

LANDMARKS AND LANDMINES-PART 5

(The Law of God-Part 2)

Good morning friends: before we begin I want you to know that I count it a great privilege to be able to study the word of God with you this morning, and I also consider it a solemn responsibility, and I pray that the things we discover today as we read God's holy book will be a blessing to you and something that will draw you closer to the Lord Jesus as our only hope of salvation. Let's pray and ask for the Holy Spirit to be our teacher this morning. [PRAYER]

I want to make it clear this morning that obedience to the law of God is extremely important, more important than most people realize, but before we can obey that law, we must first be "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works," as it says in **Ephesians 2:10**.

Otherwise your obedience will only be outward and not from the heart, and if it's not from the heart, God cannot accept it.

What husband or wife could accept a partial commitment of love and faithfulness in a marriage? None I no of! And our relationship to Christ isn't any different.

Luke 14:33 tells us that unless we are willing to give up all for Christ, we cannot be His disciple.

And in **Proverbs 23:26** God says, "My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways."

Also **Deuteronomy 6:5** says we are to "love the LORD with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our might."

And lastly, in **John 14:15** Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

You see; God saves men, not in sin, but **from** sin; and those who love Him with every thing they have will show their love by faithfulness and obedience.

Once God gives you a new heart, (and you get that new heart when you accept Jesus into your life), then you'll be a new creature and capable of rendering acceptable obedience. Because try as we might, heart obedience **is not possible** unless we allow Jesus to live within.

So I just wanted you to know this lest you think I'm telling you that keeping the law apart from Christ can save us. We are not saved by law keeping, we are saved by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and then law keeping follows because God has placed within our heart a desire to obey. So, while our lives **are** to be in harmony with God's law, the works of the law cannot save us, and yet we cannot be saved without obedience to the law. And I know this may sound contradictory to you, but it's absolutely true!

The 10 Commandment law is the standard by which God measures character, but we cannot possibly keep the commandments without the regenerating grace of Christ. Jesus alone has the power to cleanse us from all sin, and once the cleansing has taken place, then we are given **a power to obey** that we didn't have before. However, we are always free to obey the convicting power of the Holy Spirit or the dictates of the fallen flesh, and whichever one we choose, will determine our eternal destiny. And so, we are not save by the law, but neither will God save us in disobedience to the law.

As I have thought about these things, I have realized that there are two errors we need to watch out for, especially if you are a new Christian. The first error is that of looking to our own works, in trusting to anything we can do to bring **ourselves** into harmony with God. If we are trying to become holy, or

acceptable to God by **our own works in keeping the law**, we are attempting an impossible task. All we can do without Christ is absolutely polluted with selfishness and sin. It is only the grace of Christ, through faith, that can make us holy.

However, the opposite and no less dangerous error is that belief in Christ releases us from keeping the law; that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our salvation.

But I want you to notice something, obedience is not just outward compliance, as we already talked about, but it's the service of love. If our hearts have truly been renewed by God's grace, if His love has been implanted in our very soul, don't you think the law of God will be carried out in our life? Of course it will. When this renewing of our mind happens, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled!

Hebrews 10:16 says, "God will put His laws into our hearts, and write them in our minds." And if the law is written in our heart and mind, it's going to shape our life? It can't be any other way!

Notice what it says in **1 John 2:3, 4**, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." Also take a look at chapter 5 and verse 3 (**1 John 5:3**). "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandment are not grievous." Keeping the law will not be a burden when it's in the heart to obey.

And so you see, instead of releasing us from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of God's grace, which will then enables us to render acceptable obedience. Does that make sense? We don't earn salvation by obedience; because salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith; but obedience is the fruit of faith.

Remember what Jesus said about this? This is important so we'd better read it. Matthew 7, Jesus is speaking about how to tell the difference between the true and the false prophets, but the principle holds true about people in general. **Matthew 7:16-21**, "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the **will** of my Father which is in heaven." And what is the will of God? In Psalm 40:8 David said, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." And so we see here that the will of God is for us to obey His commandments.

You may have heard the saying that an apple tree doesn't produce apples to become an apple tree, but because it is one. And by the same token, a Christian doesn't produce good works to become a Christian, but because he is one. And so if Jesus dwells in the your heart by faith, you will produce the fruits of the Spirit from the heart, just as Jesus did. But again, we're always free to choose to walk in the Spirit and produce the fruits of the Spirit or walk according to the lusts of the flesh and produce the works of the flesh. You can read about that in **Galatians chapter 5**.

That so-called faith in Christ that professes to release men from the obligation of obedience to the law is not faith, but presumption; and presumption is another one of the devil's LANDMINES.

You know what presumption is in this context? It's "unreasonable confidence in divine favor." It's to believe that God will save you **in** your sins and not **from** your sins as **Matt. 1:21** says.

Friends, the devil is an expert at causing people to believe something with no Scriptural evidence. That's why it's important to know what your Bible says.

Ephesians 2:8 says, "By grace are you saved through faith," but that's not all the Bible says. In **James 2:17** it says, "But faith, if it hath not works, is dead." And so we see how these two elements work together for our salvation. If obedience to the law is not the fruit you produce, it's a dead faith and salvation can't come through a dead faith.

Last time we talked about the moral law of Ten Commandments, and also the ceremonial law that was abolished at the cross, and how these two laws differ. Why one is still binding upon all human beings, and always will be, and why one is not, and never will be again.

And there were a couple more things I wanted to share with you last time about this, but our time was gone. So, before we go any further and lest I forget, I'd like to read something very interesting from the 66th chapter of the book of Isaiah. Turn there with me. I just love the way Isaiah closes his book; he had a lot of warnings and reproofs for God's people during his day, but he ends with a promise that extends to His faithful people even today.

Isaiah 66:22, 23 "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord."

So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Bible says the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power. That's true in this present world, and it's true for the world to come. And when the Garden of Eden blooms again upon the **new** earth, everyone will honor God's holy rest day. And not only that, but all of our loved ones who have accepted the sacrifice of Christ in their behalf and have allowed the Holy Spirit to shape their characters, will be there with us, for it says "our seed and our name shall remain." I tell you friends, we have something glorious to look forward to, and it **will** come to pass if we continue to fight the good fight of faith.

I promised you last time that we would go more in depth regarding who the antichrist is, and how he has thought to change the Ten Commandment law by burying his LANDMINE in hopes people all over the world would step on it. And for the most part they have, and are to this day! Because nearly the whole Christian world has forgotten that God said, "REMEMBER the Sabbath day to keep it holy." And the main reason they have forgotten is because the man of sin mentioned in **2 Thessalonians 2:2, 3**, who is the same as the anti-christ, has set up a rival institution in its place. But we'll get to that in a few minutes.

First of all, let's look at a prophecy that was given to the prophet Daniel nearly 2200 years ago that warns of a **man made change** to God's law that would occur and have very serious consequences for the whole world at the end of time.

Turn with me please to **Daniel 7**; we discussed one verse in this chapter very briefly last time, but we need to **look at it** a little more closely to get the full impact, especially as it relates to these last days.

Before we read, let me give you a little background about this vision Daniel had in a dream. Daniel saw four beasts that represented four kingdoms that would rule the world, but he was most interested in the last one, because it was very strange and because it would be a power that would persecute God's people for many centuries.

Notice what it says beginning with verse 23 and reading through to verse 25 – **Dan. 7:23-25**. "Thus he said," that is, the angel that was explaining this vision to Daniel, "the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon

earth, which shall be diverse (different) from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

We know from the Bible and from history that there have indeed been four earthly powers that have ruled this world, and these same powers are also depicted in **Daniel chapter 2** as a giant image of a man, made of four different metals. We don't have time to fully explain chapter 2, but you'll recall that king Nebuchadnezzar had a dream in which he saw an image that had a head of gold, arms and chest of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay all mixed together.

The head of gold represented the kingdom of Babylon, the silver Medio-Persia, the brass Greece, the legs of iron the Pagan Roman Empire, and the feet of iron and clay with the ten toes, represents the ten nations of Europe that developed after the fall of Rome, and how they would be hopelessly divided as clay and iron cannot adhere to each other. In other words, they would never be permanently united into one kingdom, even though many people over the years have tried to have a united Europe as it was once united under the Roman emperors.

Now, we just read in **verse 24** that another power would arise among these ten European powers and that it would “subdue three of these 10 kings”, or kingdoms, as we read in **verse 23**. And history tells us that the power that did this was papal Rome. The papacy, or the “little horn” as its called in **Daniel 7:7, 8**, took out three of these ten kingdoms and afterward would “wear out the saints of the most High”, or persecute God's people, “for a time, times, and a dividing of time.”

Now, I know that if you haven't previously studied these things in the past it might seem a bit overwhelming to you, but if you will read Daniel chapters 2, 7, and 8, you'll gain a better handle on this prophecy. These three chapters don't name the fourth kingdom like they do the first three, which were the kingdoms of Babylon, Medio-Persia, and Greece; but history clearly shows that Rome was the fourth world Empire that came to power after the Grecian king, Alexander the Great, suffered an untimely death when he was about a month away from turning 33 years of age.

We don't have the time to get bogged down with all the details this morning, you can search it out for yourself, and I encourage you to do that. But what I want to focus on has to do with Rome in its second phase as Papal Rome, or the papacy, or the Roman Catholic Church.

In 538 AD the Roman Emperor Justinian officially proclaimed the pope head over all the churches, and the **church** became the authority to enforce its will upon the people. In fact it had already gained much of that power 30 years earlier in 508 when Clovis, the king of France, because of a nominal conversion to Christianity a few years earlier, became the catalyst in converting the European countries from paganism to a convoluted form of Christianity. And so Justinian was simply acknowledging what was already in the works.

But here's the problem with this kind of arrangement; whenever a religion has power to rule the state, it always persecutes those who refuse to follow its dictates. That's always the way it's been through history. That's why America came to be a country that separates church and state. Our forefathers came to America to escape religious persecution and to set up a government without a king, like England had, and a church without a pope.

In the beginning everyone understood that we had a Republic in this country; you know the words, “and to the **Republic** for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

There's seems to be a little confusion today about the difference between a democracy and a republic, so let me give you a brief explanation.

- In a Democracy, the majority has unlimited power over the minority. It's a system of government that doesn't provide a legal safeguard of the rights of the minority or of the individual. To put it simply, whether right or wrong, it's majority rule, and tough luck for the few who disagree.
- In a Republic on the other hand, the majority is limited and constrained by a written Constitution, which **protects the rights** of the minority and of the individual. And so, the purpose of a Republic is to control the majority and to protect the God-given inalienable rights of that minority and the rights of the individual.

Now, with these thoughts in mind, let me give you an example of how a democracy works: let's suppose that terrorism and the financial condition in the United States gets so bad that the majority believes that God is no longer blessing America because of its moral decline, and they influence lawmakers to enact a law that requires everyone to go to church on Sunday in an effort to please God and once again receive His blessing.

And don't think this is far fetched, because it's already happened in the past, and to this day there are still Sunday blue laws on the books in several states; for the most part they're just not being enforced.

Besides, the President of the United States has executive privileges to enact such a law by the stroke of a pen if he believes, in his twisted thinking, that it's for the good of the country. And by the way, that is pretty much how a dictatorship works, and this battle over the Constitution is taking place right now in this country if you're paying attention to the news. And so, you can see where America is heading as trouble in this world continues to escalate.

Let's suppose also that the United States Constitution is repudiated by the majority, or simply ignored as is already being done today, and the minority refuse to violate their Bible educated conscience by honoring a manmade law that's contrary to God's word. And what if the majority concludes that God's blessing cannot be realized as long as the minority refuses to go along with the program.

Under this scenario the stubborn minority would have to be eliminated, wouldn't they? Seems like I remember reading something about a death decree in **Revelation 13:15** that will be pronounced against those that refuse to receive the "mark of the beast." And there's something you might want to keep in mind: a beast in Bible prophecy is not an animal, but a ruling power in this world. You'll discover that as you read the seventh chapter of Daniel, and I hope you'll verify that with a little study of your own and not just take my word for it.

But you can see right away that this would cause great difficulty for those who choose to remember the seventh-day Sabbath to keep it holy.

And here's something else; in the establishment of America, we were not only a Republic, but also a Protestant country; however, today we're not only on the verge of losing our Republic to a Democracy and a dictatorship, but our status as a Protestant nation as well. And friends, this is all by design! The Roman Catholic Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. Ever since the Protestant Reformation began, she has employed every device at her disposal to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined battle to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done, and the focus of this battle is right here in a Protestant America that's no longer PROTESTING the imagined authority of the papacy!

And the reason I'm sharing this with you today is because I don't want you to be fooled by this power that parades itself as a Christian organization, because it's not! And I know it's not politically correct to be so bold as to tell you the truth, but I would rather have people mad at me know that after it's too late to understand and follow the truth.

Over the centuries Catholicism has become nothing more than baptized paganism as the Church of Rome apostatized by compromising the truth and accepting pagan beliefs in order to win more converts into her ranks.

The terms papal Rome, the papacy, the little horn, the man of sin, the son of perdition, 666, the beast power, the mother of harlots, and the anti-christ, are all terms that apply to the same power; the power, according to **Daniel 7:25** that would "think to change times and laws." And I explained last time what this means; and if you didn't receive last month's CD, please ask for part-4 and I'll be glad to send it to you.

And let me just say this, I'm not implying that the Catholic people are bad people, because God has people in that communion as well as in all the churches, but it's the Catholic church as an organization with its false teachings that prophecy says would think to change the law of God. And those who are in that system, or any of the Protestant churches that are following any of the false teachings of that system, are the ones that are to be called out of this Babylonian confusion by heeding the warning of the fourth angel's message of **Revelation 18:1-5**. This 4th angel's message is a message which who hear must obey, or receive of the 7 last plagues. And so, it's quite serious; but we don't have time to study about this aspect today.

Now, getting back to what Daniel said about this power wearing out the saints for "a time, times, and a dividing of time." What in the world could that mean?

Well, it's really not as complicated as it sounds when we allow the Bible to interpret itself as **2 Peter 1:21, 22** tells us to do.

The word "time" in Hebrew means "a year"; you can look that up in a Bible concordance; and if you don't have one you ought to purchase one or get on the Internet and search it out.

Also in Daniel chapter 4 you can read about what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar when he exalted himself in the eyes of the people rather than giving glory to God. **Daniel 4:16** says the king went out in the field and ate grass like an ox "Until seven times passed over him", or for seven years.

Can you imagine what he looked like after 7 years in the field! The Bible says his nails grew like birds claws and his hair like eagles feathers, probably something like dreadlocks. He was a mess! But in the end he learned his lesson about self-exaltation, and we have every reason to believe that we will meet him in heaven. Sometimes God has to knock a person down a notch or two to save them for eternity, but I don't think king Nebuchadnezzar will complain about that, do you?

So, **Daniel 7:25** says that papal Rome would wear out the saints "for a time, times, and a dividing of time."

We've already seen that a "time" = a year; and so "times" plural would = 2 years; and "a dividing of time" singular, would = ½ a year. This means that the papacy would persecute God's true and faithful people for 3 ½ years, pretty simple!

However, when calculating time prophecy we need to keep two things in mind.

- #1, the Hebrew calendar had 360 days to the year and not 365 like we have today. And since Daniel was of Hebrew decent, that's the way this prophecy must be calculated.

- And #2, time prophecy is always figured on the day for a year principle: let me give you a couple examples.
 - **Ezekiel 4:4-8**. Here in Ezekiel 4 the Lord told him (Ezekiel) to act out a little parable so the children of Israel would know what was coming because of their rebellion against God. And as we pick up the story in verse 4, Ezekiel is told, “Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year. Therefore thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm shall be uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it. And, behold, I will lay bands upon thee, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to another, till thou hast ended the days of thy siege.”

And so, here we have a time prophecy of out the enemies of Israel and Judah would lay siege to Jerusalem and be banished among the Gentiles for a period of 430 years – a day for a year.

- And then the other example is found in **Numbers 14:33, 34**. Here in Numbers 14 we have a story about the twelve spies that were sent into the land of Canaan to search out the land. And all but Caleb and Joshua brought back an evil report. And because the Israelites had a lack of faith that God would conquer their enemies and give them the Promised Land, they had to wander in the wilderness for forty years. “And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched out the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.”

So here we have a prophetic utterance, don't we? God is telling Israel what was going to happen before it came to pass, that's prophecy. And when the prophecy includes a time element we must apply the day for a year principle or a well come up with the wrong answer.

So, just so we're clear, a “time” (singular) = 360 days; “times” (plural) = 720, or 2 x 360; and “a dividing of time” (singular), or a half a year = 180 days.

And when you add 360, 720, and 180 you get 1260 days or years: this is how long Daniel says the saints would be persecuted by the fourth beast, or by papal Roman.

And when we go to history we find that the papacy did indeed persecute the saints for 3 ½ prophetic days or 1260 years: from 538AD, when Justinian gave supreme power to the pope, to 1798 when power was taken away from the papacy when the pope was taken captive by Napoleon's general Berthier.

This 1260 year period is known today as the “dark ages;” called dark not only because it was a terrible time of persecution, but because the papacy withheld the light of the Bible from the people—not only making it illegal on pain of death to own one (Bible), but also burning all they found, along with those they deemed heretics.

But even though the papacy lost power in 1798, **Revelation 13:3** says that it's “deadly wound would be healed.” In other words, the time would come when the papacy would regain it's power and influence in the

world, but do it's work of persecution differently than in the past by working through apostate Protestantism in America as it forms an "image (or an exact likeness) to the papal beast."

This means that the Protestant churches of America, who have forgotten what they were protesting about, will duplicate the principles of the papacy when the church once more rules the state.

Have you ever wondered about all the Catholic institutions in America, and the influence the pope has today as a spiritual leader around the world, and all the concessions and compromises the Protestant churches have made to the papacy since the establishment of this country? Friends, all these things are telling us that the time is at hand for last day prophecies to be fulfilled. And also have you ever considered that 6 of the 9 US Supreme Court justices are now Catholic? This indicates how easily majority decisions from the court can affect the minority and the individual rights of our republic when push comes to shove.

Remember a few minutes ago when I told you about Sunday blue laws that were enacted right here in America, and how these laws are still on the books in many states in our Union? People right here in this "land of the free and the home of the brave" were actually killed or set to hard labor on chain gangs because they chose to follow the Bible Sabbath and worship God on the seventh day instead of Sunday, the first day of the week.

We don't have the time to go into any detail about this today, but if you would like to do a little research on your own, get on the Internet and search out "blue laws in America", and you'll find lots and lots of information.

However, the very first recorded Sunday Law was enacted long before America came to be. This is something the devil has been working on for a very long time. On March 7, 321AD the Roman Emperor Constantine enforced the first Sunday law, and I'll read you just a short portion of it.

- (Quote) "LET ALL THE JUDGES AND TOWN PEOPLE, AND THE OCCUPATION OF ALL TRADES REST ON THE VENERABLE DAY OF THE SUN." (Unquote)

And there were penalties for not obeying this law; mild at first, but eventually leading to the confiscation of property and eventually the death of those who refused to obey a man made law that contradicted God's word.

I share this information with you today so you will know that Sunday laws have a long history, and as I said before, it's not far fetched to believe that it could happen again, in fact the Bible predicts that it will happen again just before the Lord returns, and professed Christians will be tested upon this very point.

Notice what it says in **Revelation 14:9-12**. "And the third angel followed them (the previous two angels), saying with a loud voice, 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, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Now, think this through with me for a minute: since those who keep the commandments of God are placed in contrast with those that worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, it follows that the keeping of God's law, on the one hand, and its violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers

of God and the worshipers of the beast. Do you see that? God's people will keep all the commandments including the Sabbath, because like Jesus, they have the same faith.

Also **Revelation 22:14** tells us that only those who do the commandments of God will have right to the tree of life and will be able to "enter in through the gates into the city" of God.

Do you want to be there friend? If you do it will cost you something to be faithful to God's Commandments, especially when the whole world is violating them, and government leaders enact laws that restrict religious liberty. And especially will this be true—according to Bible prophecy—regarding the Sabbath, because it is the one point that will be strongly controverted just before Jesus comes.

In closing I'd like you to think about this: The seventh-day Sabbath was instituted at the end of creation week, and blessed and sanctified for mankind to observe. It was kept holy by God's people all through Old Testament times. Jesus and His disciples kept the Sabbath. There is no other day mentioned in the New Testament as a special day of rest and worship. And the Bible testifies that it will be kept when this earth is made new.

And so I ask you, does it make sense that somewhere in the interim, Sunday sacredness is now to be kept holy as a command of God only to give way once again to the seventh-day Sabbath when the Lord comes?

If it's true that God doesn't change, as it says in **Malachi 3:6**, and that He is the same yesterday to day and for ever, as it says in **Hebrews 13:8**, and that He won't alter the thing that has gone out of His lips, as it says in **Psalms 89:34**, and that there is not even one single verse in all the Bible that authorizes a change to the day of worship – then how could the Sabbath be changed to Sunday except that the devil has planted his LANDMINE to blow up the truth about the sacredness of the seventh day? There can be no other explanation for such a change to God's holy law.

Now, I know I've covered a lot of ground without giving you an in depth study relating to some of the historical events I mentioned today, and so what I'd like to do is offer you a free book that goes into detail about many of the things we've barely touched upon this morning. So, if you will write, or call, or email me from the information on the CD your listening to right now, I will send you a free book that will not only make all these things very understandable, but will give you a better grasp of the truth for this time than most ministers have today.

It will walk you through last day events as they are prophesied in God's word, and you will fully understand what to expect in the coming days and months of this earth's history.

Also I will send you a printout of statements made by many different denominational leaders of Sunday churches who admit that the seventh-day is still the Bible Sabbath and that there is no inspired authorization for Sunday sacredness.

And finally you will read for yourself that the Roman Catholic Church admits that it has, with absolutely no Biblical authority, changed the day of worship from the seventh to the first day of the week, and that it is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority, making Sunday sacredness the mark of the papal beast. And please, dear friends, I appeal not to your feelings and emotions this morning, but to your intellect. If we make decisions that have eternal consequences based on feelings we will change our mind when threats, imprisonment and a death decree is handed down by courts of injustice. But if you know that what you believe is based upon scripture and determine to follow it, the Holy Spirit will empower you to stand true to God no matter what the majority demands. May God help us always to do the right thing. Let's pray.
[PRAYER]

PROTESTANTISM SPEAKS

BAPTIST: "There was and is a command to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will however be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask, where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament-absolutely not. There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week." *Dr. E. T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manual.*

CONGREGATIONALIST: "It is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath... The Sabbath was founded on a specific divine command. We can plead no such command for the observance of Sunday... There is not a single line in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday."—*Dr. R. W Dale, The Ten Commandments, pp. 106-107.*

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL: "The day is now changed from the seventh to the first day... but as we meet with no Scriptural direction for the change, we may conclude it was done by the authority of the church." *The Protestant Episcopal Explanation of the Catechism.*

BAPTIST: "The Scriptures nowhere call the first day of the week the Sabbath... There is no Scriptural authority for so doing, nor of course, any Scriptural obligation." *The Watchman.*

PRESBYTERIAN: "There is no word, no hint in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday. The observance of Ash Wednesday, or Lent, stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday. Into the rest of Sunday no Divine Law enters." *Canon Eyton, Ten Commandments.*

ANGLICAN: "And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day." *Isaac Williams, Plain Sermons on the Catechism, pp. 334, 336.*

METHODIST: "It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week. Many believe that Christ changed the Sabbath. But, from His own words, we see that He came for no such purpose. Those who believe that Jesus changed the Sabbath base it only on a supposition." *Amos Binney, Theological Compendium, pp. 180-181. page 17*

EPISCOPALIAN: "We have made the change from the seventh to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy, catholic, apostolic church of Christ." *Bishop Seymour, Why We Keep Sunday.*

SOUTHERN BAPTIST: "The sacred name of the seventh day is Sabbath. This fact is too clear to require argument [Exodus 20:10, quoted]... On this point the plain teaching of the Word has been admitted in all ages... Not once did the disciples apply the Sabbath law to the first day of the week, -that folly was left for a later age, nor did they pretend that the first day supplanted the seventh." *Joseph Judson Taylor, The Sabbatic Question, pp. 14-17,41.*

AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALIST: "The current notion, that Christ and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day for the seventh, is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament." *Dr. Lyman Abbot, Christian Union, June 26, 1890.*

CHRISTIAN CHURCH: "Now there is no testimony in all the oracles of heaven that the Sabbath is changed, or that the Lord's Day came in the room of it." *Alexander Campbell, Reporter, October 8, 1921.*

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST: "There is no direct Scriptural authority for designating the first day 'the Lord's Day.'" *Dr. D. H. Lucas, Christian Oracle, January 23, 1890.*

BAPTIST: "To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years' discussion with His disciples, often conversing upon the Sabbath question, discussing it in some of its various aspects, freeing it from its false [Jewish traditional] glosses, never alluded to any transference of the day; also, no such thing was intimated. Nor, so far as we know, did the Spirit, which was given to bring to their remembrance all things whatsoever that He had said unto them, deal with this question. Nor yet did the inspired apostles, in preaching the gospel, founding churches, counseling and instructing those founded, discuss or approach the subject.

"Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god, then adopted and sanctified by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism." *Dr. E. I. Hiscox, report of his sermon at the Baptist Minister's Convention, New York Examiner, November 16, 1893.*

CATHOLICISM SPEAKS

"Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claim to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." *Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900.*

"Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the [Roman Catholic] Church, has no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath." *John Gilmary Shea, in the American Catholic Quarterly Review, January 1883.*

"It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church." *Priest Brady, in an address, reported in the Elizabeth, N.J. News of March 18, 1903.*

"*Ques.* Have you any other way of proving that the [Catholic] Church has power to institute festivals of precept [to command holy days]?"

"*Ans.* Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her: She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." *Stephen Keenan, Doctrinal Catechism, p. 176.*

"Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these two alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible." *The Catholic Mirror, December 23, 1893.*

"God simply gave His [Catholic] Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days, as holy days." *Vincent J. Kelly, Forbidden Sunday and Feast Day Occupations, p. 2.*

"Protestants... accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change... But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in accepting the Bible, in observing the Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope." *Our Sunday Visitor*, February 5, 1950.

"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." *Pope Leo XIII, in an Encyclical Letter, dated June 20, 1894.*

"Not the Creator of Universe, in Genesis 2:1-3,-but the Catholic Church can claim the honor of having granted man a pause to his work every seven days." *S. C. Mosna, Storia della Domenica, 1969, pp. 366-367.*

"The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ, hidden under veil of flesh." *The Catholic National, July 1895.*

"If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day. In keeping the Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church." *Albert Smith, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the Cardinal, in a letter dated February 1, 1920.*

"We define that the Holy Apostolic See (the Vatican) and the Roman Pontiff hold the primacy over the whole world." *A Decree of the Council of Trent, quoted in Philippe Labbe and Gabriel Cossart, 'The Most Holy Councils,' col. 1167.*

"It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest [from the Bible Sabbath] to the Sunday... Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church." *Monsignor Louis Segur, Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today, p. 213.*

"We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." *Peter Geiermann, CSSR, A Doctrinal Catechism, 1957 edition, p. 50.*

"We Catholics, then, have precisely the same authority for keeping Sunday holy instead of Saturday as we have for every other article of our creed, namely, the authority of the Church... whereas you who are Protestants have really no authority for it whatever; for there is no authority for it [Sunday sacredness] in the Bible, and you will not allow that there can be authority for it anywhere else." *The Brotherhood of St. Paul, 'The Clifton tracts, ' Volume 4, tract 4, p. 15.*

"The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant, claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday." *The Catholic Universe Bulletin, August 14, 1942, p. 4.*