

**TRIUMPH
PROPHETIC
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Beautiful Hawaiian sunset pictures the Sabbath rest

Why Rest on God's Sabbath Day?

Lesson 9

An Open Letter from the Staff

Do YOU know that God has a "sign" by which He RECOGNIZES His spiritual children? And do you know that only those having this SIGN will be born into His ruling Family?

That vital, OVERWHELMINGLY IMPORTANT "sign" is God's SABBATH DAY!

Not a "Sabbath of the Jews," or any "day" that seems more or less important to any man, or group of men -- but THE Sabbath of Almighty God Himself!

"But," you might ask, "what does any 'day' have to do with entering into the happy, glorious world tomorrow and the very Kingdom of God?"

IT HAS A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH IT!

To human beings using only fallible HUMAN reasoning, it may seem "strange" indeed that God would place stress and importance on a SPECIFIC "DAY" OF THE WEEK! "WHY," some might REASON, "would God want me to rest on ONE day of the week more than any other?" "What real DIFFERENCE does it make anyhow?" ask others.

It makes a TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE TO ALMIGHTY GOD! You are going to learn the surprising and truly satisfying PLAIN truth about God's SABBATH DAY!

Noah "walked" with GOD (Gen. 6:9). They were that friendly! And because Noah "walked" in OBEDIENCE to God, He saved Noah and his family from the great flood that destroyed sinful mankind (Gen. 6:11-14). That was REAL FRIENDSHIP!

And after the flood we know that Abraham also became an OBEDIENT friend of God (James 2:23, 21). Abraham and Christ (Melchizedek) were very CLOSE friends (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-3) - right here on this earth -- at the present site of the city of Jerusalem.

And what was the RESULT of this close friendship? Because Abraham continued in this OBEDIENT relationship with God (Gen. 26:5), God promised him the greatest and most abundant blessings imaginable -- this WHOLE EARTH for an inheritance, SONSHIP IN GOD'S FAMILY, and ETERNAL LIFE with which to enjoy it!

But God blessed Abraham EVEN MORE because of his loving obedience and mutual friendship! God placed before Abraham's spiritual offspring -- we who become his "seed" through Christ -- the SAME OPPORTUNITY to receive these SAME GREAT BLESSINGS!

What a wonderful blessing God is offering those who keep His commandments and follow His Word!

TRIUMPH PROPHETIC MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 9

Published at Altadena, California by Triumph Prophetic Ministries (Church of God).

EDITOR AND DIRECTOR

William F. Dankenbring

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Rolf Burson

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Donald Deist

YOUR ENROLLMENT has been paid by others.

Bulk copies for distribution not given or sold.

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor at the nearest address below:

United States and Canada: P.O. Box 292, Altadena, California 91003.

United Kingdom: 10 Union Street, Low Moor, Clitheroe, Lancs., United Kingdom BB7 2NH.

Philippines: 18 Purok 3, San Carlos, Mexico, Pampanga, Philippines

Republic of South Africa: P.O. Box 157, Prince Albert, 6930, Republic of South Africa.

Switzerland: Am Balsberg 15, CH-8302 Kolten, Switzerland.

Malaysia: No. 38, SS 20/18, Damansara Utama, Petaling Jaya, Selangor 47400, Malaysia.

About Our Cover. . . Many Jews and other peoples around the world keep God's TRUE Sabbath day. However, many who claim to keep God's Sabbath today break His command which says: "Turn away thy foot . . . from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord" (Isaiah 58:13). WHICH day is the true Sabbath of God?

E-Mail: triumphpro@aol.com Visit our Website on the Internet at: triumphpro.com

Why Rest on God's Sabbath Day?

God is always the close, loving friend of those who obey Him. He says, "Ye are my FRIENDS, if ye DO whatsoever I COMMAND YOU" (John 15:14)

It is within God's plan to become a very close friend of all who lovingly obey His wishes. And God shows great love in return by doing WONDERFUL THINGS for them!

God is going to shower those of us who now learn our lessons of loving obedience with far GREATER blessings than we can imagine! He says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that LOVE Him" (I Cor. 2:9).

God's PURPOSE for Mankind

God is LOVE (I John 4:8). And the way of God's love is GIVING and SHARING. As our loving Friend and Father, God wants to SHARE with us the glory and riches of His Kingdom -- His Divine Family!

And so, God reveals His great PURPOSE for mankind to His obedient friends: "Let Us make man in OUR image, after Our likeness . . ." (Gen. 1:26). As the apostle John declares, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us; that we should be called the (SPIRITBEGOTTEN) SONS OF GOD ... we know that, when He (Christ) shall appear, we shall be LIKE HIM. . .!" (I John 3:1-2.)

God's plan is to create GODS out of mortal mankind -- very Sons of GOD'S DIVINE FAMILY!

Notice Christ's earnest desire to make friends of humanity so they may become God's spirit born Sons: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his LIFE for his FRIENDS," Christ said (John 15:13).

Then Christ proceeded to show the extent of His great love for mankind by laying down His OWN LIFE for the world -- laying down His precious life for all who would become His OBEDIENT friends -- FOR YOU AND FOR ME!

Christ is ovejoyed to be the close Friend of

us all and will do GREAT THINGS for us if we become His obedient friends. "SUBMIT yourselves therefore to God (OBEY HIM) . . . Draw nigh (NEAR) unto God (as His OBEDIENT friend)," James was inspired to write, "and He will draw nigh unto you (as YOUR loving Friend and Father)" (James 4: 7-8).

Sabbath Pictures Eternal "Rest"

In addition to Christ's great sacrifice for us, what else did He say He would do? Notice:

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden (be my OBEDIENT friends), and I will give you REST"! (Mat. 11:28.) A GIFT! And what kind of rest is this?

"GLORIOUS REST"! (Isa. 11:10.)

As our loving Friend and Father, God wants to give each of us His greatest gift of all -- ETERNAL LIFE -- glorious, eternal "rest" in the KINGDOM OF GOD!

In the fourth chapter of Hebrews, the apostle Paul plainly shows us that RESTING from our daily labors on God's Holy Sabbath Day PICTURES our glorious future as spirit-born Sons in God's Family! He shows that the Sabbath and Sabbath keeping actually pictures true "REST" FROM OUR STRUGGLES AGAINST SIN which God promises to give His obedient children (Heb. 4: 1-11).

When born of God's Spirit, we will no longer suffer the DOWNWARD PULLS of our carnal flesh and SINFUL human nature. We will then possess the MIND OF GOD in full. We will have the ability to remain PERFECTLY OBEDIENT to God's will FOREVER! (I John 3:9.)

And when born into God's Kingdom -- when we become very Gods -- we will also possess the same kind of gloriously radiant and POWERFUL spirit body that Christ and the Father now have! We will no longer be LIMITED by our weak mortal bodies. For it is then that we will possess the powerful capacity for infinite accomplishment with our supremely efficient SPIRIT BODIES!

Bodies that will be, by comparison to our weak mortal bodies, GLORIOUSLY EFFICIENT AND EFFORTLESS! FANTASTIC, INCREDIBLE, AW3SOME BODIES!

God promises to give us all of this when we become His spirit-bom Sons!

Isn't it astonishing what God will do for us if we now become His OBEDIENT friends and SPIRIT- BEGOTTEN children?

Eternal Life Offered to ALL Mankind

God promises His gift of eternal life to all peoples of the earth who become, SPIRITUALLY speaking, "Abraham's seed" -- those who surrender themselves to the will of Christ and are SPIRITUALLY BEGOTTEN by the Holy Spirit. "If ye be Christ's, then are ye ABRAHAM'S SEED and HEIRS according to the promise" (**Gal. 3:28-29**).

As Abraham's "seed," we become heirs of the same promise made to Abraham -- the promise of eternal life and sonship in the Kingdom of God. But this is conditional -- it will only happen if we do what we know God commands us -- if we obey God and REST from all our labors on God's weekly Sabbath Days which PICTURE this glorious future.

God reveals this great SPIRITUAL truth to those who have become sick of the pagan ways of this world and have begun to OBEY Him. He reveals it as a Friend to a friend.

But only those who CONTINUE TO OBEY God's command to keep the Sabbath will **finally** enter the glorious "rest" of God's Kingdom and receive the gift of eternal, spiritual life!

No Sabbath Keeping -- No Holy Spirit

God, who is the loving Friend of mankind, offers us the priceless gift of His Holy Spirit. A gift which imparts all the peace and joy the human heart really longs for. Yes, and ultimately ETERNAL LIFE -- eternal "rest" from this carnal, mundane life!

But to WHOM will God give the precious gift of His Holy Spirit? What does God expect of those who are recipients of His Spirit? Notice the answer in **Acts 5:32**: "the Holy Spirit ... God hath

given to them that OBEY HIM" -- OBEY His TEN COMMANDMENTS, which includes SABBATH KEEPING!

To carnal man, there is SEEMINGLY no earthly reason whatever to keep a sequence of Sabbath Days. Man, so he reasons, could rest as well on other days he would choose for himself.

But KEEPING, or NOT keeping God's Sabbath Days REVEALS AN ATTITUDE! Keeping them shows a WILLINGNESS to forsake our OWN thoughts for periods of time specified by God. It shows a WILLINGNESS to learn -- to study, to think and to meditate on the really important matters of the universe -and an ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF GOD-LIKE CHARACTER!

And keeping God's Sabbath reveals an attitude of SIMPLE OBEDIENCE just because GOD says so! -- although all carnal HUMAN REASONING says "no." To the carnal, fleshly, unrepentant mind, Sabbath keeping seems so unfathomable, unnecessary, and pointless! Although to the REPENTANT, spirit-begotten mind, the Sabbath is eagerly looked forward to every week.

Sabbath keeping plainly is a TEST of our ATTITUDE to reveal whether we REALLY want to OBEY and DEPEND on God and RECEIVE His Holy Spirit!

So now let's understand exactly how God created the weekly Sabbath, HOW it is to be kept holy, and WHY it is so valuable to us today.

LESSON 9

Origin of God's Weekly Sabbath

1. Who created everything that exists? **John 1: 1-3; Eph. 3:9** and **Col. 1: 16**.

COMMENT: JESUS CHRIST is called the "Word" -- the "SPOKESMAN," as the original Greek in John 1: I may be translated. Jesus has been with the Father from the beginning of the earth, and ALL THINGS were made by Him -- by Jesus Christ!

2. What did God do on the FIRST day of what we call Creation Week? **Gen. 1:3-5**.

COMMENT: God the Father and God the Son constitute the present God Family. It was the

God who was created or procreated by the Father who is spoken of here. He did the actual creating, with the sanction of the God who is His FATHER.

3. And what was done on the SECOND day? **Gen. 1:6-8.** And did God use a THIRD day on which to do something else? **Verses 9-13.** And a FOURTH day to make still other things? **Verses 14-19.** And a FIFTH day for creating another class of things? **Verses 20-23.** Then did God create animals and MAN on the SIXTH day? **Verses 24-26, 31.**

COMMENT: We see by the foregoing verses that God made and created all of these things in just the first SIX DAYS of CREATION WEEK.

4. What did the Divine Person -- who later became the human Jesus Christ -- do on the day IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING His creation of man? **Gen. 2:2-3.** Christ did not rest because He was tired and weary from His work of creating, did He? **Isa. 40:28.** Then He obviously did it for ANOTHER REASON! Did this final ACT of Christ on the SEVENTH day COMPLETE the works of God's creation? Refer to **Genesis 2:2** again, and write down **Hebrews 4:3-4.**

COMMENT: The Sabbath had never existed prior to this time. Therefore, God had to bring it into existence. He did so by RESTING on the SEVENTH day. This act of RESTING therefore MADE the Sabbath Day A PART OF GOD'S CREATION! Notice: ". . . On the SEVENTH DAY (not before or after it) God ended His work (of creation) which He had MADE . . ." (**Gen.2:2**).

The scriptures plainly show us that the Sabbath was made during the SAME seven-day period of time that man was made. And it was made by the Divine Person who later became Jesus Christ. It was made on the LAST of SEVEN LITERAL 24-HOUR DAYS, and was made an intrinsic PART of man's environment!

5. What else did God do to the seventh day? **Gen. 2:3.**

COMMENT: Notice that God "BLESSED" the seventh day and "SANCTIFIED" it. SUCH AN HONOR WAS NOT CONFERRED UPON ANY OF THE PRECEDING SIX DAYS. When God BLESSES SOMETHING, He bestows

His divine favor upon, and His DIVINE PRESENCE in that thing. He is especially near at that time.

The very word "sanctify" means TO SET APART FOR A HOLY USE OR PURPOSE! By RESTING on the seventh day, God "sanctified" it -- set it apart -- from the other six days of the week. In so doing He made the SEVENTH day HOLY!

Thus we see that by the very act of resting on the seventh day, Almighty God put His divine favor upon and set apart for holy use and purpose the most ENDURING thing there is -- a certain space of time which comes around REGULARLY EVERY SEVEN DAYS!

And by setting aside the first Sabbath in this way, God also made EVERY FUTURE SABBATH -- EVERY SEVENTH DAY OF THE WEEK -- HOLY!

Thus we see that by the very act of resting on the seventh day, Almighty God put His divine favor upon and set apart that day for a holy use and purpose -- He set apart the most ENDURING thing there is -- a certain space of time which comes around REGULARLY EVERY SEVEN DAYS.

And by setting aside the first Sabbath in this way, God also made every FUTURE SABBATH -- EVERY SEVENTH DAY OF THE WEEK -- HOLY, ALSO!

The Sabbath therefore -- from Friday sunset until Saturday sunset -- is HOLY TIME! It is SACRED -- it is UNIQUE -- and it must be treated with RESPECT, because God's PRESENCE is in it.

Made for MAN

1. Was God's resting on the seventh day an EXAMPLE to show Adam -- the first man -- and all mankind that WE SHOULD REST from our work on this day? **Exodus 20:11.**

2. Did God make the Sabbath for Adam only, or just for the Jews, or for ALL of MANKIND? **Mark 2:27-28.**

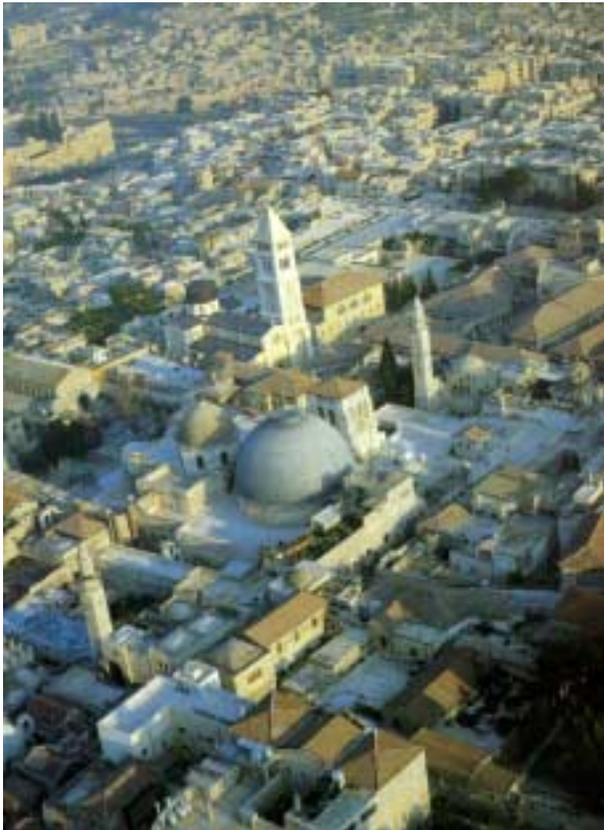
Is the whole human race COMMANDED to keep God's Sabbath? **Ex.20:8-10.**

COMMENT: Christ said that at Creation the Sabbath was MADE FOR MAN -- FOR ALL MANKIND. Adam was the first man, therefore he

stood as the REPRESENTATIVE of the WHOLE HUMAN RACE which has descended from him.

Notice too -- the Sabbath was made for MAN, and not man for the SABBATH! It is utterly RIDICULOUS to think that the Sabbath Day was made ONLY for the Jews, since the first Jew was not born until over 2,000 years LATER! Judah, a son of Jacob, was the father of the Jewish family and nation (**Gen. 29:35**).

3. WHY was the Sabbath made for man? HOW did God intend it to serve man's needs? **Ex. 20:8** and **Deut.5:12-14**.



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was built where Roman Emperor Hadrian had built a temple to Aphrodite, goddess of love.

COMMENT: Notice that God made the seventh day of the week HOLY and on His authority as our Creator He commands us TO KEEP IT that way! The Sabbath, then, is HOLY time. Yet it was made for man -- that is, for ALL mankind -- to be a GREAT BLESSING for ALL humanity!

Our Creator knew that we MORTALS would need a period of rest from our physical

labors and for the WORSHIP OF GOD every seventh day. This is the BASIC PURPOSE for which the Sabbath was created.

Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares, our work and our pleasures during the week. Our Creator foresaw that we would need a time set apart -- His Sabbath Day -- as a consecrated time when we can completely forget our daily routine and DRAW CLOSER to the Creator God in study, meditation and prayer.

Modern man DESPERATELY NEEDS this period of time in which to have real Communion with God Who is creating him to become His glorified Son!

Think about it! Time spent with God, in STUDY of HIS WORD, meditation upon Him, and His Creation, and His Instruction Manual -- the BIBLE -- is "hallowed ground" -- divine spiritual territory.

It is holy time in which to think upon God, to worship Him, to pray, study and meditate upon God's REVEALED LAWS!

God knew that all of this would add great strength and meaning to man's life during the next SIX days of each week!

The Sabbath is truly one of the greatest BLESSINGS God has bestowed upon MANKIND!

When we keep the Sabbath Day as God intends, we are showing our FAITH, our belief, in God's promise of a FUTURE eternal "rest" -- glorious SPIRIT LIFE in the Kingdom of God -- just as we illustrate in the act of baptism our faith in the PAST death, burial, and resurrection of our

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! By resting on the Sabbath, we are, in a sense, "ACTING OUT" the KINGDOM OF GOD -- our future as the Spirit-born Sons of God's glorious Family.

The Sabbath Is God's "Sign"

God reveals that the Sabbath itself is a SIGN between Him and His people. The Sabbath is a special "sign" of IDENTIFICATION between Him and His people. Let's learn how it is a sign.

1. What great blessing did God promise to give Abraham? **Rom. 4:13**.

COMMENT: We know that at the resurrection God will give Abraham this entire

earth as an eternal inheritance, because of his outstandingly WILLING ATTITUDE and great OBEDIENCE to God.

But God blessed Abraham even more by offering his descendants the SAME BLESSING, if they would also conduct themselves obediently.

2. Later Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, because of famine in their own land, went down into Egypt -- a land which God considers as a TYPE of SIN (**Heb. 11:24-26**). Israel gradually became enslaved in Egypt.

But because of Abraham's obedience, and God's promise to him and his descendants, did God raise up a deliverer to bring the Israelites out of Egypt -- out of "sin"? **Ex. 3:10-12**.

3. After delivering them out of Egypt, did God give the Israelites a SPECIAL "SIGN"? **Ex. 31:13**. WHAT was this "sign"? Was it a space of TIME -- GOD'S SABBATH? Same verse. Who was this SIGN between? Same verse. HOW were they to be able to have this sign -- by RESTING? **Verse 15**. How were the Israelites to

benefit by RESTING on God's Sabbaths -- would they be KEPT IN REMEMBRANCE, AS LONG AS THEY KEPT THEM, that God is the TRUE Lord? **Verse 13**.

COMMENT: In order that Israel -- the descendants of Abraham, Abraham's "SEED" -- would never forget that God is Creator, Sustainer, and Supreme Ruler over all His creation, God revealed the one great "SIGN" BY WHICH THEY COULD ALWAYS REMEMBER WHO HE IS!

That SIGN is a constantly reoccurring space of time -- the SEVENTH day of the week, the Sabbath.

4. How long was Israel to keep the SABBATH -- forever? **Ex. 31:16**, last four words. The Hebrew word here is *olam* -- IT MEANS "perpetual" or FOREVER!

Did God make a special, SEPARATE Sabbath "Covenant" with His people? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: The Sabbath was, and is, so IMPORTANT for mankind, God DOUBLY COMMANDED Sabbath Day keeping by making this special and SEPARATE COVENANT with His people Israel.

The Sabbath was ALREADY commanded in the Ten Commandments which God had given

them EARLIER (see **Ex.20:8**.) Here is an EVERLASTING covenant to identify the true Creator God of Israel!

All other nations had forgotten God because they had forgotten the keeping of His Sabbath Day. Israel ALONE had the "sign" to prove that God -- the Lord of Heaven and earth -- was their God and Creator.

5. But now notice something additional. Was resting on the Sabbath Day to also be a "sign" to Abraham's descendants of something ELSE? **Ex. 31:13**, the last five words. Doesn't this verse show that they would have always known -- if they had CONTINUED to rest on the Sabbath Day -- that the Creator God was setting them apart for a PARTICULAR HOLY USE?

COMMENT: The word "sanctify" means to SET APART or MAKE HOLY. The Hebrew word is *kodesh* and literally means "a sacred place or thing," "consecrated, dedicated, hallowed, holiness, holy."

6. Were the Israelites to be a "HOLY nation" and a "kingdom of PRIESTS"? **Ex. 19:6**.

COMMENT: Israel was to be SANCTIFIED -- be set apart and made holy -- as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. They were to LEAD OTHERS to the SAME CONDITION OF HOLINESS! Resting on God's Sabbaths also was to be a "sign" that they were God's CHOSEN people, selected for this purpose.

God called Abraham's "seed" out of Egyptian bondage -- a type of SLAVERY to the SIN of this present evil "world" -- to perform a very special mission. Israel was to be a LIGHT -- an example -- to the whole world.

Let's understand this! God chose Abraham's seed to BLESS mankind! They were to be His priesthood to benefit and teach mankind. Without a doubt, this calling was very important

It was the most important calling any nation has ever been given in all the history of mankind. God called them so that THROUGH THEM He could REVEAL HIMSELF TO THE WORLD -- to show that HE is the Creator and Ruler of the universe, and reveal His laws, commandments, blessings and great plan for mankind!

7. But NOTICE! Were they called "seed" of Abraham already holy, or were they to

BECOME a holy people? **Deut. 7:6-9.**

COMMENT: The ITALICIZED word "art" in **verse 6** has been wrongly added by the translators. These Old Covenant Israelites were NOT HOLY -- they were supposed to BECOME HOLY!

8. Did the Old Covenant fleshly "seed" of Abraham FAIL to become holy? **Ezek.20:13.** Notice the word "REBELLED."

How did they "rebel"? Notice! What did they do regarding RESTING on God's Sabbaths? Same verse.

COMMENT: Had Old Covenant Israel kept the Sabbath Day as God commanded them, He would have established a Priesthood of Holiness -- ministers of True Holiness who would have instructed the Israelites IN THE WAYS OF GOD as they rested on His Sabbath Days. And they would have become, thereby, a holy nation fit and able to teach others. But the Old Covenant Israelites would NOT keep the Sabbath, and therefore did NOT BECOME HOLY.

God therefore set up another type of priesthood -- the Levitical Priesthood -- which ministered physically, in a physical Temple, and offered sacrifices for the people. This ministry was a SHADOW of things above -- and gave human beings a PHYSICAL TYPE of heavenly things -- and taught them the physical lessons of OBEDIENCE (**Hebrews 9:1-11; 10:1-4**).

Since the Old Covenant Israelites failed to REST on the Sabbath, they failed to remember the true Creator God, and that they were to become a holy people -- a kingdom of priests who were to reveal to the world the Creator God, His blessings and His plan.

They failed because they did NOT have the HOLY SPIRIT to empower them. And for this reason they could NOT HAVE THE PROMISE OF SALVATION AT THAT TIME EITHER, "for the Holy Spirit was NOT YET GIVEN" (**John 7:38-39**).

God's "Sign" Necessary for Salvation Today

What has resting on the Sabbath -- having God's Sabbath "Sign" -- to do with salvation today? It is vital that we understand. Let's see what the

Bible says.

1. Doesn't the Bible plainly reveal that to be a true Christian today one must become a SPIRITUAL Israelite -- become Abraham's "seed" through Christ -- in order to inherit the SAME covenant promise of eternal life that was made to Abraham and "his seed"? **Rom. 4:16; 9:4 and Gal. 3:28-29.**

Holy SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN Christian) have to possess God's "sign" (KEEP GOD'S SABBATH) in order to be "sanctified" -- be set apart to be MADE HOLY? **Ex. 31:13.**

2. So today must a spiritual Israelite (a Holy SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN Christian) have to possess God's "sign" (KEEP GOD'S SABBATH) in order to be "sanctified" -- be set apart -- to be MADE HOLY? **Ex. 31:13.**

COMMENT: God made the Sabbath Covenant with the ancient Israelites -- Abraham's physical "seed." It was to be obeyed "THROUGHOUT" their generations. Today, all true Christians are Abraham's SPIRITUAL it seed" through Christ.

So today every true Christian MUST ALSO KEEP THE SABBATH! He must keep it in order to remember it is the Creator GOD who MAKES man holy. He must have the Sabbath "Sign" in order to be MADE HOLY HIMSELF. For after we are spiritually begotten we are to GROW in God's holy character, THROUGH THE HELP OF HIS POWERFUL HOLY SPIRIT, until we are born of God! Yes, GOD ALONE can make man holy!

3. Today, to what PURPOSE are such true Christians -- spirit-begotten Israelites, that is, Abraham's "seed" -- especially "set apart" from this present evil world and USED in God's service?

COMMENT: THE TRUTH IS ASTONISHING! The Old Covenant Israelites FAILED to respond to their calling because they would NOT REST on the Sabbath and receive instruction in God's Holiness. They did not have the Holy Spirit to help them RECOGNIZE or UNDERSTAND this call and CARRY IT OUT!

But WE, if we become spirit-begotten New Covenant Israelites, DO HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT to help us recognize this call and obey God. We have the SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION to UNDERSTAND God's calling and the

SPIRITUAL POWER TO CARRY IT OUT.

Old Covenant Israel NEVER became "a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." But WE can now become a relatively holy and competent "nation" by the POWER of the Holy Spirit!

And it is we who can become the COMPLETELY HOLY "nation" of "kings and priests" that God vowed to make of Abraham's "seed" (Ex. 19:6).

We will become this "nation" when we're BORN into the great KINGDOM OF GOD at Christ's soon coming. Christ will then have made us "kings and priests" unto Himself and His Father (Rev. 1:6). Then God's purpose will be COMPLETELY FULFILLED in us!

Yes, we -- if we are spirit-begotten New Covenant Israelites -- DO have the POWER of the Holy Spirit to save us. And we are receiving instruction in God's Holiness as we REST on His Sabbath Days.



Arch of Emperor Constantine who enforced Sunday observance for Christians throughout the Roman Empire. Sabbath observance came to be forbidden.

We show by our KEEPING of God's ordained Sabbath Day that we KNOW our God, that He is our Creator, and that we KNOW our MISSION and our GOAL. We know that we are, at Christ's SOON coming, to be CHANGED into immortal spirit beings and as such are to be made kings and priests (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10; 20:6) to serve the world throughout the Millennium as members

of the Kingdom of God!

So it is God's True Church -- composed of spirit-begotten Christians -- which is NOW spreading the GOSPEL, the GOOD NEWS, to all the world -- telling of God our Creator, His divinely just laws, His blessings, and His plan for mankind -- just before Christ's imminent return! And God's Church is SPIRITUALLY NOURISHING those He has called to become His glorified Sons in the Kingdom of God.

This is YOUR GOAL, ISN'T IT? Then keep the DAY on which you may RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN GOD'S HOLINESS -- KEEP SATURDAY, THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH OF ALMIGHTY GOD!

Sabbath Keeping Specifically Commanded Today!

1. Does one of God's great Ten Commandments specifically COMMAND US to keep the Sabbath today? **Exodus 20:8.**

COMMENT: God's great spiritual law has been in full force and effect FROM Adam until TODAY!

2. Are we to be obedient to God's commands and keep His Sabbath -- NOT being rebellious as were the Old Covenant Israelites who would not DO what God commanded, or keep His Sabbaths? **Heb.3:8-10.** Did God for this reason prevent them from entering the Promised Land -- his "rest"? **Verse 11 and Ezekiel 20:13,15.**

COMMENT: We know that Old Covenant Israel was rebellious and that God never allowed those of that rebellious generation to enter the land of Palestine -- the land God uses as a TYPE of the Millennium and the Kingdom of God.

3. Was it primarily because they wouldn't BELIEVE, and therefore wouldn't DO the Sabbath command that Israel didn't enter God's rest" -- the land of Palestine? **Heb. 4:1-2.**

But if WE BELIEVE, and OBEY this and God's other commandments, will we ENTER God's eternal "rest" -- the Kingdom of God? **Verse 3** first nine words. Will we be following the EXAMPLE Christ set for us when He rested on the seventh day of Creation Week? **Verse 4.** Did Jesus "set us an example" of how we are to live and "walk"? **I John 2:6; I Pet.2:21.**

COMMENT: How clear it is that WE are

commanded to keep the Sabbath Day! Jesus Christ set us the perfect example of how to live, and HE KEPT God's Sabbath! Therefore, once we KNOW the commandment of God, we must OBSERVE IT faithfully, if we are to enter the Kingdom of God.

4. If we are REALLY God's people, will we CONTINUALLY keep God's "rest" -- His weekly Sabbath Day? **Heb. 4:9-10.**

COMMENT: The word appearing as it rest" in **verse 9** is not translated properly. In the original Greek it is *sabbatismos*, which means that there still REMAINS A KEEPING OF THE SABBATH FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY! Those NOT keeping the Sabbath will NOT be bearing God's Sabbath "sign" which identifies His people!

Yes, the SABBATH is God's "sign" showing that He is the One who is separating us from this present evil world and making us into His Holy people. And the only way we can keep the Sabbath as Holy time is by DOING what He commands on that day -- by RESTING FROM OUR PHYSICAL LABORS!

The evidence that we are to keep the Sabbath today is overwhelming. The word "Sabbath," which means REST, appears SIXTY TIMES alone in the New Covenant part -- the "New Testament" -- of your Bible!

Creation Week the Pattern for God's Plan

God has ordained an overall period of time in which He is accomplishing His spiritual creation of mankind. The PATTERN for God's little-understood plan is given in the first two chapters of Genesis. It is the WEEK of SEVEN days.

God's plan is patterned after the six LITERAL twenty-four-hour work days and one twenty-four-hour Sabbath Day of "Creation Week." It's very important that we understand this vital truth!

1. Was God's work of re-creation after Satan's rebellion accomplished in SEVEN LITERAL DAYS? **Gen.2:2.**

COMMENT: Chapter one of Genesis shows the seven literal days, each with a "EVENING" and a "MORNING," which were used by God to re-create the surface of the earth,

and its inhabitants. But prior to this, Lucifer rebelled against God, causing "chaos and destruction" in the earth, and solar system. When God originally created the earth, it was beautiful (**Isa.45:18**). Notice! Isaiah says God "did not create it in vain." The Hebrew word for "vain" here means "empty, a waste." Yet **Genesis 1:2** says when God created the earth, "without form, and void" -- the same Hebrew word! What happened? Lucifer rebelled against God, and caused the chaos (**Isa.14:12-14**). In Genesis 1:2, the word "was" could also be translated "became." It is so translated in **Genesis 19:26** where we read that Lot's wife "BECAME" a pillar of salt!

Genesis 1, verses 3 to the end of the chapter, therefore, describes a RE-creation of the earth and its life! David tells us in Psalms, "You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You RENEW the face of the earth" (**Psalms 104:30**).

It was therefore when God re-created the earth and its surface, and life forms on it, that He established HIS SABBATH (**Gen.2:1-4**).

2. And does the weekly Sabbath also FORESHADOW God's one-thousand-year Millennium of rest and peace for the physical people of this earth? **II Pet.3:8** and **Rev. 20:1-5.**

COMMENT: A day in God's PLAN is as "a thousand years," and "a thousand years" of human civilization is as ONE day in His planned WEEK of SEVEN 1,000-YEAR "DAYS"!

God also planned the weekly Sabbath Day to foreshadow, or be a TYPE of, the 1,000-year millennial period when He is going to bring the world to repentance so man can be begotten and born into His Family. This 1,000-year millennial period will become a veritable 1,000-year "SABBATH" OF REST FROM WARS AND SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS!

And the total of the OTHER SIX DAYS of Creation Week clearly corresponds to the 6,000 year period of human civilization in which we NOW find ourselves. This, then, constitutes God's six-thousand-year and one thousand-year PLAN -- a great "WEEK" OF 7,000 YEARS!

It's LATER Than You Think!

God made an astounding statement within the seven literal days of Creation Week -- in the

very first chapter of the Bible.

1. What was the astounding statement God made in **Genesis 1:26**?

COMMENT: God reveals that it is His purpose to create man in the very Spiritual character and composition of the God Family! And God said, IN EFFECT, that He would create man spiritually within a "week" -- within a period of SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS.

God has allotted carnal mankind the first 6,000 years of His 7,000-year Plan to EXPERIENCE the "fruits" of his own labors.

Man has been learning, by hard experience, that the "fruits" of his own ways -- living by his OWN laws and under his OWN governments -- has produced nothing but SIN, SUFFERING and DEATH! God has allowed all this so that when He finally sets His hand to save the world, men will KNOW BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT GOD'S WAYS ARE BEST AFTER ALL!

Many Bibles give the DATE of Creation Week as 4004 B.C. -- based on Archbishop Ussher's chronology. There is abundant evidence showing that THIS DATE IS REASONABLY ACCURATE! That means it's MUCH LATER than you think!!

It means we are VERY NEAR the close of 6,000 years of human history and the beginning of God's 1,000-year Millennium!

The TIME LEFT FOR PREPARING to be born of God at Christ's coming IS BECOMING VERY SHORT!

2. What is to be the ultimate END of all those who will never obey God and keep His Sabbath Day? **Rev. 21:8.**

COMMENT: If we are NOT obeying God's Sabbath command because of "UNBELIEF" -- lack of FAITH in what God says in His Word -- if we PERSIST in REFUSING TO REST on the Sabbath Day, we will be showing God the WRONG ATTITUDE which points to a different type of eternal "rest" -- the rest of ETERNAL DEATH!

And those who PERSIST in keeping any day of the week OTHER than God's ordained Holy Sabbath, when they learn the truth of God, are also showing this same WRONG ATTITUDE to God! It is the attitude of king Saul -- stubbornness and rebellion, which is like witchcraft to GOD! (I

Sam.15:22-23). Because of his rebellion, Saul lost his position as King of Israel -- he was replaced!

FAITH -- the Key

There are people today who have come to KNOW and UNDERSTAND the truth about God's Sabbath, but are hesitant to begin keeping it. They EXCUSE themselves by saying the PRESSURES of the world would absolutely prevent it -- pressures of business, pressures of friends, of children, of pleasures and pressures from other sources.

Their problem is a LACK OF FAITH TO STEP OUT IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD, TRUSTING HIM to work everything out for their good -- if they would only RESIST worldly pressures by RESTING from all their own pursuits on the -- Sabbath!

Do you know that such people -- and this MAY include YOU -- are being put to God's SUPREME TEST in His challenge, His COMMAND TO rest on the Sabbath?

Nowhere does God promise that you will receive eternal life if you JUST rest on the Sabbath. But God does say, "If thou wilt enter into (eternal) life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS -- one of which is "keep the SABBATH"! (**Mat. 19:17.**)

Did you ever wonder WHY God singles out ONE of the Ten Commandments -- the FOURTH -- and insists again and again that we must keep it by resting on the seventh day of the week? The Sabbath is mentioned sixty times in the New Testament alone. And many more times in the Old Testament.

HERE IS THE REASON. GRASP IT FULLY!

Of all God's commandments, Sabbath keeping is the one that appeals the LEAST TO CARNAL-NATURED MAN. To the carnal, unrepentant mind, Sabbath keeping seems ridiculous and absolutely unnecessary. Carnal man just does NOT WANT TO KEEP IT!

No wonder God stresses Sabbath keeping so much in the Bible. It is a TEST to ascertain our COMPLETE, TRUSTING, SURRENDER TO HIS WILL!!

If we do COMPLETELY SURRENDER to God in continuous TRUSTING FAITH and DO all

He commands, He promises to shower us with the REALLY WORTHWHILE blessings of this life, and glorious spirit life FOR ETERNITY!

Let's study now the scriptures which exhort us to step out in FAITH and REST on God's Sabbath Day -- Saturday, the seventh day of the week -- whatever may be the SEEMING "odds" against us.

1. We know that a generation of Old Covenant Israel did not enter the land of Palestine, which God uses as a SYMBOL of the Kingdom of God. They DIED without entering. Was it because of "unbelief" -- LACK OF FAITH and resultant DISOBEDIENCE to God? **Heb. 3:10-12, 18-19.**

2. Must we have FAITH before God will give us eternal "rest" -- eternal life in His Kingdom? **Heb. 4:1-3, 6.**

COMMENT: Note the words "FAITH," in **verse 2**, and "BELIEVED," in **verse 3**

3. Are we warned against showing a lack of FAITH BY "hardening our hearts"? **Verse 7.** And does **verse 11** show that we must STEP OUT IN FAITH and rest on the Sabbath? Note the warning against "unbelief" -lack of FAITH and OBEDIENCE to God.

COMMENT: How clear it becomes that we must EXERCISE FAITH IN KEEPING THE SABBATH.

4. Does Christ verify the fact that WE must take the FIRST STEP in obeying Him, if we are to receive Divine help to do His will? **Mat. 11:28.**

COMMENT: Notice carefully that Christ did NOT say He would take the FIRST STEP for us! Rather Christ said, (You) COME to Me" -- come to Christ that is, OBEY and FOLLOW His examples and commandments as well as you humanly can, and seek the MANNER in which you may draw close to Him -- and THEN He promises: "I will give you REST"!

WE MUST TAKE THE FIRST STEP IN OBEYING GOD. Then God will give us His Holy Spirit which will impart the ADDITIONAL strength and faith we need to obey Him!

5. If we run into difficulty in being able to keep God's Sabbath -- think we will lose our job because of keeping it, or whatever -- how may we receive DIVINE help in keeping this day, and in

doing what we are taught on it? **Heb. 4:14, 16.** Are we to come "boldly" to God in PRAYER and ASK FOR HIS GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH in overcoming all obstacles which SEEM TO prevent us? **Verse 16.**

COMMENT: The whole chapter of **Hebrews 4** is about keeping the Sabbath! And it closes with HOW we may receive Divine help in keeping it, and doing the things which are taught on this Day.

Even the apostles who had the human faith to follow Christ, found they did not have ENOUGH faith for their needs -- "The apostles said unto the Lord, INCREASE OUR FAITH" (**Luke 17:5**). But Christ replied, "Serve Me (first step out on your OWN faith and OBEY me -- REST upon the Sabbath Day) . . . and AFTERWARD thou shalt eat and drink (afterward you will be given DIVINE FAITH)" (**verse 8**).

You must keep the Sabbath through your OWN faith FIRST -- "FROM faith (of SELF) to FAITH" OF GOD -- ". . . from (your own) faith TO (the DIVINE POWERFUL) FAITH (which God will miraculously place within you to TRUST HIM): as it is written, the just shall live by (GOD'S) faith" (**Rom. 1:17**). You must make the FIRST MOVE, then God will help you.

How abundantly clear that we must make the initial move by beginning to rest on the Sabbath. God exhorts us to step out in faith -- even though obstacles to our obeying Him may SEEM insurmountable -- and then CONTINUE TO OBEY GOD THROUGH THE DIVINE FAITH WHICH HE PROMISES TO SUPPLY!

What About Those Who Were or Are IGNORANT of the Sabbath?

Many may wonder, then, what about those who lived and died -- and were apparently strong and believing Christians -- who never observed the Sabbath. What about such men as the "apostle of faith," George Mueller, who did a wonderful work for God, teaching about Christ, and building a tremendous orphanage system in England, during the 1800s? He was an evangelical Christians, who lived by the Word of God as best he understood it.

And what about men like John Wycliff, and William Tyndale, men of faith whom God used

in a mighty way to translate His Word into the English language? Their work became the foundation for the King James Version, the best of all the translations of men. These men gave their lives for Christ -- they were martyred for the work they did, killed by the agents of the Mother Babylon Church with its headquarters at Rome.

What about such men, who did not know about the Sabbath, and never rejected it, but who never fully understood God's truth on this matter?

1. Did the disciples once query Jesus about another man who was "doing miracles" in His name, yet followed not with them? **Mark 9:39.**

COMMENT: Notice! Here was a man who was casting out demons -- doing a "good work," with no doubt -- and doing in "in the name of Christ." Yet he followed not with the disciples, and Christ Himself!

Did Jesus condemn this man and his work? The disciples did! They told him to desist. But Jesus rebuked them, and said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me" (verse 39, NKJV).

2. What else did Jesus say about this incident? **Mark 9:40.**

COMMENT: By saying, "For he who is not against us is on our side," Jesus was stating a profound truth. We should NOT consider people as our enemies just because they don't belong to our group or church or are not following Christ "with us." God will judge each one of us according to our own "works" -- not those of another. We should not judge them, or sit in judgment of their relationship with God. Only GOD really knows their hearts, and how much "knowledge" He has given to them!

There are many different "Sabbath-observing" churches and groups, today, especially since the break-up of the Worldwide Church of God, in Pasadena, California, in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Different "remnant churches" have come out from them, and formed many different "splits" and "splinter" groups.

We should not sit in judgment of any of them. But where their is DOCTRINAL DISAGREEMENT, then we should simply preach the truth, and let the chips fall where they may.

Similarly, there are many evangelical groups, which have a true knowledge of many of the bedrock principles of the Christian faith. Yet they do not understand the truth about Sabbath observance, or other laws of God. Should we condemn them for this, and consign them to hell fire? Of course NOT!

3. What should our attitude be toward those who do not understand or accept the Sabbath truth? Rom.14:1-6. Does God say we are not to sit in judgment of others who don't see eye-to-eye with us on everything? Verse 4. Does this include those who observe other days, because they think in their minds that they are right? Verses 5-6.

COMMENT: The subject under discussion here is actually "fast" days, and vegetarianism (one eats only vegetables, verse 2, whereas others eat meat as well). Nevertheless, the principle applies to those who are "weak" or who in ignorance do not observe the true Sabbath -- we should not sit in judgment of them, but we should not compromise God's truth, ourselves.

4. What does the apostle James say on this vital subject? James 4:17.

COMMENT: In other words, if we KNOW to do GOOD -- that is, such as keep God's wonderful Sabbath Day -- and then we refuse to do it, THEN WE COMMIT HORRIBLE SIN! The "key" is the "knowledge" of the Sabbath. Those who don't have this knowledge, will not be judged on this point -- but will be judged according to what they DO with the knowledge God gives to them. But if we have studied and learned the TRUTH about the Sabbath, then we are obligated to observe and to keep it holy, as God commands!

5. Does God's prophetic word even tell us that there would be true branches or segments of the true Church of God, down through history, which would be ignorant of the Sabbath Day, and which would keep (observe) the "feast" days of Baal, the sun-god? -- that is, SUNDAY, Christmas (which was the birthday of Mithra, the sun-god, and was never observed by Christ or the apostles or the early Church!)? **Rev.2:12-15.**

COMMENT: In the seven letters to the seven churches, Jesus Christ gives a prophetic overview of His true Church as it would exist down through the ages. There would be essentially "seven types" of churches, each belonging to Him,

each with its own governing board (with different forms of "church government"), and each with its own weaknesses and strong points.

Of these seven "branches," or types of the true Church, the "Pergamos" church would have very unique problems. Pergamos was a major city in ancient Asia Minor. Alexander Hislop tells us it was the western center of the Babylonian mystery system, literally, "Satan's seat." Thus paganism was rife and abounded there. God's true church also existed there, but was under heavy pagan pressure to conform. This caused problems in the church, and they "ate things sacrificed to IDOLS." What does this mean? It means they partook of pagan idolatrous FESTIVALS! They probably thought these things had been "baptized," and were now "Christian" -- such as SUNDAY worship, Christmas observance, and even "EASTER" -- a day which stems from paganism, also, with the name of a pagan goddess (Ishtar, Astarte, Eostre, Easter, etc.), placed on its very head!

Jesus calls this church HIS Church -- even with its problems with paganism creeping into its practices and observances! He nowhere endorses these practices -- He commands them to REPENT! But remember, repentance must be according to our KNOWLEDGE of what is sin! It is difficult to repent when you don't even know you are SINNING!

6. Which of the seven churches is the WORST and most sin-laden in Christ's sight? **Rev.3:14-22.**

COMMENT: The worst of the seven would be the LAODICEAN Church! Notice -- they are "lukewarm" spiritually -- insipid -- so tasteless that unless they repent, and get "hot" spiritually, they are in danger of being vomited out of Christ's mouth (**verse 16**). This Church group thinks smugly that it is spiritually superior. But Christ says if it, "you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and NAKED" (**verse 17**). He counsels them to buy "gold (character) refined in the fire" (**verse 18**) -- in other words, this Church will have to be purged and refined by going through THE GREAT TRIBULATION at the end of this age!

What are its problems? Lukewarmness -- compromise -- letting the devil in -- partaking of pagan practices and doctrines -- refusing to repent even the TRUTH of God is presented to them!

That is why God says they are NAKED, and also BLIND! *Yet it IS an end-time branch of God's TRUE Church!*

Small consolation! Would you really want to be in THAT END-TIME CHURCH?

Maybe you already ARE, and haven't realized it! This church, as a whole, refuses to REPENT and to accept Christ's admonition (**verse 19**). It smugly refuses to face the fact of God's true Passover, true date for Pentecost, and many other crucial end-time revelations of God!

7. The Laodicean Church thinks it has a lot of "knowledge," and undoubtedly it does, in some areas, yet Christ says it is "wretched" and "blind" spiritually. What does the apostle Paul say about spiritual "knowledge"? **I Cor.8:1-2.**

COMMENT: Knowledge "puffs up," and fills a person with "pride" -- or has a tendency to do so. Knowledge of the truth, or superior knowledge, is not the goal of life -- but OBEDIENCE is! Knowledge alone will not save a single soul. But TRUE LOVE OF GOD, which means loving His Word, His Truth, and OBEYING HIM -- is the key to salvation!

8. Did Jesus tell us that He has "sheep of other pastures," besides us? **John 10:16.**

COMMENT: His literal words were, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice, and [ultimately] there will be one flock and one shepherd" (**John 10:16**).

Clearly, we should not become proud, arrogant, or lifted up, thinking that WE constitute "God's ONE true Church"! That concept has led to many grievous wrongs, errors, and mistreatment of many people! It has led to false disfellowshipment of many, splitting of families, all in the "name of Christ"! But the true Christ never sanctions such behavior by ministers, or such proud, divisive, arrogant leadership!

9. What, then, does Jesus Christ tell us to DO? **John 8:32.**

COMMENT: The TRUTH is the truth of God's Word. We should not worry or concern ourselves about others, other works, other ministries, or sit in "judgment" of them. We should simply rejoice in GOD'S TRUTH -- for the TRUTH will set us FREE from bondage and chains

of error, falsehood, and slavery to SIN!

This means whether or not others join with us, or obey God's Sabbath, we should not hold that against them -- but **WE SHOULD OBEY GOD!**

Simply put, different people are at **DIFFERENT LEVELS** of spiritual growth and understanding. We should not sit in judgment of "babes" in Christ who have less knowledge than we do. But neither should we compromise with the truth God has given us!

What to Do

We are practically at the tip end of the **SIXTH** "day" in God's "week" of 7,000 years. Very soon the **SEVENTH** 1,000-year "day" will be ushered in by the appearance of Jesus Christ. The time is indeed **VERY SHORT!**

God has shown you in His Word that if you have **TRULY REPENTED** of your disobedience to His laws, you will want to zealously **BEGIN** keeping God's Sabbath Day. You will want to **STEP OUT IN FAITH** by **RESTING** on this day! And you'll want to **QUIT OBSERVING ANY DAY OTHER THAN GOD'S SABBATH!**

ONLY the keeping of God's **SABBATH** (as well as His other commandments) in the way **HE** ordains, will fit you for your goal of eternal life and sonship in God's glorious Family!

God will especially **CONDITION YOU** toward this marvelous future on the Sabbath. On this day you will be **ESPECIALLY CLOSE** to God, and you'll grow in His **SPIRITUAL** grace and knowledge through **PRAYER** and **BIBLE STUDY**.

But keeping the Sabbath as God commands does not necessarily mean that you must attend a church on this day. You may **KEEP THE SABBATH RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME** for the present.

WHY STAY AT HOME?

Because there are some churches, which observe the seventh-day Sabbath, but they also have many **FALSE** doctrines which they teach. Therefore, you must beware that you are not enticed into a group or fellowship which might **MISLEAD** you. **DON'T BE DECEIVED!**

Just because some churches have a "FORM of Godliness" (**II Tim. 3:5**) -- have an

OUTWARD appearance of "keeping" God's Sabbath -- does **NOT** mean you should attend their services! For in reality, even many Sabbath-keeping churches **DISOBEY** God in most points of His law -- teach error concerning God's **ANNUAL HOLY DAYS**, and ignore other commandments of God!

When you are searching diligently for God's **TRUTH**, you must not be satisfied with error -- you must not accept "fool's gold" in exchange for the real thing!

There also are many small religious groups and sects which claim to keep the Sabbath. But they are **NOT NECESSARILY THE CHURCHES OF GOD EITHER!** Some may recognize and **APPROPRIATE** the true Bible name "Church of God" -- but still be teaching much **ERROR!**

You definitely should **NOT** meet with those who are **BLINDED** to the truth! The apostle Paul commanded Christians "**BE YE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS**; for what **FELLOWSHIP** hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness?" (**II Cor. 6:14**).

You cannot afford to fellowship with Satan, (his ministers (**II Cor.11:13-15**), or churches who **REFUSE** to obey all of God's commandments!

Judge By The FRUITS

1. How does Christ say we can recognize a true Church of God? **Matt.7:17-20**. How, on the other hand, can we recognize **FALSE** prophets -- false churches? **Matt.7:15-16**.

COMMENT: We do not attempt to sit in judgment of other churches. We strive to teach the truth of God, to "hew" to the line of right, and let the "chips" fall where they may.

Hopefully, by this time, you have seen by the "FRUITS" that this Work of God -- Triumph Prophetic Ministries (Church of God), with headquarters in Altadena, California -- is **FAITHFULLY KEEPING** "the testimony of Jesus Christ" (**Rev. 12:17**) and teaching the **TRUTH** of God, far beyond any other group on the face of the earth. God has mercifully given us this knowledge of His truth through the help of His Holy Spirit.

And only this church is carrying out God's great commission to preach the TRUE Gospel to the world as a "witness" (**Matt. 24:14**).

GOD is using us to do this by means of the printing press, computer, the Internet, videos, and short-wave radio broadcasts.

We are not a big "work," as men count greatness. But we are a special, unique Work of God – proven by our "fruits."

Where IS God's Church, Today?

1. What does Christ say about His Church? Would it always endure – to the very end? **Matt.16:18**.

COMMENT: GOD HAS ONLY ONE CHURCH -- NOT many differing denominations and sects! Jesus Christ said, "I will build MY church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (**Matt.16:18**). That was a divine promise!

However, He did not say His Church would not run into difficulties, trials, or tests – or even become divided, over the course of centuries, with different branches existing in the END of the age, side-by-side with each other!

2. How did Jesus characterize His Church, in its existence over the centuries, and especially in the "last days"? **Rev.2-3, entire chapters**.

COMMENT: Indeed, this is what we see in this very time, today! The seven letters to the seven churches of Revelation indicate quite clearly that there would be at least SEVEN main branches of God's Church, existing down through the centuries, and seven end-time Church branches or "remnants," with one branch -- the lukewarm Laodicean church -- being the most predominant in the END of this age!

3. If we are going to pick a branch of God's true Church to be identified with, which branch would be best? Which receives the greatest blessings and approval of Christ? **Rev.3:8-13**.

COMMENT: As we near the END of this age, it will be increasingly difficult to find the best END time remnant of God's church – the one characterized as being noted for its obedience to God, its brotherly love, and devotion to the Word of God. Nevertheless, such a Church exists! It is

prophetically called "the Philadelphia" church. The word "Philadelphia" means, in the original Greek language, "brotherly love." This church then is identified as a Church whose members and leaders exhibit deep human compassion and brotherly love for others!

4. What are this church's main attributes? **Rev.3:8-13**. Is it "small" – of "little strength"? **Verse 8**. Does it preach the gospel through unique "open doors"? **Verses 7-8**. Is it noted for keeping God's Word, Christ's commands? **Verse 8**. Is it also noted for not denying God's true Name? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: According to the Scriptures, the true name of God in HEBREW is "YHVH" – best pronounced "YAHVEH." It is not wrong to use English translations of God's name, even as His name is translated for us in the New Testament in the GREEK language, as "Theos." Similarly, Jesus' Hebrew name is "YESHUA" – and in the New Testament it is "IESOUS." Some churches deny this truth, but you can prove it. Write for our free booklet "What's All This about Sacred Names?"

You have seen by the "fruits" that THIS Church AND THIS Ministry – Triumph Prophetic Ministries (Church of God) -- God is using to proclaim His truth, the true gospel, and His knowledge, more so than any other church remnant or group. God is using us to continually feed you the true spiritual food of His Holy, inspired Word. This is the only way you may GROW SPIRITUALLY and overcome in this life, and be READY to be born into God's Family!

Remember, the Triumph radio broadcast can be heard in many areas and the website is available to all who have access to a computer. Each Sabbath, we also have a LIVE TELEPHONE CHURCH SERVICE where you can hook-up in the privacy of your own home, and listen and participate in our weekly regular SABBATH SERVICE! We also send out Bible Study TAPES -- both video and audio -- to those who request them. Hundreds around the world are on our FAMILY BIBLE STUDY TAPE program.

We are here to serve you. You have made a vital, life-preserving connection with us – don't let loose of this life-line to God's truth! Join us in serving God in this End-time Work!

Why Rest on God's Sabbath Day?