

The Good News

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The *MARK* of the BEAST ... it is here, NOW!

Better be *sure* whether this brand is upon *you*! Without it, no man will be able to buy or sell! Without it, you will be tortured even to death! But *with* it, you shall suffer the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

SOME say this mystic "mark" is the fasces on our dimes. During World War II many said it was Hitler's swastika. During the Depression New Deal many said it was Roosevelt's NRA!

No subject has intrigued—and baffled—more people in our generation. Thousands of sermons have been preached on it—by professed ministers and evangelists who themselves *did not know what it is!* Millions have been curious.

The average sermon on this subject considers one text of Scripture, *only!*

Only Text Usually Read

This is the sole passage ordinarily quoted:

"And he (the second "bcast") causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a MARK in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." (Rev. 13:16-17.)

From this one passage the speaker customarily uses his imagination. The general idea seems to be that since you will not be able to buy or sell without this mysterious *mark*, and since we all wish to be able to buy and sell, there-

fore we ought to do all in our power to *receive this mark!*

But here is an additional passage they neglect to show you:

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, —seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up *the wrath of God* . . . And the seven angels came out of the temple, *having the seven plagues*, . . . And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the WRATH OF GOD upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore *upon the men which had the mark of the beast*, and upon them which worshipped his image." (Rev. 15:1,6, and 16:1-2).

If you *do* have the "mark of the beast," you will be terribly punished, without mercy, by GOD—you will receive the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES!

How to Tell What It Is!

There are many *more* references to this subject in the Bible. Instead of looking at one passage only, then turning away from God's own revelation of this mystery, and using human imagina-

tion and fancy to conjure up the many ridiculous conclusions being foisted upon a deceived public by men devoid of understanding, let us see what GOD says this MARK really is!

Make no mistake, GOD TELLS US PLAINLY what it is! It is unmistakably, clearly revealed and explained IN THE BIBLE! But to find GOD'S ANSWER, we must have before us *all of the Scriptures* referring to this subject!

First, from the text universally quoted (Rev. 13:16-17), notice this: the "mark" is something that will be very popular—something the majority of people will be in favor of, will seek—which custom will approve as RIGHT—because no man will be allowed to "buy or sell," unless he receives this "mark."

Everyone wants to be able to "buy or sell." In this scriptural usage the expression "buy or sell" more literally indicates *being able* to buy—not that stores or those from whom one might make purchases of the necessities of life would refuse to accept the money, but that the one refusing the "mark" would not be able to buy, would not be able to earn a living, to earn a wage or salary, or to engage himself in business.

The "mark of the beast," then, has

direct bearing on ability to engage in business, or to hold a job and earn a living.

But let's look at *all* the facts God reveals on the subject—*all* the Scriptures bearing on it.

What Is the Beast?

First, then, the "beast" itself. The "mark" is the mark of the "BEAST." This is described in the first verse of this chapter:

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea," records John, speaking of his prophetic vision, "and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." (Rev. 13:1-2).

What is this weird "beast"? An article in the June PLAIN TRUTH identified this wild animal—a composite wild animal with the *strongest* characteristics of the *four* wild animals symbolically described in Daniel seven, as THE ROMAN EMPIRE. Space does not permit that full identification here. A copy of the June number will be mailed you, without charge, upon request.

Daniel seven reveals that these "beasts" or wild animals, symbolize civil GOVERNMENTS, or world Empires. Daniel's first "beast" was like a lion, and it represented the Chaldean Empire of Nebuchadnezzar, called Babylon. His second, like a bear, pictured the Persian Empire; his third, with four heads, like a leopard, represented Alexander's Greco-Macedonian Empire and its succeeding four divisions after his death; and his fourth beast, unlike any existing wild animal, the Roman Empire which swallowed up and absorbed all the others, and embodied the strongest *physical* and *military* characteristics of all its predecessors.

This "beast" of Revelation 13 had the mouth, the strongest part, of the lion; the feet, the strongest part, of the bear; the body of the leopard. It included, in the ONE Empire it represents, the strength of ALL of Daniel's "beasts." It is the ROMAN EMPIRE.

Notice, the "dragon" gave this Empire its seat and power, and great authority. Rev. 12:9 and 20:2 both tell us in plain words this "dragon" is SATAN THE DEVIL. It is, then, the political instrument of Satan in ruling and deceiving the world.

WHO'S Mark?

Note this well! The "mark" is the mark of the BEAST—and the "beast" is

the ROMAN EMPIRE. In Revelation 17 a later stage of this same wild beast is pictured, and there a "woman"—a great CHURCH—sits astride it, guides it, rules over it. But the MARK is the mark of the ROMAN EMPIRE—not the Roman Catholic CHURCH!

That is fact number one. Keep that in mind.

Now in verse 11 *another* "beast" is pictured, (Rev. 13). This beast had two horns *like a lamb*, but spoke as a dragon. In the GOOD NEWS for July was an article plainly revealing this second "beast" to be the Roman Catholic Church. This Church is an ecclesiastical world Empire—a government. See article "Papacy," Encyclopaedia Britannica.

It took over, exercised, wielded, all the power of the first beast—the Roman Empire. After 554 A.D., the Roman Church did do this for 1260 years, as prophesied!

Notice, further, verses 15-16:

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, . . . to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads." (Rev. 13:15-16).

Now here is a *deceived* Church—both herself deceived by, and therefore used by the devil, and also *deceiving* the world. Notice, this Church did not actually herself kill these martyrs—she merely *caused* them to be killed. And she it was, too, who CAUSES all under her domination to receive the dread MARK of the Beast.

The Brand of Rome

Notice carefully what the above text tells us:

1) "He,"—the Catholic Church that formed the Papacy and originated human church government modeled after that of the Roman Empire.

2) "*Causeth*" all to receive this mark. It is the Church, not the civil government, which forces this brand on people.

3) It is the same power which *caused* the martyrdom of saints.

4) It brands on the people the mark of the "Beast"—that is, the mark of the ROMAN EMPIRE, *not* the mark of the Church.

5) This mark is received in the right hand, and in the forehead.

So the MARK is that of the Roman Empire, which the Roman CHURCH did cause or shall cause the western world to receive.

TWO Martyrdoms

Next notice *when* these saints were killed. This will show us *when* the mark of the beast is enforced.

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:9-10).

Here we find pictured the martyrs of the middle ages already dead, at the time of this vision—which is the approximate present. They know "Vengeance is MINE, saith the Eternal." They know God's judgments against this persecuting, deceiving false Church, as described in Revelation 18, are to be the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES, poured out "in the presence of the Lamb" at the second coming of Christ. Read of it in Revelation 18. These dead saints are pictured as crying out to ask "HOW LONG" before the Second Coming of Christ and the seven last plagues which will avenge their martyrdom. History tells us between fifty and a hundred MILLION of these saints were killed for their BIBLE faith and obedience to God instead of obedience to this church government of man and the devil. Notice, now, what must *again* happen *before* the seven last plagues and the coming of Christ!

"And white robes (symbolizing righteousness and purity) were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet a little season, *until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*" (Rev. 6:11).

Christ will not come to take vengeance on this great false Church UNTIL *another* great martyrdom has taken place!

NOTE IT! There was one martyrdom. Those saints are already killed. Their resurrection will occur WHEN Jesus returns to earth—WHEN His judgments are poured out on this false BABYLON and her daughter churches! But there is yet to be *another* universal persecution and martyrdom of saints, just prior to Christ's coming in vengeance against the forces of evil! Here are TWO universal martyrdoms!

This coming great martyrdom is THE GREAT TRIBULATION (Matthew 24:9, 21-22). This TRIBULATION is not the wrath of God—the last plagues. It is the wrath of Satan (Rev. 12:12), inflicted at the behest of HIS apostate church *by* the coming "United Nations of EUROPE" and against the true people of GOD! It is a persecution—a torturing—a martyring of the saints of God—the very elect who cannot be deceived (Mat. 24:24). Except those days of Great Tribulation be shortened, no

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FLASH! EXTRA!

As we go to press these two flash reports came over the wires by Associated Press. This is the most important news in years!

FROM Strasbourg, France: Under date, September 13. The six-nation Schuman Plan Assembly today changed itself into a constitutional convention in order to bring about a UNITED EUROPE. Work starts Monday to draft a European Confederation. The industrial problems for which they met are sidetracked, and their full energies are now devoted to whipping through a UNITED EUROPE—the resurrection of the ROMAN EMPIRE!

From VATICAN CITY, Sept. 13: Pope Pius, in a surprise major speech today publicly urged Europe's nations to combine in a gigantic, one-nation UNITED EUROPE! He placed the power

of the Roman Catholic Church behind the move for European unity. He stressed the fact that the political personalities alone cannot achieve this goal. He called it a move for the peace of Europe and the peace of the world, and stressed the need of the unifying power, and the spiritual strength of the Roman Church in order to bring it about.

We didn't expect this move to come out into the open so soon. Unless a deal is made with the Pope to unite these nations, *we predict the likelihood of this initial open and public effort to restore the ROMAN EMPIRE may fail.* Such failure, however, will only set the

stage for another effort, which *will* succeed as prophesied—a union in which the CHURCH sits astride this BEAST as it emerges now from the "bottomless pit." Many have set the year 1953 as a crisis year in prophecy fulfillment. This is scheduled to be completed next spring—in 1953!

IT MAY BE MUCH LATER THAN WE THINK. Against all opposition we have WARNED you for twenty years that this very thing is prophesied—and therefore destined to occur! Let's AWAKE! Our days for proclaiming this warning—for proclaiming the true GOSPEL of the Kingdom of GOD—may be cut short. PROPHECY MARCHES ON!

FASCISM *Revives* in Italy

The United States Government is spending billions in tax dollars in a fond hope that economic assistance will prevent the recurrence of Fascism. But the same causes that once produced Fascism still exist. Our economic aid is not solving Italy's problem; it is merely postponing the ultimate RETURN OF FASCISM.

by Herman L. Hoeb

IT IS vital that you know what is really happening in Italy. How is American aid being administered? Have the Italian people altered their ways of thinking since the days of Mussolini? Or is belief in Fascism still prevalent?

While in Rome I had an important conference with the press representative of the Italian Foreign Ministry. The official explained the seriousness of Italy's unsolved problem of *overpopulation*. He revealed to me *why it will pave the way for the return of Fascism.*

Italy is entirely dependent on American aid to prevent the collapse of her weak economy. While traveling through northern Italian cities, Dick Armstrong and I saw many projects which have been fostered by United States economic assistance—modernized factories, new apartment buildings, ultramodern rail stations. Italy is definitely doing its part with every dollar America is sending. Despite this amazing post-war expansion of Italian commerce and industry, her leaders well know that there is no

method by which American aid can be reduced for many years without wrecking Italian economy.

The real cause of Italy's plight is *overpopulation*, the very same cause that produced Fascism under Mussolini. Only slightly over one-half the land is capable of cultivation, yet nearly *eight times* as many people live in each square mile as compared with the United States. This presents a tremendous unemployment problem which must be solved by emigration.

What Is Happening in Italy Today?

The large majority of Italians are friendly to America. Officials in government and industry are cooperating because they know that their country must depend on U. S. aid: The powerful Communist influence has been broken by the formation, in 1948, of two anti-communist labor unions. Italy is trying to cooperate with other continental nations so as to bring about European unity.

All this appears fine *on the surface*, but everything is *not well beneath*.

The problem of emigrating Italy's masses is not finding adequate solution. The press representative with whom I conversed said that the responsibility for this failure RESTS ON OTHER NATIONS BECAUSE THEY ARE FAILING TO OPEN THEIR DOORS TO ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS.

Italy demands the right to distribute her emigrants throughout the world without hindrance. She is seeking to foster agreements with Australia, Canada, the United States and various South American countries. So far no nation has permitted unlimited Italian immigration in fear of hurting its own internal economy.

It is imperative that this problem be soon solved. American aid can't continue year after year to support Italian unemployed who will be unable to find jobs no matter how much money America spends on improving Italy's industry and commerce. At present our foreign policy seems to be based upon the foolish idea that by spending money to postpone a solution, a solution to the

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problem of overpopulation will be found.

Yet a real solution must be found to prevent the return of Fascism.

Why Did Italians Follow Mussolini?

Mussolini claimed to have a solution to Italy's problem of overpopulation. That is why the people accepted him. America has no real solution, yet we fondly hope that our money will continue to buy Italian friendship.

In my conference with the press representative in Palazzo Chigi in Rome, I obtained some vital facts indicating that the same causes which brought Mussolini to power will once again bring Fascism into power.

Mussolini's revolution occurred in 1922 at a time when Italy was suffering terribly from the aftermath of World War I. Through force, he was able to alleviate many economic hardships at the cost of personal freedom. Italians everywhere gradually approved the home policy of Benito Mussolini. I was told by the press representative that even today most Italians believe the home policy of the Fascist regime was good because it provided work for many unemployed and boosted industry—which included war industry.

Notice the significance of this fact. We have not educated the Italian people to see the potential dangers of Fascism.

The Italian representative was very blunt in telling me that even Mr. Winston Churchill formerly approved the benefits that Mussolini supposedly introduced.

He continued to explain to me that Italy's problem of a surplus population was not solved completely by Mussolini. In fact it was aggravated by his encouragement of an increased birth rate. ONLY TWO SOLUTIONS REMAINED FOR THE FORMER FASCIST DICTATOR TO TAKE: (1) peaceable emigration of Italians to foreign nations, or (2) the acquisition of colonies in North Africa by war.

Mussolini chose the second: It concentrated more power in his hands over the people.

Then I asked the representative what he thought of Mussolini's attempt to acquire colonies to which Italians could emigrate, and from which raw materials could be cheaply obtained for an expanded home industry.

He replied, "PERHAPS it was a mistake. The Italian people felt that they had been cheated because Italy has so few colonies." In other words, it was—and perhaps is—Italy's right to have an Italian East African Empire.

This is the kind of thinking that representatives of Italy's government do

today. And yet American policy makers confidently believe that Fascism died and was buried in the grave with Mussolini.

Following this, I asked why so many Italians turned away from the Fascist Party. In reply, the official explained to me that Mussolini received popular support because of his victories. When military defeats occurred in Greece and North Africa and Ethiopia, the people became discontented with his leadership. "You know how people are," he said. "They follow a man if he can give them a taste of victory, but in defeat they quickly reject him."

To put it plainly, Italians feel little guilt for the wars in Africa. The mistake of the Fascist Party lay in its corruption and its failure to provide adequately for the troops which had to defend Mussolini's new "Roman Empire." Many soldiers were sent into Greece in winter, clad only in tennis shoes and summer clothing.

In overthrowing the party, the present Italian government decided on a policy of cooperation with the Allies. This meant an inevitable change in foreign policy. The stripping of her colonies forced the government to adopt a policy of peaceful emigration to relieve the country of its surplus population burden.

To the Italian people the success or failure of this plan is of utmost importance. If Italy can dispose of her people peaceably through emigration, then they will realize that it was a grave mistake to have risked the venture of war for colonies. But if it should fail—as it will—THEN ITALY HAS NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO ABIDE HER TIME UNTIL SHE CAN AGAIN FOLLOW A PATH OF AGGRESSION IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE POSSESSIONS FOR HER EXCESS POPULATION.

The Future of Italy

Western diplomats do not sense the vital effect which the outcome of this problem will have on Italian thinking. At the moment it appears that Italy is safely democratic. This is true. As long as American taxpayers can afford to support the surplus, unemployed people of Italy, there is no need to fear a revived Fascism seizing the government.

But America can't continue to spend money in Italy for decades to come.

With each passing month it is becoming obvious that the Western nations will not permit unlimited Italian immigration. Since the Catholic Church is utterly against birth control, there is no hope of a reduced birth rate as some American theorists might desire. With about two million unemployed because there are too few jobs and too many

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RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

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Government Authority— *Should you submit to it?*

by Herman L. Hoeb

THIS is an election year. People are listening with enjoyment or disgust to campaigners as they travel from city to city making grandiose promises and hurling political "mud" to secure votes.

But in the midst of all this oratory, you probably are *failing to hear* a single word of a far more vital message.

Do you know what it is?

It's your relationship to the government under which you live.

Is it your duty to reform the government or to resist bureaucratic ordinances? Do you really have to show respect and pay taxes to political office holders even when they abuse their high offices? Are officials responsible "to the people" or to God? Which?

What Does the Scripture Say?

The past few generations have grown up in an atmosphere of disrespect toward authority, both in the home and in public life. Nearly everyone wants to act *according to the way he feels* about leaders, and *not* according to the way *God says* we should conduct ourselves. It's high time to realize that there is a judgment coming and that it does make a difference how you act toward those in authority.

The apostles devoted many verses in their epistles to explain the relationship of Christians to human governments. Paul wrote at great length because he knew how easily this subject would be neglected, as it is today in nearly every denomination. Here is what he said in Romans 13:1-7:

"Let EVERY soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is *no* power but of God: the powers that be **ARE ORDAINED OF GOD**. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: **AND THEY THAT RESIST SHALL RECEIVE TO THEMSELVES DAMNATION.**"

Notice the emphasis which the apostle places on this matter. "They that resist"—those who refuse to submit to authority—"shall receive to themselves damnation."

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister

of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. *Wherefore ye must needs be subject*, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause **PAY YE TRIBUTE ALSO**: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. **RENDER THEREFORE TO ALL THEIR DUES: TRIBUTE TO WHOM TRIBUTE IS DUE; CUSTOM TO WHOM CUSTOM; FEAR TO WHOM FEAR; HONOR TO WHOM HONOR.**"

This is not just Paul speaking. It is Jesus' directive to His church for all times and generations. It is very important—let every person be *subject to higher authority*.

Instead of preaching this truth from the Bible, most ministers preach their own words about "getting out the vote" and "supporting a Christian candidate." "It is your duty," they say. This is not what Jesus or the apostles taught. The real Christian duty is **NOT** to mix with the political affairs of this world, but to be subject to authorities. You are to be *separate from* the world, although living in it. (John 17:15,16)

Does Government Authority Come from the People?

Contrary to the common teaching, the Bible proves that government authority and power is **ORDAINED OF GOD**. It is not derived "from the consent of the governed"—the people.

"There is **NO** authority but of God." "The authorities that exist are ordained of God." Human beings seem to reason that because men may be elected or appointed or may seize power, that their only authority proceeds from the people that supported them. How untrue this assumption is!

This is an age when men don't know who rules in earthly affairs. Almost everyone is as ignorant of this matter as was Pontius Pilate because the clergy is failing to preach the truth. Jesus had to tell Pilate that the authority vested in him came from the Almighty. Notice how similar Pilate reasoned compared with people today: "Then saith Pilate unto him, *Speaketh thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to*

crucify thee, and have power to release thee?" Jesus answered, "Thou couldst have no power at all against me, **EXCEPT IT WERE GIVEN THEE FROM ABOVE.**" (John 19:10-11)

Since any authority is ordained of God we are to be subject to it. Anyone **WHO RESISTS THE AUTHORITY OF HUMAN GOVERNMENTS IS ACTUALLY REBELLING AGAINST GOD WHO ORDAINS THAT AUTHORITY**. This applies equally as well to anyone in a position of authority, whether a school teacher or a foreman in a factory.

Thinking Up an Excuse

It is only human nature for people to think of an excuse to circumvent these ways in which God says we should live. You have heard it said that God does not approve of the evil that some politicians or other officials commit. Then it is argued that corrupt leaders have thereby forfeited their right to command our respect and submission.

This is a clever but faulty argument. Why?

God ordained rulers to punish evil works, not good works. Even though officials may be elected or appointed by the people, rulers are actually *accountable to God who permits them to exercise authority*. Persons in responsible positions may fail to execute the commission of their offices—to punish wrong deeds and to preserve order. They may corrupt the government. But as long as God permits them to be in authority and to retain their office, you are commanded to **REMAIN** in subjection to the divinely ordained position which they hold.

You pay respect to God by respecting the men who hold their offices by God's permission and authority. Until He removes them, you would be rebelling against the will of God by refusing to honor the positions which such representatives exercise.

It is so hard for human beings to conceive this principle because nearly everyone has been deceived from childhood by the fable that God has nothing whatsoever to do with the civil governments of this world. Perhaps you were never told that *the right to exercise authority over human beings is solely the prerogative of the divine Creator*. Human

beings do not inherently have the right or the ability to rule properly over fellow human beings. But God is a God of order, not confusion. Since men won't submit to His own government and laws, He has given permission *in this age*, before the return of Jesus Christ, that men may exercise authority in all phases of life.

Human beings in any position may be serving themselves and the devil, but the OFFICE is *ordained of God*! You honor the person *because of the office* which he holds, even though his deeds may be evil.

Example of Saul and David

Consider the case of Saul and David. King Saul obtained his position from God, as do all rulers. Saul was disobedient to the Eternal and David knew it. Did David therefore rebel and seek to organize the people to remove him from office?

No. Instead, David said this: "The Lord shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle and perish. The Eternal forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the Eternal's anointed." (1 Sam. 26:9-11)

Notice that David recognized the fact that it is *God's right* to put persons out of office. It could not be the people's right since the people have never been given the right in God's sight to put such men into office in the first place. David respected and honored and submitted to the office which Saul exercised. He left it in the Lord's hands to remove him from office. Christians must do the same.

Nebuchadnezzar had to learn this truth, and it took him seven grueling years. He finally admitted after gaining his sanity that "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the BASEST OF MEN." (Daniel 4:17; 2:21)

If God decides to place in office the least capable and the basest men, because of the sins of the people, who are we to condemn the wise judgment of God? *And strange as it may be, it is often the people, who, in their attempt to make themselves wiser than God, elect the least capable*, ACCORDING TO THE PLANNED FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE ETERNAL GOD.

God never sanctions the corruption, the abuses of office holders. Neither should you. Your obligation is merely to respect *the authority of the office*, not the corrupt deeds, the gifts of mink coats, the lucrative vote-getting jobs.

Is Submission Always Obedience?

There are certain powerful churches,

particularly in Europe, but also in America, which teach that human government is not only of divine origin, but that respect for authority and submission to officialdom means TOTAL OBEDIENCE TO LEADERS and even dictators.

This teaching is absolutely false!

Jesus' words in Matthew 23:2-4 are quoted to support this terrible error. In speaking to the multitude and the disciples, Jesus said: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: *all* therefore *whatsoever* they bid you observe, that observe and do . . ." It is at this point that these denominations stop quoting the words of Jesus to give the impression that you must observe everything that a person in authority commands.

But what did Jesus continue to say? "But do NOT ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

There it is. Those Jewish religious leaders taught part of the truth, but they themselves were not obeying the truth. Therefore Jesus had to instruct the people that the *religious authority* of the scribes and Pharisees must be respected. They were to observe *whatsoever truth* was preached, but they were *not to follow the error*.

In Acts 4:19 you are given the true Bible definition of "submission." The disciples were commanded to *disobey* God. What did they say to the authorities? That *obedience* to God is more important than obedience to men. Notice, however, that the apostles did not resist them. They *submitted* to the *penalty* imposed by their accusers. (Acts 5:40)

Thus you have the true relationship that should exist between every Christian and the human government under which he lives. You are to honor and respect authority *and submit to every ordinance of man*. ONLY when obedience to human rules and regulations would violate the laws of God should you steadfastly decline to obey. But then *you must submit to the penalty*. So said the apostle Peter.

What Does Peter Command?

The apostle Peter recognized the importance of Christians' relationships to human government. He had the courage to preach the truth to the congregations. Here is what he said: "*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man* for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. FOR SO IS THE WILL OF GOD . . . Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."

Take careful note of his wording. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance." Peter did *not* say, "*Obey every ordi-*

nance." Of course not, because he knew that many human regulations were wrong. Here again you can see that Peter intends that all Christians should obey whenever possible, and always submit to the penalty in case obedience to a human law would be sin.

Christians are always to be examples of perfect submission to government regulations, no matter how childish or absurd some stipulations may be. "Be subject to principalities and powers . . . to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of NO man." (Titus 3:1, 2)

Is It Wrong to Speak Evil of Officials?

It is a common practice for people to resist government regulations and to accuse office holders, whether the President or the corner policeman. This supposed "right" of the people is being abominably misused. There is a righteous limit to the "freedom" of speech.

The Bible sets that limit by commanding you to refrain from speaking evil of dignitaries. Solomon said you are not to curse officials even in your thoughts. (Ecc. 10:20)

It is reproachful to Christ as well as a dishonor to His authority for Christians to hurl or to repeat *needless accusations* against rulers. This, of course, does not mean that you can't say anything about a man's mistakes. Rather it means that no gossip or misrepresentation of facts which damage a person's character is to be repeated.

Christians should not fight the government in its own courts as certain deceived religious sects sometimes do. Rather submit, and patiently pray for God to change the circumstances according to His will.

Most Christians ought to pray more earnestly that their minds and hearts would be free from slanderous thoughts, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE PERSON SEEMS TO DESERVE THEM. Not even the righteous Michel *accused* Satan. He calmly said, "The Lord rebuke thee." Only the *ungodly* dig up evil to throw needlessly at their enemies. (Pro. 16:27)

There is also another important point which has often been overlooked. In Romans 13:4, you read that Christians are to "be afraid" of government power, if they have committed evil. Yet Jesus taught us *not* to fear man, but rather fear God (Luke 12:5). How can you reconcile these verses?

By the fact that Christians are *not* actually to be afraid of the *men* in office, but rather "*of the power*" which they wield by God's permission. You fear their authority because they are the servants or revengers of God to curb crime. In reality, then, you are only

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How to Keep the Sabbath

Here are some basic principles which will answer many of the questions you have been asking. Unless you know the PURPOSE of the Sabbath, you can't understand HOW to keep it.

by Rod Meredith

YOU ARE "missing out" on a lot of the good things in life. There is a reason!

Life lacks the real meaning and purpose it should have. "Every day is the same old thing!" you hear so many people say.

But God didn't intend it that way!

He has given us a specific blessing, which, when REALLY understood, appreciated, and rightly used, will give us the zest for life that we otherwise lack. This blessing is God's Sabbath Day.

You need a new insight into this command. Here is an article that will better enable you to receive the rich blessing intended.

Recent issues of the "Good News" and the "Plain Truth" contained articles on "The Sign of a Christian" and "Has Time Been Lost?" These articles proved that the true Sabbath was to be a *sign* between God and His children forever, and that the true *seventh* day has never been "mixed-up" or "lost."

Made for Man

Christ said, "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). He didn't say it was made for the Jew, but for MAN—for all *man-kind* in other words. And it was made for him as a blessing.

Keep this principle in mind. It was made for you, to help you, to enable you to live a happier and more godly life.

God's true sabbath is one of the greatest blessings that has ever been bestowed upon mankind. It signifies that the Creator is our God and we are His children.

Our Creator knew that we would need a period of rest every seventh day, and this is one of many opportunities the sabbath affords. Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares during the week, but God foresaw this, and set aside the sabbath as a time when we can completely forget our routine work and get closer to God in study, meditation, and prayer.

The wonderful part of it all is that we can keep this period of rest and spiritual revival with complete confidence that God will *bless* and *prosper* us because we have done this! If we would quit working every few days and take a needed rest, we might naturally

expect to get behind in our finances and material pursuits. But God has said just the opposite! So if we keep His Holy Day, we can rest assured that it will be *gain* instead of loss, even looking at it materially.

Do you realize what this amounts to? God is *giving* us a *paid vacation* every seventh day!

Human reasoning might not grasp this right at first. But God has *promised* this, and the *experiences* of hundreds of people have shown that God meant what he said. You may not be prospered *immediately* if you begin keeping God's commandments and paying your tithe faithfully as He has commanded. But in His way and time, God will begin to bless and prosper you in ways that you may never have expected.

In Isaiah 58:13-14, God inspired Isaiah to write that *if* we kept the sabbath and delighted in it, we would remember Him and He would cause us to have life in abundance, spiritually and materially. Notice that we are not to *seek our own pleasure* on the sabbath. Yet, we are to *delight* in it. This means that we should be *so busy* doing good to others, and getting closer to God in prayer and study, that we will not even desire to seek any earthly amusements. We will be **HAPPY** because we are able to rest, to worship God with peace of mind, and because we have a special time to do good.

This same passage says we are *not* to *speak our own words* on the sabbath. What does this mean? It shows that we should not spend the sabbath in idle talk, but should be reading, discussing and meditating upon God's word. Then we will be drinking in the ideas of God instead of mere human notions. What a privilege it is to have a whole day in which we can read and discuss the *way of life* that is revealed to us in the Bible.

In order that we may have our minds free from last minute duties on the sabbath, God has commanded that we prepare for it the day before. Exodus 16:22-25 shows that we should do any baking or time consuming boiling before the sabbath. Long hours of cooking and stewing should *never* clutter up God's day.

So do all your "sprucing up" and any heavy cooking on Friday, the prepara-

tion day. Then at sunset Friday evening, when the sabbath begins, you will have put all worldly cares aside and will be able to enter the sabbath in a spirit of rejoicing and worship toward God.

Duties on Sabbath

Your time should never "drag" on God's sabbath! Some people experience this when they first begin to keep the sabbath, but it certainly isn't the way God intended. When we understand it properly, the sabbath will be filled with *interest* and *joy*.

The true sabbath is *not* a *negative* thing!

Christ set us an example of how to keep it. In Mark 2:23 to 3:5, Jesus showed that it was all right to procure food on the sabbath *if* it is necessary. He told the Pharisees that He was Lord of the sabbath—not Sunday! Then Christ healed an infirm man on the sabbath, and showed that it is lawful to *do good* on that day.

What *kind* of *good* should we do on the sabbath day?

God commanded in Exodus 20:10, that we should *not work* on the sabbath. So the kind of good that we do on that day is not the kind of hard physical labor which we might do on other days. "Doing good" is not to be used as an **EXCUSE** for performing those material duties, however helpful to others, which can just as well be done some other day. There is one exception to this prohibition. That is in the case of an "ox in the ditch" (Luke 14:5). This refers to a *genuine emergency*, not some material duty you "put off" until the sabbath.

The principal example of doing good on the sabbath that Christ gave us was that of healing the sick or infirm *that came to Him*. (Matt. 12:9-13). He did not go abroad seeking them. Also, we find that He was constantly meeting with others and teaching them God's ways on this day. We can all use the sabbath as a time to comfort and minister to those who are sick and infirm on this day. But this does not mean that we should burden ourselves with purely material services. Jesus didn't when he helped the sick according to their faith. Remember what he told Martha: "Thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and

Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41,42). We should especially try to help those who are interested in the true teachings of the Bible, because in this way we can minister to them both spiritually and physically.

As we shall find later, we are to meet with other true worshippers on the sabbath. But if this is impossible, we may well use the sabbath as an opportunity to meet with others who we know are really interested in the truth, to explain the Bible to them in their own homes. We are *not* to attempt to force God's truth on people at any time. But we are always to be ready and willing to explain the Bible to anyone who is sincerely seeking God. Some of our brethren in Texas use a portion of the sabbath for this purpose and have helped a great many people in their community to come to a better knowledge of God.

STUDY the word of God (II Tim. 2:15)! This should usually be your first duty on the sabbath. *Then* you will be ready to answer the questions of those you are trying to help (I Peter 3:15).

Remember that the principal command is to *rest* from our usual routine on the sabbath, and to *worship* God and remember him as Creator. The Bible reveals that "doing good" on the sabbath is serving others in a way that shows the *power of God* in our lives. Christ didn't *labor* for several hours to heal the sick on the sabbath. Instead, He invoked the very power of the Creator to release others from the bonds of sickness. So we should *not* spend most of the sabbath caring for the physical needs of other people. By drawing closer to God on this day, we will then be able to help others in a LASTING way thru the power of God's Spirit.

"Sewing for charity" and other physical services may be worthy at the proper time, but such routine labor should not fill up God's sabbath day.

Physical things will "perish with the using." So use the sabbath primarily to learn *God's ways* and make them a part of your *character*—and help others to do the same. The Spirit of God in you will last *forever*!

Commanded Assembly

In Luke 4:16, we find that Christ customarily met with others on the sabbath and read from God's word. Lev. 23:1-3 tells us that the sabbath is to be a *holy convocation* for God's people. A convocation is a *commanded assembly*. God commands you to convoke or meet with other true believers *whenever this is possible* on the sabbath.

However, this does *not* mean that you are to meet on that day or any other day

with those who are blinded to God's truth and refuse to keep *all* His commandments. Paul commanded Christians in II Cor. 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: *for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness?*"

Christian fellowship should be with other people *ONLY* thru God and his Spirit. God gives the Holy Spirit to them that *obey* Him (Acts 5:32). So remember that you *cannot* have true fellowship thru Satan, or his ministers, or his churches who refuse to obey God's commandments.

When it was impossible to meet with others in a church on the sabbath day, the apostle Paul and his helpers "went out of the city by a river side, where *prayer* was wont to be made." (Acts 16:13). This is an admirable example for many of us, because getting closer to the natural handiwork of the Creator brings one closer to God. The hand of God is seen in everything good and beautiful. Notice that instead of going to the river to fish, as so many do on the "day of the Sun," Paul went to a river to help others seek God in prayer.

A Light to the World

Christ told his followers, "Ye are the *light* of the world" Matt. 5:14. How much the world needs people who will fearlessly show it the way out of this spiritual darkness!

But can you be a "light" to other people while continuing in the same man-made doctrines and practices they do?

NO you can't! You must live by God's word to show forth the true light that will eventually turn people from darkness. You must be *DIFFERENT* from other people by obeying God—by having his *SIGN*. Most people won't like you for doing this. Christ said in John 3:19, "And this is the condemnation, that *light* is come into the world, and *men loved darkness* rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Men were so *steeped* in their own customs, then as now, that the true light of the gospel offended them.

So you can see that real Christianity is not the way to be popular with men!

But doesn't this show what an important "light" your keeping of the sabbath can be to others? It is a *SIGN* that sets you apart from those following the broad way that leads to destruction.

Special Problems

It is easy to use the latitude and privileges of the sabbath as a means to *abuse* it. You should *not* be overly strict or self-righteous like the Pharisees. On the other hand, humans are usually inclined

to "stretch" the freedom God gives us and begin doing our own work or pleasure on the sabbath.

Taking a walk on the sabbath is fine so long as it doesn't turn into a "hike." Some people ask about the mention of "a sabbath day's journey" in Acts 1:12. There is no special command *anywhere* in the Bible limiting travel on the sabbath. This "sabbath day's journey" was a custom of the Jews and is not a biblical command. However, you certainly shouldn't walk or drive so far on the sabbath as to tire yourself unduly or to interfere with your worship of God.

After sitting in church or studying for some time, a leisurely walk is very refreshing and beneficial. Also, a lengthy drive is sometimes necessary to enable you to meet with other true worshippers on the sabbath. Within reason, this is not wrong. It serves to strengthen you spiritually and therefore glorifies God.

Here is another problem?

Should you kindle a fire on the Sabbath Day?

The command in Exodus 35:3 was inserted in connection with instructions regarding work on the tabernacle. It was chiefly intended to forbid the kindling of a fire to melt metals or sharpen tools. However, it certainly can refer to unnecessary work done in preparing food which could be prepared on the day before.

So it would *not* be breaking the spirit of the law to light a fire for heat in wintry weather or to warm up previously prepared food.

Feeding and watering stock is necessary on the sabbath and permissible (Luke 13:15). *But* if you are raising so many cattle or chickens that your "chores" add up to three or four hours' hard work, then you had better cut down on the number of your livestock or else change occupations. Our age of "specialization," when a few farmers become virtual slaves to provide food for hundreds of city dwellers, is *not* God's way.

No man should be "tied down" to his occupation as so many are today.

DON'T try to justify breaking the sabbath by saying that "your occupation requires it"! Remember that this worldly, competitive system is called "Babylon" in the Bible and you are commanded to "come out of her" (Rev. 18:1-4).

Instruct Children

God inspired Solomon to write "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Pro. 22:6). This command would certainly apply to teaching your child to keep the sabbath. However, you should remember that even sweet little children are by no means converted. They are

basically selfish, and usually lack the understanding and will power to keep God's law as an adult.

But they should be taught to rest from their routine work or play on the sabbath as much as possible. They should be instructed in a kindly and straightforward manner that the seventh day is holy to their Heavenly Father, and that they can show their love for Him by refraining from their usual play on that day and thinking and learning about God.

Your children should be taught these things gradually and only as their age makes it possible for them to understand. If trained properly from infancy, a ten or twelve year old child should have enough respect for God's sabbath that he does not spend his time reading "funny books" or listening to radio serials on that day.

Love and chastening must go hand in hand in this training. But a child so trained in God's ways would have a priceless advantage in his knowledge of life and its real meaning in relation to the Creator.

Holy Time

In Exodus 20:8, we find the original command, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it HOLY." Never forget that God has made the seventh day *holy time*! You and I are commanded to *keep* it that way.

I have already shown you in God's word that we are not to do our own work, pleasure, think our own thoughts, or speak our own words on God's Sabbath Day.

To keep the sabbath day *holy*:

You can't spend a lot of time in worldly visiting or "shooting the breeze," or even "courting your girl."

You can't be running down town for a cup of coffee or an ice-cream soda. That kind of procuring food is *entirely* UNNECESSARY.

You can't spend several hours listening to worthless radio programs or reading the "funnies."

You can't wait until after sunset on Friday evening to begin your cleaning up and preparing for the sabbath, unless, of course, a *genuine* emergency has interfered.

I could go on, but I think you should get the point and grasp the principle involved.

Let's NOT "kid" ourselves!

When God said to put the sabbath day to a HOLY use, He meant *exactly* what He said. But we should learn to be so happily employed in doing the good things prescribed for that day, that we will have no time or inclination to violate the prohibitions anyway.

So let's keep the sabbath in a *positive* way! Use the sabbath as a day to rest from worldly labor, to get closer to God in *prayer and study*. Take time to do *good* to others, to care for the sick, to visit the afflicted. Assemble with other *true believers* on the sabbath if this is possible. Then you will truly be a "light" to those around you.

The sabbath separates true Christians from this world's churches with their pagan holidays and "day of the sun." So KEEP holy the days God made holy! Rejoice in the blessings and opportunities that the sabbath affords, and remember that it is a SIGN between you and the true God.

Government Authority

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fearing the power of God who gave this authority to rulers.

When you do good, you "may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper, and I will NOT fear what *man* shall do unto me.' " (Hebrews 13:6)

Is the Payment of Taxes Necessary?

Now comes an often misunderstood part of this vital message. Should you pay taxes if you are a Christian? If so, why?

Paul said that Christians MUST PAY TAXES, CUSTOM DUTIES AND TRIBUTE to those in authority. Why? "For they are God's ministers," His servants, "attending continually upon this very thing." It is their job, their work to regulate society and to punish crime. They are worthy of their hire.

Because of covetousness, especially when income tax or land tax bills appear, some seize upon the words of Jesus in Matthew 17:24-27 as an excuse for failure to pay taxes. Notice what Jesus really said: Christians, being free and heirs of the Kingdom of God, should not be required to pay tribute to a *foreign* government, "notwithstanding, lest we should offend them . . . give unto them" the tax.

Yes, Christ commands you, just as Paul did, to pay taxes, and they should not be paid grudgingly either. It is the right of leaders to receive remuneration for their duty. But what if officials are not performing their duty properly or are squandering tax money for private ambition? Are you to pay taxes?

Certainly. As long as any person is in office, you are to honor that office by submitting to it. It is so easy to forget that human beings are not the judges of one another, but God is the Judge. Officials are not responsible to the people, but to God. Your responsibility ceases

once you have honestly paid the tax or the duty. It is the official's responsibility to see that he properly administers the money.

Although this is the day of exorbitantly high taxation, you should never fear that God will fail to provide the amount necessary to conform to state laws. Jesus provided Peter with the extra tribute money beyond the normal increase. (Matthew 17:24-27)

Prayer for Officials

In the days of the Roman Empire, when Jesus was training his disciples, it was the custom of the government to *compel people to carry mail* and goods belonging to the Empire. Jesus referred to this forced practice when he said, "Whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." (Matthew 5:41)

Notice that Jesus taught submission, not resistance.

Today the government does not compel its citizens to bear this responsibility. How thankful have you been for this fact, as well as for all the other benefits that have accrued in the fields of communications, transportation and public safety? It is so easy to forget and to neglect Paul's admonition that "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and *giving of thanks*, be made for all men: for kings, and FOR ALL THAT ARE IN AUTHORITY; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour." (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

Now do you see that the Father has established earthly governments to *keep order* until His Kingdom should come? It is your commanded duty to submit to them, patiently, excusing the obvious faults inherent in human leadership. It is your privilege as a Christian not to be burdened with the heavy responsibilities of this complex world, but rather to recognize that all human history is a record of the tragedy of human self-direction contrasted with obedience to God.

The Scripture is given to make known to us the fact that *all authority belongs to the God Family*. We are not to take it upon ourselves to mix with this world's faltering society, but rather to call others *out of* the error of human self-rule. By growing in patience and understanding, we shall be born into the family of God and have His powers and abilities and character which will enable us to rule the world in righteousness. (Dan. 2:44; Rev. 3:21; Rom. 8:19) What are you doing about your eternal calling and selection? Are you making it sure by obeying every word of God?

Paul Came This Way

by Herman L. Hoeb

THE CITY of Rome. Called by *men* the "Eternal City." Over nineteen centuries ago the apostle Paul came to this remarkable city as a prisoner.

It has been our blessing to travel over part of the same route taken by Paul as he finally reached the capital of the Roman Empire. Paul was greeted by brethren who came as far as Appiiforum (Acts 28:15). We are alone now, nineteen centuries later, but at least we are free men. A great change has taken place over the centuries in the people, but very little has changed over the Old Appian Way, or Appia Antica as it is now called. A service station, new homes and new pavement are here.

Dick Armstrong and I have traveled in an open horse-drawn buggy, the kind of taxi so common in Southern Europe. It provided us with a sentimental view of the past as we passed from the well preserved wall of old Rome along a few miles of the Old Appian Way. Fig trees, bamboo and other low growing shrubs, bushes and trees appear behind and sometimes hang over the walls that are on either side of the Way. The walls have often been repaired through the centuries, but they retain much of their picturesqueness.

Whole blocks in the city of Rome, which we were just leaving by buggy, contain well preserved remains of ancient Rome. Here the people cling to the greatness of the past. In one way it is beautiful, in another it is not. Ruins are the results of human war and human failure. It was to lay the foundation for the Kingdom of God which will change civilization and bring peace, that Paul came to Rome along this way so many centuries ago.

The reason for our trip was to visit the Catacombs of St. Sebastian, located a few kilometers from the old city wall on the Old Appian Way. We wish that most of you could have taken this visit to the catacombs of early century professing Christians. It is a never-to-be-forgotten experience. Also it provides an insight into the CHANGES THAT OCCURRED IN THE EARLY CHURCH AS THE TRUTH WAS STAMPED OUT BY APOSTACY.

Most visitors take for granted that these catacombs, and also many others located nearby, were the centers of refuge for the early *true* Christians when they were persecuted by the Roman Empire. This assumption is false as we

quickly saw upon entering them. The early true Christians were not persecuted nearly as much by the pagan Roman Empire of the Caesars as they were by the later apostate Church. The book of Revelation shows that it is the *woman*, a picture of this apostate church, not the civil government, that is drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus (Revelation 17).

Actually most of the early persecutions by the Roman Empire were directed against apostatizing Christians who were seeking to *gain control of the Empire* and to substitute their religion for that of the existing one by means of "Christianizing" pagan rites. Because of this persecution, those early apostates had to go *underground* in order to continue their rites. How coincidental this is with the description in Revelation 13 that the second beast (this apostate religious system which has gripped the world ever since) *came up out of the ground!* That is not only symbolic—it occurred literally!

Along with many other visitors, we were invited into the Church of St. Sebastian, which is built over the catacombs, by a member of one of the Church orders. He explained most of the details to us in English. The church is many centuries old and in need of repair. Inside was a beautiful carved and painted ceiling, a detail of which represented the martyrdom of Sebastian, for which he was called "Saint" Sebastian.

On the right wall of the Church, enclosed in a glass case, are the supposed *footprints* of Jesus made by him at a later appearance. This is one of the hundreds of *traditions* of the Church, the fables against which Paul warned. (2 Tim. 4:4)

Duplications of these footprints are in the Quo Vadis Church, located only a short distance from these catacombs, on the Appian Way. *Tradition*, not fact, claims that at the site of the Quo Vadis Church, Peter was met by Jesus as he was fleeing from the Romans. After supposedly seeing the Lord he returned to face martyrdom, hanging upside down from a cross.

Next to the footprints and also enclosed in glass is an arrow, presumed to be one of those which brought death to Sebastian. Exactly opposite these relics the statue of St. Sebastian appears in a reclining position, pierced by four arrows.

From the level of the church floor we descended to the catacombs below. Walking single file down a narrow stairway, we soon emerged into a large underground room, wherein were altars used for religious services by early bishops. The bishops who used the altars were leaders in the apostasy. There are crude images of Jesus and a cross as well as ritual parchments used in the idolatrous beginnings of the mass and Sunday communion.

Then came the catacombs. We followed in single file in the narrow passage ways, guided at first by recently installed electric lights, and then only by candle light. Often the monk conducting the tour would stop to light various candles located on the dirty stone walls beneath pictures and images of saints and Mary. There are several larger rooms along the passage ways *which descend into the earth at least four stories*. In these rooms we could see the remains of broken earthen jars used for oil which were buried in niches in the walls. Below and above are other niches containing skulls and a few important bones. Sometimes the graves are little coffins of stone on the floors of the underground rooms. The tops were removed and the bones are lying in open view.

A strange sensation came over us upon thinking of the resurrection. Some of these people would finally come forth in the day of judgment and have their deceived minds opened for the first time. It is wonderful to think of the plan of God and to visualize his power to impart material life into such human remains.

Perhaps some of the decaying bones were of those people who heard the apostle Paul preach against giving heed to fables, but who rejected his preaching. For them there is no hope of repentance. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened . . . if they shall fall away, to renew them again to repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." (Hebrews 6)

For *eight miles* these catacombs continue beneath the church in several levels. It is a veritable city of the dead containing 174,000 graves. The dark, bleak hallways and the various little rooms give an awesome feeling of the terrible-ness of that mystery of iniquity that supplanted the truth of God with pagan rites and finally was able to come above

ground and conquer the Empire.

Following the faint light of the wooden stick which held the candle, we emerged exactly beneath the church in the most amazing part of the entire catacombs. Here before our eyes were three pagan tombs antedating the Christian Church. They were unknown to our world until 1919 when they were excavated, but they were known to the early apostate Christians. In fact the very reason for building the church and the catacombs at this site was that the pagan Romans had been conducting many of their mysterious rites underground and were also burying their dead in this place. Those Romans were adopting the apostating Christian religion and were continuing to frequent the same places of religious service.

Many of the early Catholic churches were merely dedicated Roman temples. And Roman tombs became Catholic Christian tombs. The most beautiful of the three tombs in the Catacombs of St. Sebastian is that of Clodius Hermes. On its very well preserved walls are pictures of ancient swastikas, and of birds, one of which may have represented Osiris, the famous god of Egypt. These oriental mystery religions provided many converts to the early Catholic Church. So *in order to sanctify* this most colorfully decorated tomb, a tradition was developed that *this tomb was the burial place of the apostles Peter and Paul* before they were supposedly removed in later centuries. Peter was sent to the House of Israel, not to Gentiles (Gal. 2:7; Mat. 10:6).

So widespread did this false tradition become that upon the walls above we observed many invocations to the apostles made in succeeding centuries of persecution. The invocation of saints—and the doctrine of the communion of saints—is of totally *pagan origin*. It stemmed from the custom of invoking the tutelary gods of the pagan world. Most of the inscriptions are hardly legible and very crudely done in stone.

It was indeed a profitable experience to come here to see first hand the places where the mystery of iniquity worked, but how glad we were when we emerged into the warmth of daylight.

FASCISM Revives

Continued from page 4

people, Italy exists in potential danger of the slowly reviving neo-Fascist party.

No matter how much any of us would like to see a workable solution for Italy, we must face the facts. Prophecy shows that no human being will produce the right solution. There are too many religious, political and racial groups in opposition.

The time is coming when American aid will diminish and finally cease. When I mentioned to the Italian representative in the foreign office about drought and depression curtailing United States aid, he appeared *frightened*. Everywhere Europeans are afraid to face the eventual curtailment of American help.

In such a situation, he said that Europe would have to UNITE IMMEDIATELY, or perish. All the petty grievances would melt away. Italy and Yugoslavia would have to come to immediate agreement over the disputed Free Territory of Trieste. Italy needs the raw materials of Yugoslavia and Tito's Yugoslavia needs the manufactured goods of Italy.

How European Unity Will Be Achieved by the Vatican

At present, Italy is having a great deal of difficulty solving its Trieste problem. The city of Trieste is coveted by both Yugoslavia and Italy. Because Italy lost several hundred thousand men in World War I in order to take Trieste from the Austrian Empire which at that time controlled the area, Italy feels it would be unjust to relinquish claim to the bloodily won city and adjacent territory. The Allies who administer Trieste by a military occupation have allowed the Italians a fairly firm grasp over some domestic matters in Trieste. But Tito claims the same rights also.

In our conference, I asked what means might be sought to bring about an amicable solution. I suggested the Catholic Church. To this suggestion I received an important response. "*The Catholic Church*," said the Italian representative, "*can not afford to risk her prestige in this matter*. The Church must maintain the status of a power *above* human civil government. For the Church to enter as a mediator in any of Europe's quarrels, either in the Saar or in Trieste, would involve too great a possibility of failure *at the present time*. The Church doesn't dare fail when she acts."

I learned, however, that Italians, and also other Europeans, would welcome the intervention of the Pope and his diplomats *should the need become imperative*. If American aid would cease as a result of drought and depression, Europe would have no other place to turn but to the Vatican. The Vatican could UNITE IT IMMEDIATELY by acting as an inter-European mediator. This is what the prophecy of Revelation 17 shows *will happen*. There is going to be a united Europe of ten nations ruled over by the Church which is pictured as a great whore. These ten nations constitute the last revival of the "beast" or Fascist system which has engulfed this

world for thousands of years under various names.

Coupled with the prophesied cessation of American help will be an inevitable growth of dictators. Except in the democratic countries of Northwest Europe, the present governments in Germany, Austria, Italy and even France will turn into dictatorships. In Austria, Italy and France it is only American dollars that have kept democratic governments in power. When this help is cut off, the only solution to Europe's impending economic and political doom will be a revival by revolution or election of "strong men." There are already dictators in two Catholic countries, Spain and Portugal.

American officials in our State Department don't know what lies ahead in Europe. They are blind to the fact that your tax money has *not* re-educated the Italian mind, or the minds of other Europeans. Fascist ideas about *the right of conquest* are very much alive in Italy. Although no great leaders have yet appeared in the strife-ridden neo-Fascist movement, recent elections have shown that the people would follow another great "strong man" if he would promise Italy relief for her surplus people. Since peaceful immigration into foreign countries is not possible, the only other means which Italy knows is CONQUEST.

Yes, a revival of Fascism in a united Europe is prophesied. Aided by generous American help, and also the *secret* military and economic schemes of the Nazi Underground, it will turn to paths of war. It will be a "just war," approved by the Church, to solve Europe's population problem and to forestall supposed American aggression. Many of you may be surprised to know that it is common gossip among Europeans that Russia is *not now* going to attack, but that the United States is threatening war by its policy of containment.

This coming United Europe will shock the world. It will happen *suddenly*, just as the Italian representative in the Foreign Office told me. The Church will act as a mediator to solve Europe's internal controversies. Europeans want to live in peace together. They are willing to give up some of their claims if only their neighbors are willing to do the same. But Europe has *not* learned to live at peace with the rest of the world. Italians still feel cheated that they have no empire. The Germans want to get even with the defeat of the last war. Neither Tito nor Franco love America. The average Frenchman thinks nothing of "gouging" American tourists.

It is in this kind of atmosphere that World War III is being bred at this very moment.

The MARK of the BEAST

Continued from page 2

flesh could be saved. But, FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S PERSECUTED SAINTS those days shall be shortened.

God shall intervene. Christ shall "come quickly."

MARK Then, and Now

Now compare with these Scriptures:

In Revelation 17, picturing this same Church as the great whore riding the beast, John writes: "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." (verse 6).

Also: Rev. 20:4—"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, *neither had received his mark* upon their foreheads or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Now we see WHY these many millions were, and shall be martyred! It was because they refused to receive this mark of the beast—refused to join in this worship of Church and Empire! They obeyed GOD rather than man! Their lives were governed by GOD. They were the children, the heirs, the future citizens, of HIS KINGDOM, not the kingdoms of men. But—note it well!—they were, as God commands, SUBJECT to the government of MAN. They did not resist—they yielded themselves subject to the PENALTY. They were tortured—they were *killed*! But they obeyed the government of God rather than man where there was conflict. And, at Christ's coming to rule the world as KING of kings, they shall all be lesser priests and kings UNDER HIM, and RULE THE WORLD!

Do you see what this plainly reveals? Those martyrs, over a thousand years ago, were killed BECAUSE they would not worship the Roman Catholic Church, conform to its idolatry and pagan beliefs and customs, or worship the so-called "Holy Roman Empire,"—and BECAUSE they refused to receive the MARK of the beast!

This means the MARK of the Beast is something that was forced on people, on pain of being killed, *more than a thousand years ago*! The MARK of the Beast was in full existence and enforcement over a thousand years ago!

BUT, since it is those who have the mark of the beast who shall suffer the seven last plagues at Christ's coming,

THAT DREAD MARK IS ONCE AGAIN TO BE ENFORCED! And those who refuse it are those who shall be MARTYRED in the coming GREAT TRIBULATION!

Now we begin to find real light shed on this baffling question!

Warning of Third Angel

Soon, now, the time is coming when gross spiritual darkness will cover this earth—when no human will be permitted to preach Christ's true Gospel. We must work while it is day—the night is fast drawing on when no man can work, for God.

At that time God shall send angels with His final warning to these apostate nations under sway of this great deceiving Church as a final witness against them. Three such angel messages are foretold in Revelation 14. Notice the final warning of the third angel:

"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his MARK in his forehead or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the WRATH OF GOD"—the seven last plagues, full force, unmixed with mercy! (Rev. 14:9-10).

This shows that altho the MARK was branded on all but the martyrs over a thousand years ago, it is STILL the brand of apostate Rome today, and is ONCE AGAIN to be enforced. Once again those who refuse it shall be martyred. But those who receive it SHALL SUFFER THE WRATH OF GOD WITHOUT MERCY!

You, dear reader, must soon choose whom *you* will obey—this coming fascist Roman Empire resurrected by a United Nations of EUROPE, ruled by Roman Catholicism—or whether you shall OBEY GOD!

A Mark of Obedience

We begin now to see that the MARK of the Beast involves a point of OBEDIENCE—whether we shall OBEY GOD, or reject the commandment of God and obey MAN's rule.

It has something to do, then, with the COMMANDMENT OF GOD!

Notice, there are two classes—one has the MARK, the other rejects it and is martyred. Notice now the description of those who *refuse* this evil MARK:

"Here is the patience of the SAINTS: here are they that keep the COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, and the FAITH OF JESUS." (Rev. 14:12).

There it is! In verses 9-11 of this chapter the third angel warns that those who have the mark of the beast shall be punished by the plagues of God. In the next verse, the 12th, the saints who do *not* have the mark are those who KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD. Those who have the mark, there-

fore, are those who REFUSE TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD. The MARK of the Beast, therefore, involves a rejection of the COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, or of one of them, for if we break one we are guilty of all (Jas. 2:10).

So, one class of people accepts the MARK of the Beast.

The other class keeps the Commandments of God.

Mark of Disobedience

Hence, *whatever* the Mark of the Beast may be, it means disobedience to GOD's government—to the Commandments of God.

Here's further proof—here are they who get victory over this mark:

Revelation 15:2-3: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, 'Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are THY WAYS, thou King of saints.'"

This corresponds to the children of Israel, delivered from Egyptian bondage under Moses. Moses was a type of Christ. Pharaoh was the type and forerunner of this Beast. The plagues God poured on Egypt were a type of the last plagues to be poured out on Babylon. The children of Israel stood on the shore of the Red Sea, and God miraculously delivered them. Here the saints of God are pictured on this symbolic sea of glass.

They sing the song of Moses, and the song of the Lamb (Christ). Moses pictures Law and God's Commandments, the Lamb (Christ) pictures faith and salvation from sin.

Remember, the Beast is the human civil organization of the devil. In Revelation 12, we find Satan stirred to great wrath "because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Rev. 12:12). He then starts a great PERSECUTION, or TRIBULATION against the TRUE Church—the true saints of God. This is just prior to the second coming of Christ. (Verse 13). Now notice against whom Satan is so wroth:

"And the dragon (Satan) was wroth with the woman (Church), and went to make war with the remnant (last generation) of her seed, *which keep the commandments of God*, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (the Bible)." (Verse 17).

There is is again! Those keeping God's COMMANDMENTS—those yielding themselves to God's RULE, and living

by every Word of God—by the BIBLE—which is the written testimony of Jesus Christ—they are the ones the devil will persecute and martyr thru his false Church and his Fascist re-born Empire!

But Satan knows his own. He will brand his own with a mark, so they shall not receive this persecution and martyrdom, even as God put a mark on sinning Cain lest men finding him slay him (See Genesis 4:15). All who do *not* receive Satan's brand—the MARK of the BEAST—will suffer Satan's wrath in the Tribulation.

Thank God, those days shall be cut short, *for the elect's sake!*

Class on Whom Plagues Fall

There are TWO classes of people. That class which receives the MARK of the Beast is the class upon whom the PLAGUES OF GOD will fall. So if we can further identify those who shall receive this WRATH OF GOD, and *why* God will thus punish them, we shall further identify what the Mark is.

In Ephesians 5 Paul is telling Christians to flee fornication, covetousness, idolatry—transgressing the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Then he says: "for because of these things," (transgressing God's LAW) "cometh the WRATH OF GOD (last plagues) *upon the children of disobedience.*" (Eph. 5:6.)

How plain! The wrath of God—the seven last plagues—are coming on those who DISOBEY God, by violating the COMMANDMENTS. The plagues fall upon those who have the mark of the beast!

Those who receive the plagues are breakers of God's Commandments, and also at the same time receivers of the MARK! It becomes more and more plain that the mark of the beast represents COMMANDMENT-BREAKING.

Notice this again in Col. 3:5-6: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: (transgressions of Ten Commandments): for which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience."

Notice it also in the prophecies of the Old Testament: "The great *day of the Eternal* (time of God's wrath—the last plagues) is near . . . that day is a day of WRATH, a day of trouble and distress . . . and I (God) will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men (the PLAGUES! But *why?*) *because they have sinned against the ETERNAL.*" (Zeph. 1:14-17). What is *sin?*

"Sin is the transgression of the Law" (I John 3:4)—commandment breaking.

The TRUTH Becomes Plain!

Now, let's recapitulate! The truth is becoming plain!

1) The "*mark*" plainly means the rejecting and breaking of God's COMMANDMENTS. And in Jas. 2:10-11, God says if we break only one of the Commandments, we are GUILTY of breaking the LAW—guilty of all!

2) The ROMAN EMPIRE is the real author of this "*mark*." It is the mark of the BEAST, not the woman who rode the beast.

3) The Roman Church *caused* people to be deceived into receiving this mark.

4) Satan gave this Roman Empire its seat and great authority—it is the political instrument thru which Satan works, in deceiving the world.

5) Those who refuse this "*mark*" are prohibited from "buying or selling,"—engaging in commerce, trade, or holding a job.

6) Many of those refusing this "*mark*" were, and shall again be, martyred because of their refusal—because they keep the Commandments of God!

7) Therefore, the inevitable and plain conclusion is that the "*mark*" is something enforced by the Roman Catholic Church, originating in the paganism of the Roman Empire, which a cunning, deceiving devil would seize on as a means of cleverly DECEIVING people into BREAKING GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS. And it involves a direct connection with *holding a job*—engaging in business—earning a living.

Satan is clever—cunning—a deceiver. He palms off *counterfeits*, which look like the genuine! Naturally he would select the *one* Commandment of God which he can counterfeit with a substitute—one in which by human reason alone no man could see where it would make any difference! He would select the one which would seem of least importance to the carnal human mind!

He would not try to deceive men on idolatry, profanity, or on stealing, lying, murder, adultery—tho he has led people into all of these.

But WHAT Commandment could it be—*what* commandment affecting a man's *job*, or his *business*?

There is ONLY ONE POSSIBLE COMMANDMENT—the one regarded by the largest number as the "*LEAST*" of the Commandments—and that is the fourth Commandment, which says: "REMEMBER the Sabbath day, to keep it holy . . . The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Eternal thy God."

No carnal mind can see, without the special spiritual revelation of God thru His word, where it makes any difference WHICH day man observes.

WHERE DID SUNDAY ORIGINATE? Not

with the Roman Catholic Church, but with the pagan religion of the ROMAN EMPIRE, long before there was any Catholic Church! It is the day on which the ancient pagans assembled at sunrise, faced the east, (as they do Easter Sunday morning today) and worshipped the rising SUN. It was Constantine, Emperor of the Roman EMPIRE, not a pope, who made SUNDAY the official so-called "Christian day of rest." But it was *enforced*,—people were *caused* to accept it universally,—by the Roman Catholic CHURCH!

Why Saints Were Martyred

It was for obeying God's FOURTH Commandment,—keeping the Sabbath—that millions of saints were put to death. The Roman Catholic Council of Laodicea, in 363 A.D., passed this decree: "Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But, if any be found to be judaizing, *let them be declared anathema from Christ.*"

The Church *caused* them to be killed. When the Church branded one "anathema," (a heretic), the STATE POLICE of the Empire began torturing him. Unless he recanted, he was tortured until he died!

Laws became so strict no man could hold a job, or engage in business, unless he worked on Saturday and rested on Sunday. And the world is now so geared that it is almost impossible for one to "buy or sell" except he receive this MARK of the BEAST!

This is the ONLY COMMANDMENT which was altered by the ROMAN EMPIRE! In Daniel 7:25 we read the prophecy of this "BEAST" and the little horn (papacy) rising up, which was to think to CHANGE "times and laws." That is, change God's LAW in respect to TIME—the time for the Sabbath!

What Is a Mark, Anyway?

Now what *is* a "mark?" In Bible usage it is virtually synonymous with a "sign," and in one or two places used interchangeably. There is merely this difference: A "mark" is a brand of identification, forced on one. Cattle raisers put by force their mark on their cattle—their brand. A "sign" is also a badge of IDENTITY, but one voluntarily accepted and used. A druggist hangs a sign in front of his store. It may say, "JONES & CO., DRUGS." It *identifies*. It tells what kind of store, and who owns it.

Now the "Beast," in association with the Church, used FORCE to brand the western world with their MARK. Those who obeyed God and kept His Sabbath were martyred. They were unable to "buy or sell." But God does not force anyone. God says, "*Whosoever will* may come."

God lets us make our own decision about obeying Him, accepting Christ, and becoming His obedient children.

But is the Sabbath God's SIGN that we are Christians, belonging to HIM?

God's SIGN

Yes, indeed!

It was *after* God had made, and ratified, the Covenant with Israel. That old Covenant, of course, was for limited duration, is now replaced with the New. But any covenant made *after* it had been made and ratified by blood *was no part of that Old Covenant*.

It was forty days after that ratification, that God made a new, separate, different Covenant between Himself and all who should be HIS PEOPLE, to last *forever*. This was no temporary covenant, but for all generations, FOREVER.

It is found in Exodus 31:12-17:

"And the Eternal spake unto Moses, saying, 'Verily MY SABBATHS ye shall keep; for it is a SIGN between me and you *throughout your generations*.'" These generations of Israel—WE are Israel—(see our free booklet, "United States in Prophecy,") *are still going on!* Now WHY is it a sign? Does it IDENTIFY God to us? Does it *identify* us as HIS? "... that ye may know that I am the ETERNAL that doth sanctify you."

Get the powerful meaning of those words!

It is a SIGN, that we may KNOW that the ETERNAL is the true God. It identifies who God is. How? Notice verse 17: "It is a SIGN . . . for in six days the ETERNAL made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed." It is the memorial of God's rest from CREATION. Always, in all parts of the Bible, God identifies Himself as CREATOR. How can we distinguish who is the TRUE God, from all the false gods? The true God *created* all the false gods, and that from which they are made, and everything that is. Some worshipped the sun. But The ETERNAL, the true God, created the sun, and rules it. Some worship idols carved out of stone, or wood, or marble. But the true God *created* that from which they were made, and even the human beings who made them. The Sabbath is GOD's Sabbath, not the Jewish Sabbath. Never does the Bible call it the "Jewish Sabbath." It identifies GOD as the CREATOR.

The Sabbath was made FOR MAN. So said Jesus (Mark 2:27). It was made WHEN man was made (Genesis 5:1-3). It was MADE—and it was Christ, The Eternal, who made it! Therefore HE is Lord of the Sabbath! It was made to keep man in the true knowledge of the IDENTITY of the true God, to keep him from idolatry! And history proves that every nation who did NOT keep God's

Sabbath worshipped false gods, and did not know who the true God was! When Israel quit keeping God's Sabbath, they went into idolatry (Ezek. 20:5, 11-13, 17-21).

IT WAS FOR SABBATH BREAKING GOD SENT BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH INTO SLAVERY!

But back to Ex. 31:17-17. It also is the SIGN by which we are identified as belonging to GOD. We BELONG to whom we obey—so we read in Romans! It is the *sign* by which we know He is The ETERNAL . . . "that doth sanctify YOU." To sanctify is to set apart for spiritual use. The SABBATH sets one apart from the world, and always did—as OBEYING and belonging to GOD. Can you think of ANY REASON why anyone would EVER keep the Sabbath, except to OBEY GOD? Would any man defy human custom and invite persecution, and be set apart as different, thru human reason? Could any atheist be a Sabbath keeper? THE SABBATH IDENTIFIES GOD'S PEOPLE!

God's people, we have seen above, are identified as they who KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS. The world acknowledges all the other nine Commandments. The only one the world rejects is the fourth. The only one that sets one apart from the world—that IDENTIFIES one as belonging to GOD—that is a SIGN of God—is the SABBATH.

Notice, verse 16, it is a "PERPETUAL COVENANT." *It is a COVENANT!* It is no part of the Old Covenant—no part of the Law of Moses! It was made with Israel *after* all these, and is a separate, and *perpetual COVENANT*.

Notice verse 17: "It is a SIGN between me and the children of Israel FOREVER." There it is! It is a COVENANT. It is FOREVER!

When given to physical, flesh-born Israel, this covenant punished by death any breaking of the SIGN. Today, since the administration of the death penalty by the Levites and judges is not being done (2 Cor. 3:7,8), and since all races whether Israelite or Gentile are grafted into *spiritual* Israel (Romans 11:24), the willful refusal to keep this *sign* is punishable by death—the *second death*.

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God?" (Heb. 10:28,29.)

Right Hand and in Forehead

God says the penalty for SIN is DEATH! Sin is the transgression of the Law. If we break only this one Commandment, we are guilty. The penalty is DEATH!

The Roman Church caused people to receive the MARK of pagan ROME—the

Sunday observed by the pagan Roman Empire—and the penalty for disobedience was DEATH. Fifty millions were put to death—so says history.

It is the ONLY Commandment the world will not accept in its MIND (forehead) and OBEY (by work, or rest, with the HAND). It is the ONLY commandment that can distinguish between those who have the MARK of the BEAST, or the SIGN OF GOD.

Now the Book of Revelation is written mostly in symbols. The right hand symbolizes work, or labor—the forehead the intellect, or mind. It has to do with what we BELIEVE, in the mind, and whether we OBEY, with the hand.

HOW ABOUT GOD'S SIGN? *It also was received in the forehead, and the hand!*

Regarding one of God's annual Sabbaths, we read: ". . . it shall be for a SIGN unto thee *upon thine hand*, and for a memorial *between thine eyes* (forehead), that the Eternal's LAW may be in thy mouth." (Ex. 13:9.)

Deut. 6:1, 6-8: Now these are the COMMANDMENTS . . . and these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart, . . . and thou shalt bind them for a SIGN *upon thine hand*, and they shall be as frontlets *between thine eyes*."

Deut. 11:18: "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a SIGN *upon your hand*, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes."

Also see Prov. 7:2-3, and Rev. 7:3-4; 14:1.

There is ABSOLUTE PROOF! Yes, the TRUTH is very PLAIN!

The Sabbath is God's SIGN, standing, more than any commandment, for OBEEDIENCE. It was symbolically in the HAND and in the FOREHEAD, just as the MARK of the BEAST—the pagan SUNDAY—was in the right HAND and in the FOREHEAD!

SUNDAY observance—Christmas, New Years, Easter, etc—*this is the MARK* of the BEAST!

The Roman Catholic Church *did* cause all under the "Holy Roman Empire" to receive this "Mark," during the middle ages. *Has she stopped?*

Just at present she has not the POWER to enforce this mark on everyone. But our men in Europe this past summer *saw* the BEAST rising for the last time out of its symbolic "bottomless pit." It will be a United Nations of EUROPE—a union of ten nations. It will be a UNION of Church and State—and the Roman Catholic Church once again will sit astride "The BEAST."

Now notice Daniel 7:21, 22: "I beheld, and the same horn (papacy) made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; *Until* the Ancient of days

Please continue on page 16

Question Box

Your questions answered in these columns! Your opportunity to have those puzzling queries, needing only a short reply, solved. If yours are not here, then write them to us. As space permits they will be printed if an answer is possible. Of course, questions demanding lengthy replies cannot be placed in these columns.

Edited by the Students.

What Are the Souls Which John Saw Under the Altar?

In Revelation 6:9-11 is a description of the fifth seal. When Jesus Christ, who is the Revelator (John is not the revelator) opened the seal, the apostle saw in heaven an altar under which were the souls of people who had been slain. They cried to God, asking Him how long it would be until He would judge the world. Many claim that these verses prove the "immortality of the soul." But do they?

Remember, if one part of this description is literal, then it *all* must be literal. IF there are souls in heaven, then *where* would they be in heaven? Notice what John says. "I saw *under the altar* the souls of them that were slain." Where are the souls? UNDER THE ALTAR! This could not be literally true as those who teach the "immortality of the soul" admit. The entire description is actually *symbolic*.

None of the seven seals could be literal pictures of conditions in heaven. John saw *in vision* a book or scroll bound with seven seals (ch. 5:1) which only Jesus was worthy to open. As each seal was removed, John saw in vision in heaven a picture of conditions described in the book which are to take place *on the earth*. The BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION, given by Jesus Himself, of the events described on the scroll under the seals, is found in Matthew 24. The description of the fifth seal is in Matthew 24:9-28. It is symbolic of the *tribulation!*

Notice that the souls John saw were *slain* for the Word of God and for their testimony, an exact description of the *tribulation!* In Revelation 12:17, the word of God and the testimony are defined as the keeping of the commandments and belief in the gospel of the Kingdom, which is the message that Jesus testified. The souls which John saw were not immortal entities. The Bible definition for soul is a living, physical creature whether animal or man (Genesis 2:7). The apostle saw in vision the souls or bodies of the *mar* saints who were *in vision* God, just as Abel's blood

cried out to God although he was dead (Genesis 4:10).

The tribulation came on the saints once, during the Middle Ages, and it will come *again*. The souls that *were slain* were told to "rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that *should be killed as they were*, should be fulfilled." These *two* martyrdoms are also mentioned in Revelation 12, verses 6 and 14.

Those who died in the Middle Ages were symbolically given white robes to show that they possessed the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8). And righteousness is described in Psalm 119:172 as keeping the commandments—the exact thing for which the devil persecutes the church. But why were the souls seen in vision under the altar in heaven, though they were actually buried on the earth? This altar, mentioned also in Revelation 8:3, is the heavenly counterpart of the altar of incense which was in the holy of holies (Hebrews 9:4). The altar of incense was an altar *for prayer*, of which incense was a symbol. The saints are pictured under the altar as a *symbol* of their prayers to God, which they offered when they yet lived, that He might judge the earth in righteousness and avenge them. The entire description is picturing the coming and final tribulation, which will befall the church and Israel within a few years.

Please Explain Matthew 10:28

This verse reads: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The doctrine of the immortality or indestructibility of the soul is often based on this text, although Jesus plainly says that we should fear God who is able to DESTROY THE SOUL in hell or Gehenna fire. *The soul is something that can be destroyed*. Ezekiel 18:4 says the same thing: "The soul that sinneth, it *shall die*," not live forever in torment. The soul can die. It can be destroyed because of sin, the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4).

But, what is the soul if man can't kill it?

The word "soul" is used in numerous ways. It is a translation of the Greek word *psuche* and the Hebrew word *nephesh*, both of which mean, according to Strong's Concordance, a living, breathing creature, an animal life, appetite and similar derived connotations. Soul and NEVER mean an immortal part of man or animal but always the living breathing animal or man, also the *life* of a breathing being which is in the blood. In Leviticus 17:11 the word translated "life" comes from the same Hebrew word for "soul" and can be correctly translated: for the *soul* of the flesh is in the blood. Jesus gave his *life* (translated from the same Greek word meaning soul), a ransom for us (Mark 10:45) by pouring out *his soul* of life blood in payment for sin (Isa. 53:12). "Soul" can mean the living breathing animal or man and it can also mean the physical *life* of such creatures.

Remember, God can destroy the physical body *and the soul* or life. Luke quotes Jesus as saying: "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which *after* he hath killed *hath power to cast into hell*." (ch. 12:5.) God, who takes the present physical life from us at the first death, *also* has the power to resurrect us and, if we have been disobedient, to cast us into the lake of fire—the second death—from which there will be no hope of a resurrection—from which we can never come to life again.

Man can kill our bodies *but* he can do no more.

We have *already reckoned our lives dead* upon baptism. The new life we now live is by the faith of Jesus Christ in us. "For *ye are dead*, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Col. 3:3.) Jesus brings out the great importance of the fact that the first or natural life (soul) of a Christian is already perished. There is nothing of that life which remains for men to kill.

That is why Jesus declared that man can kill the body, but not the soul or life. We are figuratively dead already—our physical way of life is crucified. But the *life* of Christ in us can't be touched by man; he cannot kill it because it is Christ's very own life. Although the original word for *eternal* life is from another Greek word, Jesus uses *psuche*—soul or *material* life—because Christ is living his life in our *material* bodies.

Is All Sea Life Good for Food?

"There will be an oyster supper in the church basement. Proceeds to go for redecorating the church. Sponsored by the Willing Workers Class."

How many times have you seen announcements such as this?

People set up their own standards of

edible and inedible sea life. Thus, some who would eat oysters, would shrink from an octopus if it were offered. Why? Because *not all water life is fit for food.*

Long before any man thought about whether all fish and sea life were fit for food, the Creator brought into being all kinds of life both in the rivers and seas. He created certain kinds fit for human food, and He created other sea life *not to be eaten by us.* In creating man, He knew what would be best for our well-being, and He revealed that information to us in the list of clean and unclean foods in the Bible.

Yes, you have heard it said, "That is just one of those old laws Moses originated and tried to enforce." But, did you know there were clean and unclean meats *before Moses was ever born?* Turn in your Bible to Gen. 7:2. Here God commanded Noah a thousand years before the birth of Moses to take into the Ark seven of the *clean* and two of the *unclean*. Noah couldn't have known what was clean and what was unclean unless God told him! Nothing was said to Noah about fishes at that time, because the flood wouldn't have had any great destructive effect upon them.

Now turn to Lev. 11:1 which says, "And the *Eternal* spake unto Moses and

to Aaron, saying unto them, Speak unto the children of Israel saying." This is what GOD said. Not Moses! Moses merely told it to the children of Israel who preserved this knowledge for us. (Acts 7:38) The ninth verse of Lev. 11 gives us the measuring stick for determining which sea creatures are fit for food and which are not. It's very plain. "Whatsoever hath *fins and scales* in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat." Verse 10: "And all that have not fins *and* scales in the seas . . . they shall be an abomination unto you."

It is repeated in Deut. 14:9, 10. This law is still binding upon us today. The nature of sea life has not changed.

A dictionary or encyclopaedia may help you determine what fish are clean. The following is a list of clean, edible fish: bass, bluefish, bonito, buffalo, carp, cod, drum, flounder, haddock, hake, halibut, mackerel, mullet, perch, pike, pollock, salmon, shad, smelt, sole, trout, tuna, weakfish, whitefish.

Water life which is *not* to be eaten: crabs, lobsters, shrimp, oysters, octopus, snails, frogs, turtles and eels, swordfish, catfish, none of which have both fins and scales. In fact all water life is forbidden except fish, and only those fish having BOTH fins and scales are to be eaten.

MARK of the BEAST

Continued from page 14

came, (second coming of Christ) and judgment was given to the saints of the most High."

Yes, the MARK OF THE BEAST once again will be *enforced!* No one will be able to hold a job or engage in business without it. Those refusing will once again be tortured and martyred—probably by the secret police of the political state—but at the behest of the Church!

Today, ALL NATIONS are deceived by this paganism masquerading under the name "Christianity."

Today, America, Canada, Britain—Israelitish nations—are actually *in* the ways of this "BABYLON."

God's *last warning* is this: "COME OUT of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and *that ye receive not of HER PLAGUES!*"

IF you are branded by this MARK, *rejecting* the SIGN of God in your forehead and hand, YOU SHALL BE TORTURED BY GOD'S PLAGUES WITHOUT MERCY! Yes, YOU!

But if you OBEY God,—if you are *watching*, praying without ceasing, you shall be accounted worthy to ESCAPE—and come under GOD'S PROTECTION (Luke 21:36).

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