

# The Sabbath Sentinel

NOVEMBER, 1981

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



# Why Is The Sabbath Important for Christians?

**T**HE weekly Sabbath day of rest is one of the most beneficial of God's blessings for His children. Unfortunately it is one that most Christians don't know about or don't accept. Any many who do accept it take it for granted or treat it very lightly.

Yet the Sabbath is vitally important for Christians! It is important, first of all, simply because God commands it. He specifically set aside the day at Creation: He "blessed the seventh day and made it holy" (Genesis 2:3, NEB).<sup>\*</sup> Over 2000 years later, when God began dealing with the nation of Israel, He considered the Sabbath rest to be so important that He included it among the cardinal principles He chose to engrave on stone as the Ten Commandments! In the New Testament Jesus reinforced the teaching and value of the Sabbath. He taught, "The sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27, 28).

It is important for Christians to keep the Sabbath simply because it is one of His commands—it is part of His will for His children. And, like all of God's laws, it is not an arbitrary restriction; rather, it was designed to set us free, for our good!

In recent decades researchers have begun learning how critical it is for us to cease from our labors, to have time each day, and especially each week, for a pause, for a recharging. We have only so much

mental and emotional capacity, and unless we periodically recharge ourselves, we will burn out and leave ourselves open to all kinds of physical and mental maladies. God knew when He created us what we needed—that is why He set aside a *day for man*—a holy day for man's benefit—for rest and rejuvenation.

Of course the importance of the Sabbath goes far beyond our physical and mental well-being. It is vital to our *spiritual growth!*

Because we are physical beings, we have to spend a good deal of time taking care of necessities of life—earning a living, rearing children, keeping up our homes, preparing meals, shopping, etc. All these activities the Christian can do in faith, as part of his overall spiritual relationship with God. Unfortunately, however, there are so many demands on our time that our human tendency is to become more and more involved with the physical—we're pressured to go, go, go seven days a week.

But at the end of every week the Sabbath is there to set us free from the physical. It's like a mandatory vacation—a commanded release from the world and its pulls—a whole day of freedom from all the demands of a busy week. In that day we're *free* to rest, to pray, to read and study, to fellowship with our families, to teach and pray with them.

On top of that, other Christians

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are free too—so we can fellowship, pray, worship, and study with them. There are no excuses for staying home (I'm too tired; I'm too busy; I have to work.)! For this is the day that God commands us to be free.

Of course we can and should do many of these things every day, but the Sabbath is special; it is time that God specifically sanctified; it's a day that God has ordained for mankind to set aside all other cares to be free to fellowship with Him and with one another.

The apostle Paul used the Sabbath throughout his ministry as a day for teaching and fellowship with Jews and Gentiles alike—even when he had to work all week to support himself (Acts 17:2; 18:4; 13:14, 42, 44). Jesus implied it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath (Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9). He used it for

teaching, for healing, for fellowship with others. We should follow His example and enjoy the freedom of this day to enhance our relationship with Him.

The Sabbath is important because it brings us regularly back to God's way! It is a discipline and a tool (like prayer, Bible study, fasting, and fellowship) that helps us grow in our relationship with God. Without using these tools we can easily drift; we can gradually let ourselves become enveloped by the physical cares and pressures of the twentieth century. But with a full day coming around every week, we are brought back to reality—spiritual reality. We're free to consider our relationship with God, to think about our priorities and values in life. We're free to fellowship and learn with other Christians (Heb. 10:25).

God knew we would need the Sabbath—that's why He commanded it—for our good, for our benefit.

Those who fail to use the Sabbath to enhance their relationship with God are missing out on one of the biggest blessings of the Christian way of life.

Those who do use it as God intended will grow to be more like Him. For the Sabbath as a whole day every week when men are free to fellowship with God on the time He made holy.

—Focus on Truth

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\*From The New English Bible © The Delegates of the Oxford University Press and the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press 1961, 1970.

# JERRY FALWELL

## & THE OLD-TIME GOSPEL HOUR

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24514

September 14, 1981

Eugene Lincoln  
1109 Holton Lane  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Dear Eugene,

Thank you for your letter to Dr. Falwell which has been forwarded to me for reply.

In response to your question and Sunday laws, first of all certainly we want to obey God's Word, the Bible, which says, "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." There are those who observe the Sabbath on Saturday, and we certainly think out of respect for their right to their religious expression, we ought to respect their right to observe that day for their Sabbath. In relation to Christians, most of whom believe that Sunday is the day we should observe as the Lord's Day, we certainly want to be careful that we do not get into legalistic prescriptions, such as the Pharisees did and whom Jesus condemned for putting so many burdens on people that they could not possibly keep them all. Certainly a respect for Sunday as the Lord's Day, worshipping in the Church together with other Christians, taking time to visit the sick and to spend time with ones family, to do those things that are up lifting to the spirit and which will glorify God and bring good to our fellow man-these are the kinds of things that we would certainly recommend in observance of the Lord's Day. It is, after all, the day in which our Lord rose from the dead and this makes Christianity different from all other religions, namely that we have a living Lord and Saviour.

We thank you for your inquiry and sincerely appreciate your interest in the Old-Time Gospel Hour ministry.

Your friend in Christ,



Daniel L. Barlow, Ed.D.  
Correspondence Department

DLB/ns

The International Radio and Television Outreach of Thomas Road Baptist Church

*"Just to have faith in Jesus is not enough"*

## The Sabbath—A Universal Ordinance

BY VOY WILKS

**T**HERE are a number of objections to the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, and they are quite sincerely made. One of these objections is that the Sabbath of the seventh day was not given to the Gentiles, but only to the Jews (or to Israel). Therefore the Sabbath was never intended as a universal ordinance, it is said. The fact that the people who advance these objections are sincere in this belief has no bearing on whether it is really true or not. So let us give some consideration to this.

Remember Jonah? He was swallowed by the big fish because he ran from his obligation to go to Nineveh and preach to its people. Were these people Jewish? No, they were Assyrians; sometimes the enemies of the Jewish people. Yet Yahweh required Jonah to go and preach. "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed."

But surprise! They repented! Of what? I cannot say with certainty of what they repented, but it does seem to be a reasonable assumption to say that they repented of their sins, since sin is transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4), and the Decalog is the most important part of His law. Then we can assume that these Ninevites repented of breaking those Ten Commandments. The fourth commandment is included in those ten, remember—the one that

says, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." This, it would seem, has a universal application.

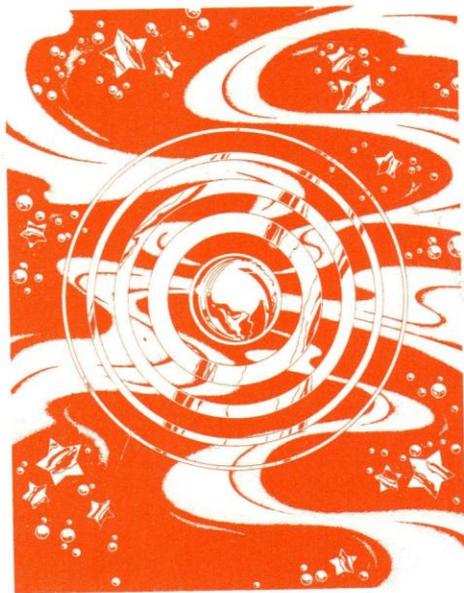
Again, notice Isaiah's words:

"Thus says the Lord: Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed" (Isaiah 56:1, RSV).

This is a prophetic statement of the end time. To continue:

"Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil. Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, 'The Lord will surely separate me from his people; and let not the eunuch say, 'Behold I am a day tree.' For thus says the Lord: 'To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which shall not be cut off.

"And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their



burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples' " (verses 2-7).

Peoples—plural, not just Israel. Am I mistaken in thinking that I see a universal application of the Sabbath in this chapter?

As for the burnt offerings and sacrifices, do not be surprised about this. Let me refer you to Ezekiel's prophetic statements of the future—after the return of Christ—when sacrifices will be offered. There are at least eight proofs that this is future.

So, maybe Exodus 20 and Isaiah 56 is why they will sing not only the song of the Lamb, but also the song of Moses (Revelation 15:3).

Paul's statement in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 is very often cited: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness: that

the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (KJV).

Paul is not referring to any portion of the New Testament. No, he is referring to such scriptures as Isaiah 56 and the books of Moses. Some of the New Testament had not been written at the time Paul wrote this. It was Timothy's mother and grandmother who taught him from childhood "the holy scriptures" (of the Old Testament), which are able to bring salvation through Christ (2 Timothy 3:14, 15; 1:5).

Now, we can understand why the book of Revelation says, "Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, *those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*" (Revelation 14:12, RSV).

Just to have faith in Jesus is not enough. We must also keep the Father's commandments.

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## A Time for Thanks

**D**URING the lean days of the early and middle 1930s my mother and I may not have missed any meals, but we had many lean ones. One time we had on our dinner table just a bottle of catsup—nothing to put it on, but just the catsup. On several Thanksgiving days when we gave thanks for our dinner, we added a request to bless the Salvation Army, which had provided it. I still have a great admiration for this organization and its work.

Our table is usually fuller every day nowadays than it was then on festive occasions. We praise our Maker for this and other tangible blessings. But most of all, we thank Him for the salvation He made possible by dying for our transgressions that we might have the life that only He can give. This makes material blessings fade into insignificance.

But we need not wait until Thanksgiving Day to show our gratitude. Each Sabbath day, and each weekday, we can do this. With the psalmist, we should "praise him for his mighty acts" and for "his excellent greatness" (Psalm 150:2).

Eugene Lincoln



### THE SABBATH SENTINEL (USPS 474-580)

EDITOR ..... Eugene Lincoln  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR ..... Gilbert Sanford

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

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

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

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

# Write to Your Congressman About This Bill

97th Congress—1st Session

## H.R. 254

To amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide increased protection to employees' religious observances and practices.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 5, 1981

MR. GUYER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

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## A BILL

To amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide increased protection to employees' religious observances and practices.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 701(j) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is amended by striking out "he is unable to reasonably accommodate to an employee's or prospective employee's religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business." and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "no accommodation for such employee's religious observance or practice is possible without severe pecuniary or other material loss to such employer."*

Please study this bill, introduced last January, and write to your Congressman, recommending its adoption

# Orchids and Onions

—A. W. Burns,  
Schenectady, N.Y.

I am enclosing a gift of \$25 to provide THE SABBATH SENTINEL for hospitals or laundromats or for anyone who cannot afford to pay for them.

—(Name Withheld)  
Michigan

I really enjoyed the last SENTINEL. It was inspiring to read the testimonies. I would like to get a few extra copies of the August SENTINEL for distribution.

—George Bowser,  
Dodge Center, Minn.

Enclosed is my check for member contribution. We feel that we shouldn't be without THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

—Paul H. Blews,  
Delmont, Penn.

I am sending a money order to assist the Lord's work for the Sabbath, the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, and salvation by grace through faith. Keep up the labour of love for God and man.

—Mrs. R. E. Wood,  
Grand Pre, Nova Scotia

It is just two days to my 75th birthday, so I am sending my renewal to the subscription to the very fine SABBATH SENTINEL. I am just now in the process of easing up my work, which has become impossible because of lack of help, so I hope that soon I may be able to communicate more with you.

My prayers are with you, and kindest regards to everyone on the Bible Sabbath Association.

In reply to your request for subscribers to express their feelings regarding to pictures of the Messiah, I can only say that I ignore them as I realize that they are only pagan and not according to Revelation 1:13-17.

I am also adding something else. A check to pay for the subscription of THE SABBATH SENTINEL, which is due this July 30, 1981, my birthday. On that day I shall be 87 years old and in my 64th year of a happy marriage.

We, my wife and I, enjoy the SENTINEL very much and hope to be around much longer to enjoy it more.

—John H. Reed,  
Averill Park, N.Y.

The SENTINEL for August was another fine issue. In fact, we have to admit the past several years have seen a marked improvement in design and material. Praise Yah for this lovely witness to His blessed Sabbath day!

You may use this "orchid" in a future issue.

I am enclosing my article on "The Number Seven," if Yahweh be pleased to have it published for the blessing of its many readers.

It has been quite a while since we have seen an article by former President Terril Littrell. Is he "snowed under" with his other duties?

And thanks again for your shorts each month. My wife and I enjoy them.

—Warren M. Ziegler,  
Philadelphia, Penn.

# A Lesson From Sugar

BY JANYCE LYNN ROYALTY

WHILE reading in my favorite chair the other afternoon, I glanced down to see my furry little dog, Sugar, stretched out on the floor. It was a warm spring day, and she looked completely contented in her unusual pose. She was on her back, and her hind legs were spread apart, forming a "U." The pinkness of her overly hairy tummy seemed to be grasping for the coolness of an occasional breeze. Her tail was curled around toward her back, and as her body lay twisted, her left shoulder and paw rested on the floor. Her other front leg stuck straight up and then doubled back like a limp wrist. With her head tossed way back, she crushed one ear against the floor; the other was flopped back over the top of her head, exposing the nakedness of her inner ear. Her eyes were shut, and her mouth was almost closed, exposing her crooked tooth. Occasionally she twitched a muscle with apparent dreams of a dog treat or bone.

Placing my book down on my lap, I thought to myself: If I could only be like her; such contentment, such peace. No worries, no bills to pay, no yard to weed, or floor to mop. No dinner to fix. Nothing to do but eat, sleep, and share love.

I've been careful to see that she gets her daily dog food, and she seems to have no trouble in getting

her sleep, but the love—

Oh yes, I love Sugar! In fact, I care about that little dog as much as I've ever cared for any animal, and I would feel sick if anything ever happened to her.

By nature she is a very loving animal. In fact, sometimes I refer to her as the "fastest tongue in the west." Once, after I had been gone for a couple of days and returned, her whole rear end was going a mile a minute, and as she showered me with her "kisses" I felt like I had just taken a sticky bath.

But as my thoughts continued, I asked myself, Would I *really* be happy only to eat, sleep, and love—if I were to receive only the love, time, and attention I give her on a regular basis? No, I don't think so. In fact, if our places were reversed, and even if I received twice the attention she gets from me, I would be loudly complaining and would surely feel slighted and hurt.

Then it hit me: I've been spending about the same amount of time in love and play with her as I have been spending in prayer. And I realized how terribly hurt my God must feel.

Then, as Sugar rolled over on her other side and yawned, I got down on my knees and prayed.

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**JANYCE ROYALTY**

Photo by Stephen K. Wolfe

# The Truth About Sabbath And Sunday

BY PASTOR ALEX D. RATNAM

**M**OST Christians now believe that Sunday is the real day of worship as ordained by the Creator of the universe. They are ignorant of what the Holy Bible teaches regarding the Sabbath and what the leaders who observe Sunday declare about it. The priests and pastors have not revealed to them the difference between the Sabbath, the seventh day, and Sunday, the first day of the week. Consider what the Holy Scriptures say:

“Her priests have violated My law, and have profaned Mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them” (Ezekiel 22:26, Holy Name Bible).\*

In this article I have tried to show the difference between these two days. It is arranged to show in one column what the Holy Scriptures each about the Sabbath and in another column what prominent leaders of Sundaykeepers define and pronounce about Sunday so that readers can judge for themselves which day is holy, and which is unholy, or profane; which day is the true Sabbath and day of worship, and which is the false Sabbath and not the real day of worship.

## Sabbath

1. Sabbath is the seventh day of the Creation week (Genesis 2:2).

2. It is the day of Sabbath rest (Genesis 2:2; Exodus 34:21).

3. “Elohim blessed the seventh day and sanctified it” (Genesis 2:3).

4. “Yahweh blessed the sabbath-day and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:11). He called it “My holy day” (Isaiah 58:13).

5. “The seventh day is the sabbath of Yahweh, thy Elohim” (Exodus 20:10).

6. Sabbath was instituted by Yahweh in the beginning of Creation (Genesis 2:3).

7. Sabbath stands as a memorial of the great creation work of the first week of time and pays homage to the Creator (Exodus 20:11).

8. “And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am Yahweh your Elohim” (Ezekiel 20:20; see also Exodus 31:17).

9. “The Son of Man [Messiah] is Master also of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:28).

10. Yahweh declared that the Sabbath is “My holy day” (Isaiah 58:13), and John the Revelator said that Sabbath is Yahweh’s day” (Revelation 1:10, KJV, RSV, NEB, NIV, and other versions).

11. "The Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27) and not for Jews only. It is given for heathen too (Isaiah 56:2-8). It is the Sabbath rest for man and beast (Exodus 20:10).

12. "Remember the sabbath-day to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8).

13. Sabbath was kept by Yahowah (Genesis 2:3, Hebrews 4:4); by Yahshua (Luke 4:16; women believers (Luke 23:55, 56); apostles and early believers (Acts 15:21); the apostle Paul for the gentiles (Acts 17:2, Romans 11:13).

14. When Jerusalem and the temple had to be destroyed by the Romans as prophesied by the Messiah, and the believers had to flee from there, He said, "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath" (Matthew 24:20). Why?

15. "There remaineth therefore the keeping of the Sabbath to the people of Elohim" (Hebrews 4:9).

16. "Two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of Elohim" contain the Decalogue, of which the fourth commandment pertains to the keeping of the Sabbath (Exodus 31:18).

17. On the new earth "from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith Yahweh" (Isaiah 66:22-23). "There remaineth therefore the keeping of the Sabbath to the people of Elohim" (Hebrew 4:9).

## Sunday

1. Sunday is the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1).

2. It is the first day of six working days (Exodus 20:9; 34:21). Sunday is a man-made day of rest. "Constantine the Great made a law for the whole empire (A.D. 321) that Sunday should be kept as a day of rest" (*Encyclopedia Americana*, art. "Sabbath").

3. Sunday is a working day, hence a secular day (Exodus 20:9). "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify" (Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers*, page 111).

4. Sunday is not a holy day. "The Catholic Church of its own infallible authority created Sunday a holy day to take the place of the Sabbath of the old law. (*Kansas City Catholic*, Feb. 9, 1893).

5. Sunday was originally kept in honor of the sun god. "Let all judges and town people, and the occupation of all trades rest on the venerable day of the Sun" (Constantine's Law).

6. The first Sunday law was passed by Emperor Constantine on March 7, A.D. 321.

7. "The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church" (*Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, by Mgr. Segur, page 213).

8. By observing Sunday as the day of worship, people acknowledged papal authority instead of the authority of Yahweh.

9. Sunday observance indicates the authority of the pope, who thought "to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25, KJV) and "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called Elohim, or that is worshipped; so that he as the Almighty sitteth in the temple of Yahweh showing himself that he is the Mighty One" (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4).

10. Sunday is a Catholic institution and so the Roman Church and Protestants claim it as their own day of worship.

11. Sunday observance is meant only for the Catholic Church and her daughters, the Protestants, according to their claim.

12. Sunday is kept not as a holy day but as a holiday. Catholics are restricted only to attend mass on Sunday, after which they may spend the rest of the day as they wish.

"Constantine the Great made a law for the whole empire (A.D. 321) that Sunday should be kept as a rest day in all cities and towns; but he allowed the country people to follow their work" (*Encyclopedia Americana*, Art. "Sabbath").

13. "Is there no express commandment for observing the first day of the week as Sabbath, instead of the seventh day? None whatever. Neither [Messiah] nor the

apostles nor the first Christians celebrated the first day of the week" (*New York Weekly Tribune*, May 24, 1900).

14. The temple of Jerusalem was destroyed by General Titus in A.D. 70, almost 40 years after Messiah's resurrection and ascension. So the disciples were praying and keeping the Sabbath for these 40 years after the Messiah's resurrection and ascension.

Messiah did not ask the believers to pray that their flight would not be on Sunday, neither did the disciples pray or keep Sunday all the 40 years after His resurrection.

15. Sunday is meant for the exclusive observance of the Roman Catholic Church and her daughters, whereas the Sabbath remains for the keeping of the people of Elohim only.

16. "The observance of the first, instead of the seventh, day rests on the testimony of the [Roman] Church and the Church alone" (*Hobart Church News* [Episcopalian] July 2, 1894).

17. What will be the fate of the followers of Sundaykeeping in the new earth? What will happen to the observance of Sunday then? Let the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestants answer for themselves.

#### NOTE

\*All scripture references not otherwise indicated given are from The Holy Name Bible. Copyright © 1963 by Scripture Research Association.

Holy name used for Jehovah is Yahowah (Yahweh in Holy Name Bible); for His son, Yahshua Messiah; for God, Elohim.

*Editor's Note: Pastor Alex D. Ratnam lives in Hyderabad, India. He is a long-time SENTINEL subscriber.*

You have an important appointment. Don't be

## One Day Late

BY EUGENE LINCOLN

**F**OR almost twenty-eight years my wife and I have gotten along remarkably well, compared with other couples we have observed. We are thankful for this.

But sometimes we seem to operate on different wavelengths. She feels that it is not a matter of wavelengths at all, but that I simply have my "receiver" turned off many times when she is trying to tell me something.

A few days ago we had planned to eat lunch together. Usually she gets out from work for lunch from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

"Now remember," she told me, "that today I'll get my lunch hour from 11 to 12 o'clock."

"Uh huh," I replied, but my mind was many megahertz off her frequency.

Just a few moments after the noon hour I was at the assigned place. I waited for five minutes. She did not appear. Ten more minutes. Still no sign of her. At 12:30 I gave up and went home to make myself a cheese sandwich. Of course I could have gone in without her, but I don't like to eat in a cafeteria by myself.

When she came home that evening, we both asked each other in unison: "Where were you?" But she continued from there. "I told you I would have my lunch hour early."

That caught me by surprise. "You did?" I asked. "When did you say that?"

"When we were discussing it this morning." And then—with a slight note of irritation—she continued, "Weren't you listening to me?"

Of course I avoided *that* loaded

question!

Listening to directions and being on time for appointments seem to be two important requisites in social and business life. Jobs are lost and won, business deals made or unmade, and friendships strained by possession or lack of them.

If listening and being on time are important in our dealings with each other, how much more important they must be when we are dealing with our Creator!

Many years ago when the Lord created the earth, He finished His work on the sixth day. Perhaps *finished* is not the proper word, for still something else needed to be made—something that would last throughout eternity as a memorial of His creative power.

So "on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day. . . . So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it" (Genesis 2:2, 3).<sup>\*</sup> When the Lord blesses something, it becomes an object of His special regard (see Psalm 33:12 and Luke 1:28 for two examples). To *hallow* something means to make it holy. Later, when the Lord thundered the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai and then wrote them on tables of stone with His own finger, He used similar wording: ". . . the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:11).

In this Fourth Commandment He gave instructions. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a

sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work. . . ." (Exodus 20:8-11).

As mentioned before, God intended the Sabbath to be an everlasting memorial of His creation of the world in six days. (Exodus 31:16, 17; Isaiah 66:22, 23; Matthew 5:17, 18). It was to be a "sign" between Him and His followers that He can sanctify (hallow or make holy) them as well as He can a day (Ezekiel 20:12, 20). When we remember the Sabbath, we acknowledge the Lord as our Creator and Redeemer.

So it can be said that the Lord has made an appointment with His people to meet with them one day each week as they draw near to Him in worship and praise. We need this weekly rest to revitalize our spiritual lives as well as to prepare us physically for the week ahead.

But how would you feel if you made an appointment with a friend on a certain day and he showed up, not an hour or two, but a whole day late? Would you wonder if he had listened to you?

Note carefully the wording of the Fourth Commandment: ". . . the *seventh* day is a sabbath to the Lord your God." Now look at a calendar, noticing which day is the seventh day. Is it Sunday, the day which most Christians observe? No. This comes as a surprise to many people, though the calendar has been there proclaiming the fact all along. The seventh day is Saturday.

What, then, has happened? Has the calendar been changed? A check in history books will show that the only change since the time of Christ has been from the Julian to the Gregorian, and it had no effect of the days of the week. The Jews have kept track of the week for thousands of years and they recognize Saturday as the Sabbath.

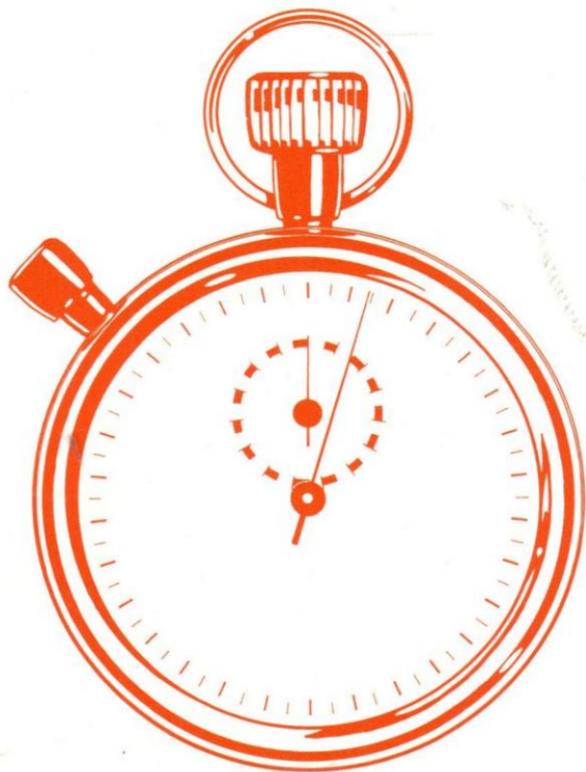
Then did Jesus change the Sabbath from the seventh day, Saturday, to Sunday, the first day?

No, He did not; in fact, He kept the Sabbath regularly (Luke 4:16). Then what about the apostle Paul? No, again. He also kept the Sabbath years after Jesus' resurrection (Acts 17:2).

Paul had an excellent opportunity to announce any change that had been made in the day of worship. He and his co-worker Barnabas had preached to the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia on the Sabbath. Hearing about it, the Gentiles asked him to preach the sermon to them. He might have said, "All right. Tomorrow—the new Christian day of worship—I'll speak to you." But he did not. Instead he preached to them "the next sabbath" (Acts 13:14, 42, 44).

Only eight texts in the New Testament mention Sunday (called "the first day of the week" in those times), and not one of them gives any evidence of its being the new day of worship. In one the disciples were locked in a room for fear of the Jews, who had just crucified their Master (John 20:19). In another (which was actually a Saturday night meeting—see the New English Bible) Paul preached to believers at Troas until midnight, since he was leaving them (Acts 20:7).

So all evidence points to Sunday observance as coming into the Christian Church after New Testament times. A look at church history confirms this. Writers are almost unanimous in saying that at first just the Sabbath was observed by Christians; later some began observing both the seventh day and the first day—the former as a day of fasting and prayer and the latter as a day of rejoicing. Many of the early converts were former adherents of Mithraism, in which the sun was an important object of worship and "Sun-day" was a special day. These new half-Christian, half-pagan church members exerted a strong influence on early church customs.



Sunday observance was one result.

So we must make a choice. On one hand the Lord has told us to keep holy the seventh day—Saturday. On the other hand, we have the record of men, without any divine authority, attempting to change God's command. They chose not to listen to Him.

An amazing thing is that at least two prophecies—one in the Old Testament and one in the New—predicted that someone would seek to water down the gospel of Christ and to dilute it with man-made doctrines. Daniel 7:25 speaks of an attempt "to change the times and the law." The apostle Paul warned of those who would "draw away the

disciples after them" (Acts 20:29, 30), and repeated a similar caution in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

God has said that He has an appointment with us each seventh day of the week, and He asks that on that day we forget our weekday worries, cares, and duties and remember Him in praise, prayer, and Christian fellowship.

But many Christians are one day late for their appointment. What about you? Are you listening? Are you willing to be on time? Why not talk this matter over with your Lord in prayer? And then—with His help—why not resolve to meet with Him—*on time*?

# Is It Wrong to Have Pictures of Christ?

BY JOHN H. REED

God seems so far off that most people think they must have some representation of Christ or some saint to pray to with reality. So thousands of idols, images, and pictures are in homes, Bibles and churches to remind people of Christ or some Biblical personage they are praying to.

Exodus 20:4, 5 says, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or likeness of any thing that is in heaven above [note, the command is against any likeness, no matter what form], or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them." The worship of God must not be through idols, images, or pictures.

God commanded the Israelites just before they entered the Promised Land: "Then ye shall drive out the inhabitants of the land before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places" (Numbers 33:52).

Not only did Jesus teach the commandments of God (Matthew 19:16-22), but His apostles also did (1 John 2:3, 4). Therefore, it is no wonder that those individuals converted by Christ and the apostles kept the commandments—including the second. Early Christians of all ranks regarded the painting or representation of Christ as profanity and an act of irreverence. They took the same stand as the Jews as far as art was

concerned. They needed no images or pictures to remind them of Christ or the Father. Jesus had said that those who worship Him must do so "in spirit and in truth." The only mediator between man and the Father is Christ; there is no need of intermediate pictures or images.

Not until the Council of Constantinople, in A.D. 842, were the last vestiges of opposition to images and pictures stamped out. From that time until the present, most of professing Christianity has sanctioned images and the like in its churches.

The "Christ" you see portrayed in pictures and images today is an effeminate-looking individual with long hair. There are some differences in portraying Him among the different artists, but generally He is the same. But is the common picture we are used to seeing actually the way Christ appeared while on this earth? Did He really have long hair and an effeminate look?

The very first pictures found of Christ were painted on the walls of the catacombs of Rome. Most of these pictures were painted during the second and third centuries and, it might be added, outside the approval of the Catholic Church. It is true that they should not have been drawn, but still there is something interesting in them for us today, for they show Christ in an entirely different form than we are accustomed to seeing Him.

How does Christ actually look today? Christ does not look like the

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pagan gods of Greece or Rome as the world portrays Him today. There is no resemblance whatsoever. If you want a true Biblical picture of our Saviour, turn to Revelation 1:13-16. There is the real Christ. It is a description that no artist could paint or any sculptor mold. This is the Christ who has a face that shines as the sun in its full strength. He was so bright that John "fell at His feet as dead" when he saw Him (Revelation 1:17). Here is Christ in His full power and glory—the Christ of the Bible. And this is the way He will appear when He comes back to this earth with all His glory (Matthew 24:30). Most people will be

looking for a false Christ—the one pictured today. What a shock they will have when the real Christ is revealed!

Our so-called Christian worship is saturated with pagan fasts, feasts, and festivals, thanks to our leaders who rest their faith on the all-sufficiency of the Bible but hold to other writings such as the "divine tradition" of the Roman Church and hold their Sunday and Easter Sunrise services, helping unbelievers to see that modern churchianity, with its meaningless mummeries so repulsive to thinking people, is not the Christianity of Christ and His apostles.



# A Priceless Commodity

BY FLOYD L. SODEN

**T**IME is strictly a commodity and should be treated as such. It was given to us by the grace of God, and He grants it to us to use as we see fit. By this use we earn money for the commodities that are necessary to our survival. By the same use of time we earn our standing not only in our community but also before God.

Properly used, we will receive in return the promise of eternal life. Wrongly used, the opposite is the result.

I have never lost a day's work because of my stand on the Sabbath, nor have I been refused a position because of my convictions about God's holy day. I was refused one position—not because I wouldn't work on the Sabbath, but because the prospective employer wouldn't let any employee say what he or she would or would not do.

In approaching any interview for a position, remember that you have a "commodity" for sale—you time. Have you ever gone into a store and tried to buy an item, only to learn that it was for display only and not for sale?

I have only six days of time for sale each week; this does not include God's holy day—it is for my "display." How I use that display will have more impact on others than how much I could earn by selling it.

My "time for sale" has been in order to receive the necessities of life. There are exceptions to all

things: doctors, nurses, aids, etc. We cannot prevent sickness, accidents, and other emergencies on the Sabbath any more than we can stop the rivers from flowing or the cow from giving milk. But the true in heart can retain the Sabbath—not sell it—and still survive with God's blessing. After all, God made the earth and all that is in it in six days, so surely we can get our little bit done in six days, and not sell our Sabbath (it was made for man!) for a paltry sum.

The public, as a whole, will honor your convictions if you live up to them. If you aren't convinced, you cannot convince others—and that makes a different story!

## COVER PICTURE

Artwork for this month's cover picture is by Jonathan Lincoln. Jon, a senior at Takoma Seventh-day Adventist Academy, works part-time at Review and Herald Publishing Association, in Washington, D.C. He divides his spare time among his Volkswagen, Kawasaki, and hi-fi. His future plans are in the area of commercial art.

# Sabbatarian Singer Witnesses in Midwest Towns

Last year I performed for a church in Wabash, Ohio. I was honored in this function in providing 40 minutes of musical sermon. I never thought I'd have the opportunity to preach in song, but there it was. I'm not a preacher and I certainly don't push my personal beliefs onto others, but I do enjoy singing great songs. I hope to write a few some day.

I have performed for free, but most of the time I do receive pay, depending on the budget of the organization. When I could afford it I would visit the Dayton Veterans Administration Hospital and put on hour shows for members of the nursing home care units. Visiting nursing homes was also a part of my part-time enjoyment (when I could afford it).

Senior citizens' organizations have also hired me for a number of their functions.

Recently I had the opportunity to perform for a family get together in Blooming Grove, Ind. The social was in honor of the parents, in their 80's, of a friend of mine. The family members are members of the local Baptist church of Blooming Grove, and they wanted to hear some of the church tunes of the past: "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," etc. A few family members joined in, and most of the afternoon was spent singing songs of their selection.

I had planned on simply providing background music while lunch was being served, but when requests started coming, gospel tunes had priority. We had a great time, and the parents truly enjoyed the activity.

I enjoy singing songs that bring hope to all people. I have a desire someday to travel to other countries and sing songs of hope. A better

world is coming, and as each day passes the message of that better world must be proclaimed. Helping each other now gives us a taste of what things will be like later on following the return of Jesus Christ.

With God's help I would certainly like to develop my talents in the music field. For the past five years I have provided for my family in this way. I perform for dinners during the week—one or two days—and perform sing-a-longs on Sunday evenings at a local social club in Fairborn, Ohio. I've had to discontinue performing at a number of places because of improper conduct of those who were present. I'm trusting God to provide better places of employment in the future.

—Steve Wyke  
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# *What do you make of it?*



We all see things differently. But, then, we've been looking at things in a different light ever since we started the Bible Sabbath Association.

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