

Creed, followed by one *Our Father*, three *Hail Marys* and one *Glory Be*. This is followed by reciting, at each of the six bead groupings, one *Our Father*, ten *Hail Marys* and one *Glory Be*.

The “Rosary” is concluded by praying the *Hail, Holy Queen*. Additionally, participants recite portions of the Rosary as *penance* for various sins. For example, in the confession booth, a priest may instruct one to say the “Hail Mary” prayer fifty times for penance of a sin to which they had confessed.

This **man-made religious practice** is completely absent from the scriptures and is contrary to the truth found in God’s word. Notice the following obvious contradictions:

- The Apostles’ Creed is not from Jesus’ apostles. The apostles did not write such a creed. Their only teaching is found in the New Testament. This Catholic “creed” was conceived in the minds of uninspired man centuries after the first century church.

- Mary is referred to as a virgin. That she remained a virgin throughout her life is paramount to Catholicism, but this much desired idea can be easily refuted in the pages of the Bible. Jesus is called Mary’s “firstborn,” meaning that she had other children (Matt. 1:25). Jesus had four brothers and at least two sisters (Matt. 13:55-56).

- An obvious over-emphasis is given to Mary in the Rosary prayers. The belief that she is to be “hailed” as “Holy Queen” is blasphemous, as it suggests that Mary is virtually equal to God.

- The repetitious nature of the Rosary prayers is excessive. Repeating the same phrases over and over is superfluous and needless. Some Catholics might take up to twenty minutes to complete the repetitive words of the Rosary prayers. This reminds us of Jesus’ admonition, “*And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words*” (Matt. 6:7).

Needless to say, the scope of the Catholic Rosary is far removed from the teachings of Jesus and the apostles and is nothing more than an invention of man.

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written to warn of false teachers who were trying to take away the freedom which Christians have in Jesus Christ. They wanted to bring them into slavery to the Law of Moses (Gal. 2:4; Gal. 5:1). The Law of Moses was given 450 years after God’s promise to Abraham (Gal. 3:17). The Law of Moses, which included the ten commandments, was given until the “Seed” (Christ) should come (Gal. 3:19). The Law of Moses was a “tutor” to bring the Israelites to “the faith” in Christ (Gal. 3:24-25). But after the faith had come (the New Testament books), the Israelites were no longer under a tutor (the Law of Moses).

3) In Romans 7, the apostle Paul says that Christians are “*dead to the law*” (Rom. 7:4). He also says that we have been “*delivered from the law*” (v.6). The law we are dead to said “*thou shalt not covet*” (v.7). This is one of the ten commandments. It means the law we are dead to and discharged from is the law that contained the ten commandments. The tenth commandment is: “*Thou shalt not covet*” (Exodus 20:17).

4) Jeremiah 31:31-34 is a prophecy regarding the Law which included the ten commandments: “*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt...*” In Hebrews 8:8-13, we see the fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy. The covenant that God made with Israel and Judah when He led them out of Egypt was the Law given at Mt. Sinai — the ten commandments, written on two tables of stone (Exodus 20). The writer of Hebrews says: “*...if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second*” (Heb. 8:7). Note also that the sabbath was made known to Israel at Mt. Sinai, not at the creation as the Adventists argue (Nehemiah 9:13-14).

5) Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae that “*...the handwriting of ordinances...*” [a direct reference to the ten commandments] “*...was against us, which was contrary to us...*” and that Jesus “*...took it out of the way,*

nauling it to his cross” (Col. 2:14).

6) After Paul told the Christians in Colossae that the “*handwriting of ordinances*” was nailed to the cross, he instructed them: “*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come...*” (Col. 2:16-17). These passages clearly teach that remembering the sabbath is not binding on anyone today, nor has it ever been binding on Christians. It was only for the people of Israel, beginning at Mt Sinai (Deut. 5:1-3; Jer. 31:31-34; Neh. 9:13-14) and ending when Christ died on the cross (Col. 2:14; Heb. 8:6-13).

When Christ came and established the New Law (New Testament), ALL the law of Moses, which included the ten commandments, was done away. Notice what the following passages say of the law Moses delivered to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai: 1) it was made **old**, 2) it was **decayed**, 3) it **vanished away** (Heb. 8:13), 4) it was **changed** (Heb. 7:12), 5) it was **disannulled**, 6) it was **weak**, 7) it was **unprofitable** (Heb. 7:18), 8) it was only a **shadow** (Heb. 10:1), 9) it was **taken away** (Heb. 10:9-10), 10) it was **blotted out**, 11) it was **nailed to the cross** (Col. 2:14), 12) it was simply a **schoolmaster/tutor** to bring (escort) men to Christ, and as a result we are **no longer under it** (Gal. 3:25).

What more would God have to say to convince people that the Old Testament Law is no longer binding? The entire system of the Old Testament has been replaced with the New Testament system. This was exactly God’s plan all along. Even when the old law was given, it was only temporary. It was never intended to be permanent (Deut. 15:18-19; Acts 3:23-24). All this being true, “*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator*” (Gal. 3:19).

(7) It is wrong to go to the Old Testament to support a doctrine when we clearly live under the New Testament today. In fact, Paul said those who seek to be justified by the Old Law “*are fallen from grace*” (Gal. 5:4).

Seventh Day Adventists also **forbid the eating of certain foods**. This is a clear violation of 1 Timothy 4:1-5 which teaches that all foods are

good to eat if they are received with thanksgiving. Too, they teach the false doctrine called “**soul sleeping**” which is contrary to the Lord’s teaching in Luke 16:19-31. In addition to these other false doctrines, **they deny eternal punishment**, but the Bible clearly teaches it (Matt. 3:12; 25:46).

The church of the Bible was established by Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18), not Ellen G. White. It began in Jerusalem, not Battle Creek, Michigan (Acts 2)! It was established in 33 AD, not in 1863. The church of the Bible is known as “*the churches of Christ*” not

“the Seventh Day Adventist Church” (Rom. 16:16). Which one of the two is from God? The one that bears the Lord’s name!

There were many Christians long before Ellen G. White claimed to have her revelations from God. There has never been a need for anything but the Gospel to save us from our sins (Rom. 1:16). Long before Ellen G. White was born, the apostle Peter wrote that God has given us “*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*” (2 Peter 1:3). We do not need Ellen G. White or any of her so-called revelations

to be saved. Nor do we need the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The church of Christ was in existence 1,800 years before the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

We can obey the simple Gospel which was preached in the first century and we can be added by the Lord to the church which He Himself built (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:36-47). Are you willing to study about it, come to the knowledge of the truth on it, and then obey the truth?

Edited by Garland M. Robinson

SEVEN ANTI-CHRISTS

Jim Waldron

What do we mean by anti-Christ? “*Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time*” (last hour, 1 John 2:18, c.69 A.D.). One should compare John’s statement: “it is the last hour” with that of Jesus in Matthew 24 concerning the destruction of Jerusalem which came in 70 A.D. This is not to suggest that the “anti-Christ” that have arisen among us foretell of any imminent destruction of our land, but it ought to make us diligent as citizens of the kingdom of heaven to do more to leaven our society. It is written of our Lord, “*Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened*” (Matt. 13:33).

It is obvious that we are having very little effect in this matter and there are many anti-Christ in our land. Here are seven that seek to destroy America, but they are tools of Satan, whose ultimate goal is to eradicate the church of Christ from the earth.

1. Islamic Terrorism: On 9/11, Islamic terrorists in the name of their god murdered about 3,000 in New York City. They continued their murderous ways in the Boston Marathon; in Chattanooga, TN; in Philadelphia, PA and in San Bernardino, CA. In great contrast, Jesus said, “*Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*” (Matt. 19:19); and “*I am the way, the truth,*

and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). See: Bing: Mosques on the front lines in the war against America. By Carol Brown.

2. Denominationalism: There are 9,000 sectarian bodies in the U.S. claiming to be of Christ (Bing: Denominations). Yet Jesus, shortly before He was crucified prayed, “*Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me*” (John 17:21). Denominationalism is a major component of Satan’s arsenal against Jesus and His kingdom (Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 2:1-4; 16-41,47; 8:12; Col. 1:13).

3. The Destruction of the Nuclear Home: Jesus said, “*For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife...*” (Matt. 19:5). 2.2 million men in America are incarcerated in jails and prisons (Bing: Men incarcerated), and 83% come from homes without fathers (See Bing, Homes without fathers).

4. Immorality: “*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Cor. 6:9-10). Most children will be born out of wedlock. The proportion of children

born to unmarried mothers was 51.3% in 2021. The highest rate in the world in 2023 was in Iceland at 69.4%. The figure has risen from 25% in 1988 and just 11% in 1979 (Children Born out of wed-lock by Steven Swinford, The Telegraph, Wednesday 09 March 2016).

5. Idolatry: Gross Materialism: “*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*” (1 Tim. 6:10). On January 14, 2016, millions risked their money at a 1 to 292 chance of winning the \$1.5 billion payout in the power ball lottery. The Holy Spirit said “*covetousness...is idolatry*” (Col. 3:5). The idolatry of covetousness greatly over-shows the worship of images which is also rampant in our land.

6. The “Gay” Agenda: On June 25, 2015, the United States Supreme Court, without any authority from the Bible or the constitution, declared marriage can include two males or females living together. The Holy Spirit has said, “*Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire*” (Jude 7).

7. Abortion and Euthanasia: “*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imagi-*

nations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren” (Prov. 6:16-19).

The world was horrified when the Nazis, in the 1930s and '40s, destroyed 11,000,000 people in the holocaust in the most horrible ways (Bing: How many deaths in the holocaust?) Yet, the slaughtering pens of America, called, “abortion clinics,” have since January 22, 1973, exterminated more than five times that number of the most innocent of humans: 58,586,256, by ripping them from their mothers wombs as though they were vermin.

These anti-Christ movements and others are the work of Satan. The apostle Peter by the Spirit warned, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

*Edited for more recent stats
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Oakwood St. C/C, Smithville, TN.....	\$250
Silverhill C/C, Silverhill, AL.....	\$50
Del Brantley	\$50
Shady Grove C/C, Morrison, TN	\$200
Anonymous	\$25
Beginning Balance.....	\$22,270.53
Contributions	\$4,140.00
Debits	
Postage.....	\$2,387.06
Label printer	\$955.00
Supplies	\$899.43
Ending Balance.....	\$22,169.04

JESUS' FINAL EXAM

John Chowning

***Jesus rose the third day
because he aced his final exam.***

Final exams. Those two words can strike fear into the bravest heart of any student. They are either the light at the end of a semester-long tunnel of study, or the light of the last of many academic freight trains that have run you over and left you for dead.

Jesus faced tests daily. His earthly ministry began in the wilderness where he was tempted forty days (Matt. 4:1-11). Throughout his ministry, Satan relentlessly tempted Him in all points like we are (Heb. 4:15). On one occasion, Jesus had to rebuke Peter so severely that he said, “Get thee behind me, Satan” (Matt. 16:23)!

But, Jesus’ final exam was like no other. He was tested far more than his head; it tested his heart. It was a rigorous examination of his love. It was constructed to see what he would (literally) die for. His final exam probed to the very depths of his soul and left no stone unturned.

Jesus’ final exam **tested his Love Of Truth.** The “charge” that the Jews contrived to give Him to Pilate for a “trial” was that Jesus claimed to be “The King of the Jews.” When Pilate inquired about it, Jesus acknowledged that he was both a King and had a kingdom (John 18:36) — though not of this world and thus of absolutely no threat to Pilate. Jesus’ kingdom is a kingdom of truth; for this kingdom he was born and came into the world so that he should bear witness to the truth (John 18:37).

How daunting was the gauntlet that Jesus traveled in this test of his love of truth. He endured ridicule, mocking, scourging, blasphemy, jeering, reviling, loneliness, and execution by crucifixion. Yet, he refused to compromise or lessen his tenacious love for truth. His example forcefully illustrates the inspired proverb: “Buy the truth and sell it not” (Prov. 23:23).

Jesus’ final exam **tested his Love For God.** Unlike the many false definitions of love found today, Jesus’ definition is quite simple: “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). To demonstrate his love for

God, he had to obey his Father’s will by keeping his commandments. “Thus it is written, and thus it behoved (was necessary for) the Christ to suffer” (Luke 24:46).

In the shadow of the cross, he fervently entreated his Father to take the cup of suffering away from Him (Mark 14:33-38). Yet, with each request, Jesus, though drenched in sweat as blood (Luke 22:44), always concluded with “nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt” (Mark 14:36). Each of his three requests was denied; therefore, Jesus accepted God’s will on the matter, humbled himself, and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8).

An accurate picture of his obedience and the spirit in which he obeyed must be noted: it was for the joy set before him that he endured the cross (Heb. 12:2). He did not suffer the atrocities of his crucifixion with a spirit of resentment or bitterness; he went with joy, the glorious by-product of willing obedience. Jesus’ example illustrates what is meant when he commands his disciples to “be faithful unto death” (Rev. 2:10).

Jesus’ final exam **tested his love of his enemies.** While on the cross, he prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). In his crucifixion he willingly bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, chastised for our peace, and atoned for our sins (Isa. 53:4-6) — all while we were his enemies (Rom. 5:6-10). Loving your enemies, blessing those who curse you, doing good to those who hate you, and praying for those who spitefully use you and persecute you (Matt. 5:44), was perfectly demonstrated at Calvary.

What a final exam! It literally was a killer! Jesus rose the third day because he aced his final exam.

Hallelujah, what a Savior!
1625 Bilbrey Park Dr.
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REMEMBERING A GREAT CO-WORKER — JIM GREEN (1935-2024)



“**M**oreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2). This passage characterizes James Edgar Green. I’ve known brother Green around 40yrs. It was easy to be his friend. He was always eager to help in whatever task was needed. He loved the church greatly and was always interested in advancing the cause of Christ.

Brother Green was multi-talented. He found what he could do well and pursued it with vigor. One of his works was recording sermons. He traveled over the eastern United States for more than 30 years — attending hundreds of lectureships and recording thousands of sermons — amassing a huge archive of material. What a blessing and great benefit for generations to come.

His work did not stop with recording lectureships. He had to make copies of the lessons for distribution. He would “daisy chain” multiple recorders to duplicate thousands of video tapes. When DVDs became available he made use of that technology as well. His good wife Ginny (married

just two months short of 65yrs) was there every step of the way. The Scriptures tell us of a fine Christian couple named Aquilla & Prescilla. It can accurately be said that Jim and Ginny certainly followed in their footsteps.

Another of his great talents was in the realm of printing. He offered his expertise and experience in helping print *Seek The Old Paths* — now in its 35th year of publication with a circulation of well over 14,000 a month. Beginning in the 90s, at his own expense, he would drive from Columbia, TN to Corinth, MS; and then later to McMinnville, TN, to help with its printing. This was a tremendous help and blessing. He retired from that work when STOP’s production moved from an offset press into the realm of digital printing. But, that did not stop him from his untiring work as a servant of the Lord. When one opportunity passed, he sought for another and quickly embraced it.

The brotherhood is eternally grateful for his work and legacy in the kingdom. On the earthly side, we have suffered a great loss in his passing, but on the spiritual side, he has joined the myriads of other faithful saints in that realm called Paradise. There they await that last great judgment day when they will be granted entrance into the eternal realm of heaven. — *Editor*



SEEK THE OLD PATHS

“When you can’t sleep, dig into something to feed the soul! The January issue of S.T.O.P. is WONDERFUL, encouraging and strengthening! Go check it out! The article entitled Financing the Work of the Church’ is filled with

so much TRUTH and teaching that many in the body today are not clear on, and thus we decide to create and participate in things outside of the authority of the Scriptures. Just because there seems to be some good done in a work doesn’t make it authorized by God. We oftentimes seem to ignorantly dive into things that are before us without any investigation or question. Doing so makes us more unlike the church of our Lord and more like the world. Zeal is a great trait to have, but it can often be mis-directed. IF there’s no authority from heaven, there’s no approval of God. AMEN!!! Garland speaks of how the church is not in the business of recreation/entertainment, secular education, missionary societies or benevolent societies. I’ve never understood the internal organizations that we’ve created outside of the local congregation, with leadership and structure outside of the Scriptures (and with women helping lead them). We have a pattern that God has laid before us that works as it stands, but feel we can do better. We disrespect and disregard the pattern by borrowing from the world and its wisdom. Brother Garland, thank you for holding fast to and not being ashamed of the Truth. What you and others stand for and proclaim, many will not — for fear of ridicule and persecution from men. The example, courage and strength of those who stand up and earnestly contend for the faith is such a tremendous blessing to ME and so many who desire to *Seek the Old Paths*” ...Regina Gaines, Lebanon, TN.

Seek The Old Paths is a monthly publication of the **Leoni Church of Christ** and is under the oversight of its elders. It is FREE, being supported by the contributions of both individuals and congregations. Its primary purpose and goal in publication can be found in Jude 3, 2 Tim. 4:2, Titus 1:13, Titus 2:1 and 2 Peter 1:12. All mail received may be published unless it is marked “not for publication.” The church building is located at: 2132 Old McMinnville Hwy, Woodbury, TN 37190.

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