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(Eugene, Oregon)

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Sabbath
and Up Coming Feast!**

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Contributors: Catholic Mirror, Ray Daly, Bill Glover, Alfio La Spina, Laura Lee, Name Withheld

Website: Church of God, Bismarck <https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org>

Articles

What is the True Gospel?

by Bill Glover (Eugene, Oregon)

Continued from Issue #30

Most people overlook the fact that "THE GOSPEL" was preached to Abraham (Galatians 3:6-9 & John 8:64). It is obvious that the "gospel" preached to Abraham was the same "gospel" preached by Jesus the Christ. It is imperative that we remember what God inspired Zacharias to say concerning John the Baptist as found in Luke 1:76-80. John was to go before Jesus and prepare the way for His life, message, death, and resurrection (verse 76). Jesus was to give the KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION AND THE REMISSION OF SINS (verse 77). He was to bring light (understanding) to those in darkness and under the shadow of death and to guide people to the way of peace (verse 79). Remember that Jesus was to bring the KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION to the people (verse 77). And as Acts 4:12 states clearly it is only through Jesus the Christ that any human obtains salvation. Jesus was predestined to preach the message (gospel) of salvation.

Thus, it becomes clear that the "gospel" Jesus preached was about the Messiah - - who was Jesus Christ Himself. Paul preached the same "gospel" that Jesus preached. What was the gospel that Paul preached? Paul said: "We PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED" (1 Corinthians 1:23). To back this up Paul said: "I determined to know nothing among you except Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). Jesus Himself preached "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me!" (John 14:6 & 6:44).

Now let us go to Luke 4:16-21 where Jesus PREACHED ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS COMING INTO THIS WORLD TO PREACH THE "GOSPEL," TO HEAL, TO GIVE DELIVERANCE, HEAL THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE OPPRESSED AND TO PREACH THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD. Clearly this was the "gospel" Jesus preached and the gospel we are to believe once we have "repented" so that we can also "believe."

To fully understand what this gospel that Jesus preached is, we need to concentrate on two key words found in Mark 1:14-15. These two key words are "REPENT" and "BELIEVE." Clearly the word "repent" refers to repenting of our sins (changing) which is the breaking of God's laws, as we have already seen by scriptures already quoted. Then Jesus said to BELIEVE THE GOSPEL. The "gospel" (or "good news") that we are to BELIEVE is that JESUS IS OUR SAVIOUR - - the one who came to reconcile us to the Father by paying for the penalty of our sins.

The word "gospel" means "good news." Jesus preached the good news of FORGIVENESS OF SIN THROUGH HIS SACRIFICE and our reconciliation to God. It is interesting to note that the words "the kingdom of God" are not in the original text of Mark 1:14. This passage should read "Jesus came to Galilee PREACHING THE GOSPEL." Many translations insert the words "of the Kingdom of God" because verse 15 says "the kingdom of God is at hand." The Kingdom of God was at hand in the presence of the COMING KING of that Kingdom - - Jesus Christ Himself - - - the One who makes salvation possible (Acts 4:12).

Many, including the Jews, have misunderstood many Bible passages. To this very day, Jews and many calling themselves "Christians" preach about the coming KINGDOM of God as their MAIN THEME OR MESSAGE. Please do not misunderstand. The Kingdom of God is real and WILL COME to this earth. But the KING of that kingdom has not yet been CROWNED in that He has not yet finished the work assigned to Him - - the work of bringing sons and daughters to God (Romans 8:14-17).

The truly sad part of this subject is that both the Jews and the "Christians" have latched onto the part about the "kingdom" and failed or refused to consider the KING THAT MAKES THE KINGDOM POSSIBLE. They overlook or reject the WORK OF THE KING [JESUS CHRIST] AND HOW HIS MISSION MAKES THE KINGDOM POSSIBLE. Jesus came to bring

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many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10) so as to use them as kings and priests when He returns to earth and establishes His kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6 & 5:8-10).

To fully understand what this involves and THE WORK THAT JESUS CHRIST HAD TO PERFORM, we must go to the very first chapter of the Bible. In Genesis 1:26 God says that He made man IN HIS OWN IMAGE - - AFTER HIS OWN LIKENESS. However, humans were made from the elements (dust) of the earth (temporary existence) whereas God is spirit and eternal. However, as we will see as we reveal from the Bible the gospel Jesus preached, humans were made with the POTENTIAL of becoming spirit and thereby a member of the very family of God. As God inspired the apostle Paul to write in 1 Corinthians 15:49, “And as we have borne the image of the man of dust (Adam), we shall also bear the image of the heavenly man (Christ).” Thus, humans have the **POTENTIAL** of becoming spirit beings in the very family of God as we are about to see - - we are about to see what the gospel Jesus preached really is!

Paul goes on to say in 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood (humans) CANNOT inherit the kingdom of God (in human flesh); nor does corruption (flesh) inherit incorruption (spirit). Behold I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (die) but WE SHALL BE CHANGED - - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, AT THE LAST TRUMP. For the trumpet will sound AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST will be raised (from the dead) incorruptible, and we (who are alive when Christ returns) will be changed. For this corruptible (human body) must PUT ON incorruption, and this mortal (body) must PUT ON immortality. So, WHEN this corruptible (body) has PUT ON incorruption, and this mortal (body) has PUT ON immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” (Paul quoted Isaiah 25:8-9). Thus, the “gospel” that Christ and all the true ministers of God preached involves the time when mortal humans become members of the God family. This is accomplished THROUGH JESUS CHRIST AND THE SACRIFICE HE MADE FOR ALL MANKIND AND IT OCCURS AT HIS RETURN TO EARTH! Thus, the “gospel” is the “good news” that only THROUGH JESUS CHRIST we have access to salvation.

The human birth of Jesus was the arrival of “the second Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:45-49). It is imperative that each of you carefully study the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 so as to fully understand the true meaning of the “gospel” Jesus preached.

Jesus came to this earth in human form to qualify where the “first Adam” failed. [Ultimately the risen and glorified Christ will replace Lucifer as the “god” of this world.] As we have seen, He came to die for the sins of the world and make salvation possible for human beings. He came to make it possible for us to SHARE HIS KINGDOM with him - - true followers of Christ are SONS OF GOD, HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST (Romans 8:14-17). Jesus came to bring us the “good news” that we TOO can inherit the glory that Christ has. He also came so as to die and be RESSURRECTED FROM THE DEAD so that we could grasp and understand our ultimate future and how it is to be accomplished.

At this point we need to consider what Paul further taught in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. God inspired Paul to write “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep (died), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we BELIEVE [**TRUST IN AND RESPOND TO GOD AS DID ABRAHAM - - Galatians 3:6**] that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus (those who have died in Christ). For we say to you BY THE WORD OF THE LORD, that we who are alive and remain (when Christ returns) until the coming of the Lord will by no means PRECEDE those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and the TRUMPET OF GOD. And the **dead** in Christ will rise first.” Now go back and read 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 again.

We must also cite Revelation 20:4-6 which reads “And they (the dead in Christ) lived (were resurrected) and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the REST OF THE DEAD (those who have NOT known Christ) DID NOT LIVE AGAIN (were not resurrected) UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE FINISHED. This is the first resurrection (referring to the resurrection of the dead in Christ). Blessed and holy is he who has part in this FIRST RESURRECTION. Over such the second death (eternal death) has no power, but they shall be priests of God and reign with Him a thousand years.” [SPECIAL NOTE: All of you reading this fit into one of these TWO CATEGORIES. Thus, the “dead in Christ” and those

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still living in Christ when Jesus returns to earth are those who have REPENTED OF THEIR SINS AND BELIEVED THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. Either you are one of those whom Christ recognizes as His people by the way you are living your life OR you will miss out on being among God’s firstborn and miss out on ruling with Christ during His millennial reign. You will either be IN or you will be LEFT OUT.] This then is the “gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Let us now get into specifics concerning THE GOSPEL JESUS PREACHED. Remember that Mark 1:15 says we are to REPENT (of our sins) and that we must BELIEVE the gospel Jesus preached. Again, the apostle Paul gets very specific in explaining what this gospel really is. Romans 8:6 states “For to be carnally (fleshly) minded is (leads to) death, but to be spiritually minded is life.” And “If anyone does NOT have the Spirit of Christ, HE IS NOT HIS (Christ’s)” [see verse 9]. And “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, THESE ARE THE SONS OF GOD” (verse 14). “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God” (verse 16). “And, if children then HEIRS - - HEIRS OF GOD and JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST” (verse 17).

Paul continues in verse 29 “For whom He (God) foreknew, He also PREDESTINED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON (Jesus Christ), that He might be the FIRSTBORN among many brethren.” [Remember that God created humans in His own image but in a physical state]. And verse 30, “moreover whom He predestined, these He also called: whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified He also glorified” (will glorify when Christ returns as we have seen previously - - see verse 30). Thus, clearly the “gospel” Jesus preached is the good news of HOW Jesus the Christ made it possible for us to be transformed from this flesh into the spirit bodies of the sons of God. If one carefully reads the entire New Testament FOR WHAT IT ACTUALLY SAYS, then one sees the “good news” that Jesus preached.

Those who are truly converted and are known by God becomes A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). Since God lists Abraham as the father of the faithful, let us review what Jesus taught about Abraham as found in John 8:56 which states “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see MY DAY, and he SAW IT and was glad.” Thus, we see that Abraham, who truly BELIEVED GOD and was reckoned as being RIGHTEOUS because of this belief, actually was privileged to ENVISION Christ as the coming Savior. Paul said that God “preached the GOSPEL (of salvation) to Abraham beforehand” (see Galatians 3:8). Clearly this verse states that this GOSPEL preached to Abraham [as well as many Old Testament saints] was that of grace, mercy and forgiveness that comes through Jesus Christ. It is evident then that the GOSPEL that Jesus preached was the process by which humans can be redeemed and enter the God family. That same message (gospel) was preached to Abraham and other Old Testament people who “saw” these promises “from afar” and BELIEVED Hebrews 11:13) You should carefully study all of Hebrews 11.

A REVIEW OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

The “gospel” or “good news” of the message Jesus preached was clearly foretold in many Old Testament prophecies. Following is a brief summary of many:

Jesus was to be born of the house of David: 11 Samuel 7:12-16, Psalm 89:3-4, 110:1-4, 132:11-14, Isaiah 9:6-7 and 11:1-5.

- Jesus was to be born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14
- Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem: Micah 5:2
- Jesus would sojourn in Egypt: Hosea 11:1
- Jesus was to be in Galilee: Isaiah 9:2 and 6-7
- Jesus came to “preach the good news of SALVATION: Isaiah 61:1-3
- Jesus came to make salvation available to the gentiles: Isaiah 42:1-4
- Jesus came to bear our sicknesses and diseases: Isaiah 53:1-8
- Jesus was to speak in parables: Isaiah 6:8-10 [see also Matthew 13:14, 15 and 35
- Jesus was to be reproached and rejected: Psalm 69:4 and 7-9; 118:22 and Isaiah 6:9-10 and 53:1-12
- Jesus was to have a triumphant entry into Jerusalem: Zechariah 9:9, Isaiah 62:11 compared With Matthew 21:1-

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- Jesus was to be smitten and pierced: Zechariah:13:7; 12:10 and Psalm 22:16
- Jesus was to be betrayed: Zechariah 11:12-13; Psalm 41:9 compared with Matthew 27:3-10
- Jesus would die with the wicked (sinners): Isaiah 53:9
- Jesus was given gall and vinegar to drink: Psalm 69:21
- Jesus had lots cast for His clothing: Psalm 22:18
- Jesus dying words foretold: Psalm 22:1
- Jesus was not to suffer one broken bone: Psalm 34:20 and Numbers 9:12 (the Passover lamb pictured the coming Christ as the true Passover lamb that was not to suffer a broken bone)
- Jesus was beaten so viciously He looked like hamburger meat: Isaiah 52:14; Psalm 22:7-8 and Isaiah 53:4-10

These are only a few of the Old Testament scriptures that speak of Jesus and the work He was to do to bring salvation to mankind. These are the things that all the Old Testament writers wondered about as they were inspired to write down these points (compare with Matthew 13:16-17).

Do you realize that THE WHOLE CREATION (all human beings who have ever lived on earth) is waiting for the revealing of the SONS OF GOD made possible by Jesus' life and death (Romans 8:19-23 - - please study these five verses very carefully to grasp the fact that the whole creation has been anxiously awaiting the ACTUAL FULFILLMENT of the “good news” Jesus preached, The vast majority of humans who have ever lived must wait until the few God the Father calls and qualifies for His family are brought into that family as spirit beings - -as we have already seen. If you are one of those whom the Father has called (see John 6:44), then all of creation is waiting for you to get your act together and enter the God family. If you are one of the many that are NOT called by God **at this time**, then you will have to wait until a later time for your chance for salvation. This will be a shock to many but MOST humans on earth are not being allowed to come to Christ during this present age because the Father has NOT called and chosen them, Thus, all the evangelistic efforts of Billy Graham and other “evangelists” are wasted. No human being can just “choose” to accept Christ. Christ made this crystal clear in John 6:44 (see John 12:40, Romans 11:7, 2 Corinthians 3”14 and 2 Corinthians 4:4).

If you have not submitted yourself to God, AS DID ABRAHAM, if you have not come to a condition of REPENTANCE as did Job (Job 42:5-6), if you have not come to ABHOR your carnal human nature as did the apostle Paul (Romans 7:24) and if you are not obeying the laws of God (1 John 3:4) then you do not have God's Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32) and will not be prepared to meet Christ when He returns to rule this earth Hebrews 5:9. You will not enter into eternal life when Christ returns but you will die and remain dead for the thousand years. If you refuse to REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel Jesus preached once given that chance, you will perish forever. The gospel of Jesus is just that simple.

The GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST is the message (good news) that humans can live beyond this human life and enter the very FAMILY of God [which will occur when Christ returns to earth] as spirit beings. God gives His Spirit only to those who OBEY Him (Acts 5:32). If you are not obeying God through His commandments, then you do not belong to God and will not be in His family. Every person reading this is still in the flesh. There is only one way you can pass from this flesh into life everlasting into the family of God. That is through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). This means that you must TOTALLY surrender yourself to God and demonstrate your TRUST and BELIEF in the “gospel” THAT JESUS PREACHED by the way you live your life - - the way of obedience to the laws of God. If you claim to know Christ and yet you are not obeying God through His laws, then you are cut off from God and not eligible for salvation. As Jesus said, “If you would [DESIRE] to enter into life you will keep the commandments (Matthew 19:16-17). The question each person must ask himself is “Do I want salvation GOD'S WAY, or do I want to merely choose to go my own way and cease to exist for all eternity by going the way that seems right to me and my church leaders? (see Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25). This is the GOSPEL that Jesus brought to this earth. We either conform to this gospel message or we lose out on salvation. It is just that simple. What decision will you make?

In summary then, the gospel Jesus preached is the GOOD NEWS message of how Jesus Christ came in the flesh to sacrifice Himself for the salvation of human beings. In doing this He also made it possible for humans to become eligible for salvation THROUGH HIM. In other words, through His coming in the flesh, dying, being buried, and being resurrected from the dead He made it possible for us humans [made in the image of God but in physical form] to become SONS OF

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GOD, HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST (Romans 8:17). Yet the entire “Christian” world has rejected the gospel of Jesus Christ and substituted its own beliefs, customs, and traditions. The apostle Paul warned that the apostasy had already begun even before he died (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). Paul predicted that a great and powerful FALSE [**apostate**] religious leader would arise that would apostatize the truths of God and deceive the whole world. This has happened through the Pope and the Catholic church and all its protesting daughters as it is the MOTHER OF HARLOTS (Revelation 17:5-6). False religious leaders [claiming to be “Christians”] formed an alliance with the Roman Empire and persecuted the true followers of Christ. The Roman Empire is the power that established the Roman Catholic Church. However, as the book of Revelation shows, there will be one final resurrection of this “HOLY” Roman Empire with the papacy as its “spiritual” head. As head of this empire, the papal position will conspire to rule the entire earth. It is during the reign of these first popes that the up-and-coming Catholic religion [beginning to gain some momentum in about 100 AD] changed the day on which it originally worshipped from the seventh day to the first day of the week in honor of Sol the “sun” god. During that time period God actually gave Satan the devil and this apostate church leader power over the very lives of God’s true saints who KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD (COMPARE Revelation 12:10-17). Pay careful attention to verse 17 which states clearly that God’s true people KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD AND HAVE THE TESTIMONY [THE GOSPEL] OF JESUS CHRIST.

The Catholic Encyclopedia records that it was the Catholic church [NOT GOD], by “authority” of the pope, that changed the official day of worship from the seventh day to Sunday. Nowhere does the Bible authorize such a change. In fact, those who attempt to worship the God of the Bible on Sunday are in defiance of the true God and promulgating a “false” gospel that God condemns. God says that those who preach such false gospels are accursed from God (see Galatians 1:8-9).

Let us then summarize the **gospel** that Jesus preached - - the “good news” or “glad tidings” that Christ brought to this earth. Let us use the words God inspired Peter to preserve as found in 1 Peter, 1 which reads as follows: [using the New American Standard translation]

“I, Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout PONTUS, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are CHOSEN.

“According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, THAT YOU MAY OBEY JESUS AND BE SPRINKLED WITH HIS BLOOD: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

“Blessed be the God and Father of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born anew TO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.

“To obtain AN INHERITANCE which is IMPERISHABLE and UNDEFILED and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

“[You] who are PROTECTED BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH FOR A SALVATION READY TO BE REVEALED **IN THE LAST TIME [days]**.

“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.

“That the PROOF OF YOUR FAITH, **BEING MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD**, which is perishable, even though tested by fire [trials], may be found to result in praise and glory AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST [the revelation of His “gospel” to you].

“And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but BELIEVE in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

“OBTAINING THE OUTCOME OF YOUR FAITH, THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.

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“As to this SALVATION, the prophets who prophesied OF THIS GRACE [THROUGH JESUS CHRIST] that would come to you through careful search [of the scriptures] and inquiry [or questioning]. (These prophets) seeking to know what manner of person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He [THE SPIRIT WITHIN THEM] predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glory to follow.

“It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you THROUGH THOSE [including Jesus Himself] WHO PREACHED THE **GOSPEL** [“GOOD NEWS”] to you by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven - - things into which angels long (desire) to look.

Verse 18: “Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold from your FUTILE WAY OF LIFE inherited from your (human) forefathers, BUT WITH PRECIOUS BLOOD, as of a Lamb UNBLEMISHED and SPOTLESS, **THE BLOOD OF JESUS**.

“For He was FOREKNOWN before the foundation of the world but **has appeared in these last days for the sake of you, who through Him (you) are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.**

“Since you have in obedience to the truth PURIFIED YOUR SOULS [through Christ] for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another FROM THE HEART. [Note: some translations state “From a CLEAN HEART]. For you have been born anew not of seed, which is perishable but IMPERISHABLE, that is, by the ABIDING WORD OF GOD [the “WORD of God is none other than Jesus Christ Himself].

“For, ‘*all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, **BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER.***’ **And this is the word which was preached to you** [by Jesus and all the apostles].”

The gospel that Jesus preached is the good news that humans can go from this temporary physical existence into immortality as a spirit being in the very family of God. The Jews of Christ’s day KNEW what He was teaching. They accused Him of blasphemy because He taught that humans could become members of the very God family. God inspired Paul to make it crystal clear that humans are PREDESTINED to become SONS OF GOD, HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST (see Romans 8:17 and 29-30).

Thus, if you are one of those whom God the Father has CALLED (see John 6:44) then you are predestined to become a very son of God in the very family of God provided you yield to God and serve Him faithfully through His laws. As Christ said, “If you would enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS!” That then is the good news (“gospel”) that Jesus brought to this earth and preached and the same gospel the original apostles preached! Each person then must decide whether he will accept the true teachings of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Bible or accept and follow the false teachings of their religious organization which God says has been deceived and blinded by Satan the devil (see 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Revelation 12:9).

The Jews and many “Christian” organizations have rejected the actual GOSPEL that Jesus taught and substituted a message about the COMING KINGDOM OF GOD. It must be remembered that Christ (by His ministry and what He is doing with His true followers) is AT THIS VERY MOMENT preparing for the time when His kingdom will be established on earth. Christ will be the King over that Kingdom. He has already QUALIFIED to be that king. But the THRUST OF His “gospel” [good news] message is that HUMANS ARE PREDESTINED TO BECOME SPIRIT BEINGS IN THAT KINGDOM. **HIS “GOSPEL” THEN IS THAT WE HUMANS BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THAT COMING REIGN OF CHRIST AS HIS RECONCILED SONS (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).** The point is most simple. Those whom the Father calls (John 6:44) must be trained and equipped for positions in that kingdom THAT IS YET TO COME. All the prophesies deal with CHRIST COMING IN THE FLESH TO CALL OUT AND TRAIN AND EQUIP A NUCLEUS WHO WILL THEN BE GIVEN POSITIONS IN HIS COMING KINGDOM (Revelation 20:6).

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The Jews and many others BYPASS JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PURPOSE IN COMING IN THE FLESH and try to jump all the way into the kingdom which is yet in the future. The "gospel" Jesus taught DEALS WITH HUMANS PRESENTLY IN THE FLESH AND TELLS US HOW WE ARE TO MAKE THAT TRANSITION FROM FLESH TO SPIRIT. The "gospel" of Jesus then is a specific message that we humans must REPENT OF OUR SINS and then BELIEVE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE JESUS BROUGHT AS TO HOW WE CAN PASS FROM THIS HUMAN LIFE INTO THE VERY FAMILY OF GOD AS SONS OF GOD, HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST. That, in a nutshell, is the "gospel" Jesus preached. We hope you can BELIEVE that GOOD NEWS!

With the foregoing in mind, it is evident that a companion article needs to be written concerning the Kingdom of God and how the Jews and many "Christians" BYPASSED CHRIST AND HIS MISSION AS SAVIOR. and jumped into the future when the literal kingdom will be established. Please take note: **JUST BELIEVING THAT GOD'S KINGDOM IS COMING TO THIS EARTH WILL NOT SAVE YOU. RATHER, YOU GAIN SALVATION ONLY THROUGH YOUR PERSONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST WHO LIVED, DIED AND WAS RESURRECTED AND GLORIFIED SO THAT YOU AND I CAN BE SAVED AND HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

In summary then we need to realize that the "Good News" Jesus preached is that THROUGH GOD'S GRACE [undeserved pardon of past sins] we humans will be given immortality and enter the very family of God. We cannot EARN salvation. It is available ONLY THROUGH GRACE!

May the God of grace enable you to grasp the truth of this message - - the truth about the GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

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THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

THE GENUINE OFFSPRING OF THE UNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HIS SPOUSE. THE CLAIMS OF PROTESTANTISM TO ANY PART THEREIN PROVED TO BE GROUNDLESS, SELF-CONTRADICTIONARY, AND SUICIDAL

"Halting on crutches of unequal size, One leg by truth supported, one by lies, Thus sidle to the goal with awkward pace, Secure of nothing but to lose the race."

In the present article we propose to investigate carefully a new (and the last) class of proof assumed to convince the Biblical Christian that God had substituted Sunday for Saturday for His worship in the new law, and that the divine will is to be found recorded by the Holy Ghost in apostolic writings.

We are informed that this radical change has found expression, over and over again, in a series of texts in which the expression, "the day of the Lord," or "the Lord's Day," is to be found.

The class of texts in the New Testament, under the title "Sabbath," numbering 61 in the Gospels, Acts, and Epistles; and the second class, in which "the first day of the week," or Sunday, having been critically examined (the latter class numbering nine [eight]); and having been found not to afford the slightest clue to a change of will on the part of God as to His day of worship by man, we now proceed to examine the third and last class of texts relied on to save the Biblical system from the arraignment of seeking to palm off on the world, in the name of God, a decree for which there is not the slightest warrant or authority from their teacher, the Bible.

The first text of this class is to be found in the Acts of the Apostles, 2d chapter, 20th verse: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord shall come." How many Sundays have rolled by since that prophecy was spoken? So much for that effort to pervert the meaning of the sacred text from

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the judgment day to Sunday! The second text of this class is to be found in 1st Epistle Cor., 1st chapter 8th verse: "Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that you may be blameless *in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ*," What simpleton does not see that the apostle here plainly indicates the day of judgment? The next text of this class that presents itself is to be found in the same Epistle, 5th chapter 5th verse: "To deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved *in the day of the Lord Jesus*," The incestuous Corinthian was, of course, saved on *the Sunday next following*!! How pitiable such a makeshift as this! The fourth text, 2d Cor., 1st chapter, 13th and 14th verse: "And I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus. *"Sunday or the day of judgment*, which? The fifth text is from St. Paul to the Philippians, 1st chapter, 6th verse: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who hath begun a good work in you, will perfect it *until the day of Jesus Christ*," The good people of Philippi, in attaining perfection *on the following Sunday*, could afford to laugh at our modern rapid transit!

We beg to submit our sixth of the class; viz., Philippians, first chapter, tenth verse: "That he may be sincere without offense *unto the day of Christ*." That day was *next Sunday*, forsooth! no so long to wait after all, The seventh text, 2 Ep. Peter, third chapter, tenth verse. "But *the day of the Lord* will come as a thief in the night." The application of this text to Sunday passes the bounds of absurdity. The eighth text, 2 Ep. Peter, third chapter, twelfth verse: "Waiting for and hastening unto *the coming of the day of the Lord*, by which the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved," etc. This day of the Lord is the same referred to in the previous text, the application of both of which to *Sunday next* would have left the Christian world sleepless the next Saturday night. We have presented to our readers eight of the nine texts relied on to bolster up by text of Scripture the sacrilegious effort to palm off the "Lord's Day" for Sunday, and with what result? Each furnishes *prima facie* evidence of the last day, referring to it directly, absolutely, and unequivocally.

The ninth text wherein we meet the expression "the Lord's Day," is the last to be found in the apostolic writings. The Apocalypse, or Revelation, first chapter, tenth verse, furnishes it in the following words of John: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day;" but it will afford no more comfort to our Biblical friends than its predecessors of the same series. Has St. John used the expression previously in his Gospel or Epistles? - Emphatically, NO. Has he had occasion to refer to Sunday hitherto? - Yes, twice. How did he designate Sunday on these occasions? Easter Sunday was called by him (John 20: 1) "*the first day of the week*." Again, chapter twenty, nineteenth verse: "Now when it was late that same day, *being the first day of the week*." Evidently, although inspired, both in his Gospel and Epistles, he called Sunday "the first day of the week." On what grounds, then, can it be assumed that he dropped that designation? Was he *more inspired* when he wrote the Apocalypse, or did he adopt a new title for Sunday, because it was now in vogue? A reply to these questions would be supererogatory especially to the latter, seeing that the same expression had been used eight times already by St. Luke, St. Paul and St. Peter, *all under divine inspiration*, and surely the Holy Spirit would not inspire St. John to call Sunday the Lord's Day, whilst He inspired Sts. Luke, Paul, and Peter, collectively, to entitle the day of judgment "the Lord's Day." Dialecticians reckon amongst the infallible motives of certitude, the moral motive of analogy or induction, by which we are enabled to conclude with certainty from the known to the unknown; being absolutely certain of the meaning of an expression can have only the same meaning when uttered the ninth time, especially when we know that on the nine occasions the expressions were *inspired by the Holy Spirit*.

Nor are the strongest intrinsic grounds wanting to prove that this, like its sister texts, contains the same meaning. St. John (Apoc. first chapter, tenth verse) says "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day;" but he furnishes us the key to this expression, chapter four, first and second verses: "After this I looked and behold a door opened in heaven." A voice said to him: "Come up hither, and I will show you *the things which must be hereafter*." Let us ascend in spirit with John. Whither? - through that "door in heaven," to heaven. And what shall we see? - "The things that must be hereafter," chapter four, first verse. He ascended in spirit to heaven. He was ordered to write, in full, his vision of what is to take place antecedent to, and concomitantly with, "the Lord's Day," or the day of judgment; the expression "Lord's Day" being confined in Scripture to the day of judgment exclusively.

We have studiously and accurately collected from the New Testament every available proof that could be adduced in favor of a law canceling the Sabbath day of the old law, or one substituting another day for the Christian dispensation. We have been careful to make the above distinction, lest it might be advanced that the 3rd (In the Catholic enumeration, the Sabbath commandment is the third of the ten commandments.) Commandment was abrogated under the New Law. Any such plea has been overruled by the action of the **Methodist Episcopal** bishops in their pastoral 1874 and quoted by the **New York Herald** of the same date, of the following tenor: "The Sabbath instituted in the beginning and confirmed again and again by Moses and the prophets, *has never been abrogated*. Apart of the moral law, not a part or tittle of its sanctity has been taken away." The above official pronouncement has committed that large body of Biblical Christians to the permanence of the 3rd commandment under the new law. We again beg to leave to call the special attention of our readers to the twentieth of "the thirty-nine articles of religion" of the **Book of Common Prayer**; "It is not lawful for the church to ordain anything that is contrary to God's *written word*."

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CONCLUSION

We have in this series of articles, taken much pains for the instruction of our readers to prepare them by presenting a number of *undeniable facts* found in the word of God to arrive at a conclusion absolutely irrefragable. When the Biblical system put in an appearance in the sixteenth century, it not only seized on the temporal possessions of the Church, but in its vandalic crusade stripped Christianity, as far as it could, of all the sacraments instituted by its Founder, of the holy sacrifice, etc., etc., retaining nothing but the Bible, which its exponents pronounced *their sole teacher* in Christian doctrine and morals. Chief amongst their articles of belief was, and is today, the permanent necessity of keeping the Sabbath holy. In fact, it has been for the past 300 years the only article of the Christian belief in which there has been a plenary consensus of Biblical representatives. The keeping of the Sabbath constitutes the sum and substance of the Biblical theory. The pulpits resound weekly with incessant tirades against the lax manner of keeping the Sabbath in **Catholic** countries, as contrasted with the proper, Christian, self-satisfied mode of keeping the day in Biblical countries. Who can ever forget the virtuous indignation manifested by the Biblical preachers throughout the length and breadth of our country, from every **Protestant** pulpit, as long as yet undecided; and who does not know today, that one sect, to mark its holy indignation at the decision, has never yet opened the boxes that contained its articles at the **World's Fair**?

These superlatively good and unctuous Christians, by conning over their Bible carefully, can find their counterpart in a certain class of unco-good people in the days of the Redeemer, who haunted Him night and day, distressed beyond measure, and scandalized beyond forbearance, because He did not keep the Sabbath in as strait-laced manner as themselves.

They hated Him for using common sense in reference to the day, and He found no epithets expressive enough of His supreme contempt for their Pharisaical pride. And it is very probably that the divine mind has not modified its views today anent the blatant outcry of their followers and sympathizers at the close of this nineteenth century. But when we add to all this the fact that whilst the Pharisees of old kept the *true Sabbath*, our modern Pharisees, counting on the credulity and simplicity of their dupes, *have never once in their lives kept the true Sabbath* which their divine Master kept to His dying day, and which His apostles kept, after His example, for thirty years steward, according to the Sacred Record.

This most glaring contradiction, involving a deliberate sacrilegious rejection of a most positive precept, is presented to us today in the action of the Biblical Christian world. The Bible and the Sabbath constitute the watchword of **Protestantism**; but we have demonstrated that it is *the Bible against their Sabbath*. We have shown that no greater contradiction ever existed than their theory and practice. We have proved that neither their Biblical ancestors nor themselves have ever kept one Sabbath day in their lives. The **Israelites** and **Seventh-day Adventists** are witnesses of their weekly desecration of the day named by God so repeatedly, and whilst they have ignored and condemned their teacher, the Bible, they have adopted a day kept by the **Catholic Church**. What **Protestant** can, after perusing these articles, with a clear conscience, continue to disobey the command of God, *enjoining Saturday to be kept*, which command his teacher, the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, records as the will of God?

The history of the world cannot present a more stupid, self-stultifying specimen of dereliction of principle than this. The teacher demands emphatically in every page that the law of the Sabbath be observed every week, by all recognizing it as "the only infallible teacher," whilst the disciples of that teacher have not once for over three hundred years observed the divine precept! That immense concourse of Biblical Christians, the **Methodists**, have declared that the Sabbath has never been abrogated, whilst the followers of the **Church of England**, together with her daughter, the [pg. 9] **Episcopal Church** of the United States, are committed by the twentieth article of religion, already quoted, to the ordinance that the Church cannot lawfully ordain anything "*contrary to God's written word*." God's written word enjoins His worship to be observed on *Saturday* absolutely, repeatedly, and most emphatically, with a most positive threat of death to him who disobeys. All the Biblical sects occupy the same self-stultifying position which no explanation can modify, much less justify.

How truly do the words of the Holy Spirit apply to this deplorable situation! "*Iniquitas mentita est sibi*" - "Iniquity hath lied to itself." Proposing to follow *the Bible only* as teacher, yet before the world, *the sole teacher* is ignominiously thrust aside, and the teaching and practice of the **Catholic Church** - "the mother of abomination," when it suits their purpose so to designate her - adopted, despite the most terrible threats pronounced by God Himself against those who disobey the command, "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath."

Before closing this series of articles, we beg to call the attention of our readers once more to our caption, introductory of each; viz., 1st-The Christian Sabbath, the genuine offspring of the union of the Holy Spirit with the **Catholic Church** His spouse. 2nd- The claim of **Protestantism** to any part therein proved to be groundless, self-contradictory, and suicidal.

The first proposition needs little proof. The **Catholic Church** for over one thousand years before the existence of a **Protestant**, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday. We say by virtue of her divine mission because He who called Himself the "Lord of the Sabbath," endowed her with His own power to teach, "he that heareth you, heareth Me;" commanded all who believe in Him to hear her, under penalty of being placed with "heathen

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and publican;" and promised to be with her to the end of the world. She holds her charter as teacher from Him - a charter as infallible as perpetual. The **Protestant** world at its birth found the Christian Sabbath too strongly entrenched to run counter to its existence; it was therefore placed under the necessity of acquiescing in the arrangement, thus implying the Church's right to change the day, for over three hundred years. The Christian Sabbath is therefore *to this day*, the acknowledged offspring of the **Catholic Church** as spouse of the Holy Ghost, without a word of remonstrance from the **Protestant** world.

Let us now, however, take a glance at our second proposition, with *the Bible alone* as the teacher and guide in faith and morals. This teacher *most emphatically forbids any change in the day for paramount reasons*. The command calls for a "*perpetual covenant*." The day commanded to be kept by the teacher *has never once been kept*, thereby developing an apostasy from an assumedly fixed principle, as self-contradictory, self-stultifying, and consequently as suicidal as it is within the power of language to express. Nor are the limits of demoralization yet reached. Far from it. *Their pretense* for leaving the bosom of the **Catholic Church** was for apostasy from the truth *as taught in the written word*. They adopted the written word as their sole teacher, which they had no sooner done than they abandoned it promptly, as these articles have abundantly proved; and by a perversity as willful as erroneous, they accept the teaching of the **Catholic Church** in direct opposition to the plain, unvaried, and constant teaching of their sole teacher in the most essential doctrine of their religion, thereby emphasizing the situation in what may be aptly designated "*a mockery, a delusion, and a snare*." **To be Continued in Issue #32**

(This article has been updated and re-printed from “The Church of God Messenger” January/February 2002— Issue No. 7)

Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Are You Sure Leaven Is Symbolic of Sin?

Article by John Leitch

Comments by Alfio La Spina (Victoria British Columbia)

Joh_13:26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

Joh_13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

Joh_13:30 He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

G5596 (Strong's)
ψωμίον
psōmion
pso-mee'-on

Diminutive from a derivation of the base of G5597; a crumb or morsel (as if rubbed off), that is, a mouthful: - sop.

Total KJV occurrences: 4

If the sop was a piece of bread, it was leavened because that was not the first day of Unleavened Bread.

Editor's Note: I think Strong's let us down. There should have been an explanation in Strong's to show that artos could include both leavened and unleavened bread. I think John W. Ritenbaugh has this right in his article titled "Was the Sop Leavened or Unleavened? (John 13:26-27)" See Issue #27. (Laura Lee)

In regard to: 5 Reasons Genesis 3:16 is Not a Model for Christian Marriage

Article by Eddie Hyatt
Comments by Name Withheld

Just went through the Crystal Burson response and your rebuttal. Just a private word to you that you handled that very well! That was one you spent a little time on this week. I can kind of relate to getting frustrated with those who, for some reason, just cannot see the overview. I see how we are in the very last days, and I send out a number of emails which show what is happening...so a proper response can be taken by those who receive them (Hosea 4:6 my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge). When someone just does not 'get it', I think and feel, 'what else can I do?!'.

So again, Laura and Darwin, hang in there, and keep serving!

In regard to: Was the Sop Leavened or Unleavened? (John 13:26-27)

Article by John W. Ritenbaugh
Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

As to the eating of leavened bread or unleavened bread the evening of the Passover observance on the 14th day of the month. People seem to forget that the sacrificial lamb was not eaten until the morning of the 15th. When all of the Israelite's would have their meal. And it was only then that they "had to eat" unleavened bread. As it was for the other 6 days. The daylight half of the 14th was the official time of getting rid of all leavening.

And it should be considered that the "sop" was dipped into stew. And there is no evidence given as to what meat was in the stew. Beef, chicken, fish, etc. And as Jesus "broke" the bread to dip into the stew, it could simply have been a whole loaf of baked bread, and he tore off pieces. I'm not sure if that would have worked so well with non-leavened loaves.

But each to their own. More major items are of greater concern on the menu.

Editor's Note: Though I do agree with the fact that all leavening had to be out of your house by the daytime part of the 14th, you need to keep in mind that days were reckoned from sunset to sunset. So, they wouldn't be eating the Passover Lamb on the morning of the 15th of Nisan. For proof of this read; "[Exo 34:25](#) Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the Passover be left unto the morning." Since the Passover meal could not be left over until morning, they would not be eating it in the morning part of the 15th. Also, since the wine represents Christ's blood and they partook of the bread and the wine that night, the bread was probably unleavened.
Laura Lee

Holy Days 2021

Trumpets - September 7, 2021
Atonement - September 16, 2021
Tabernacles - September 21 to 27, 2021
Last Great Day - September 28, 2021