

The Good News

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Can the U.S. Constitution *Enforce* SUNDAY?

What does the new political trend in America mean? Will separation of Church and State continue? Here is what could happen if God would not intervene!

by Herman L. Hoeh

AN OLD controversy has suddenly taken on new meaning with the presidential election of 1960. Here, quoted from the Catholic magazine *AMERICA*, Feb. 11, 1961, is the controversy in a nutshell:

"Controversy over Sunday-closing could be minimized if, in law, religious significance were removed from the weekly rest day. Rather than being called Sunday, the day should be referred to as . . . 'the President's day.' Article 1, Section 7, of our Constitution certainly orders the Government and the President to rest on Sunday"—and then the writer quotes from the U.S. Constitution as follows: ". . . If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sunday excepted) after it shall have been presented to him. . . ."

Did you catch the vital significance of this statement?

The Government and the President, argues the writer, are *ordered* to rest on Sunday! It is suggested that it be called "the President's day"!

And if the Government is required to rest this day and work on the other days, why should the common people be excepted?

Will Sunday again be enforced? Will it be by a Protestant-Catholic Church-State union as Seventh Day Adventists assume? Or is the present "blue law" controversy merely a forewarning of

what is to be enforced by another government altogether?

WHO is going to enforce the "mark of the beast"?

It Happened Once Before

Notice the shocking record of history. Over 1600 years ago the same controversy raged in the world. Shall Sunday be a matter of private choice—or shall it be "the Emperor's day"?

It turned out to be "the Emperor's day"—and it was branded on the whole Roman world. It was branded on professing Christianity.

In your Bible that ancient Roman system is pictured as a wild animal—a wild beast. And the MARK OF THE BEAST was branded on all the ancient world! Sunday was not the mark of a church organization—it was the mark of a political government—Satan's government!

It was—and *is*—the mark of the beast!

And it is soon to be enforced on a heedless, deceived world. But it will not come in the manner or at the time usually expected. This quote from the *AMERICA* magazine is only a straw in the wind. The mark of the beast is not going to be enforced by an American—Catholic alliance, but by the BEAST—soon to arise in Europe and bring about the birth of the new Roman Empire and enforce its religion on the whole western world!

How a State Religion is Enforced

Few realize how Sunday was once enforced upon the professing Christian world. How a Gentile world-empire branded this pagan holiday upon millions of people and imposed the death penalty on all who would not submit to it!

Few have even read the astounding decree which required the death penalty for all who opposed the dictates of the Roman State.

And fewer still know that right now, behind closed doors, a controversy is being fought in secret about whether the Euromart nations are to impose Sunday as a compulsory rest day on the millions who live in Europe. Great pressure is being brought on the present German government to close its booming industries on Sunday.

Let us turn back the pages of history for a moment and read the decree which banished the true Church from the confines of the Roman Empire. This same kind of decree is soon to be enforced on our world by a revival of the same Roman system in Europe. Here it is.

Constantine's Edict

"VICTOR CONSTANTINUS, MAXIMUS AUGUSTUS, to the heretics. . . .

"FORASMUCH, then, as it is no longer possible to bear with your pernicious

errors, we give warning by this present statute that none of you henceforth presume to assemble yourselves together. We have directed, accordingly, that you be deprived of all the houses in which you are accustomed to hold your assemblies: and our care in this respect extends so far as to forbid the holding of your superstitious and senseless meetings, not in public merely, but in any private house or place whatsoever.

"Let those of you, therefore, who are desirous of embracing the true and pure religion, take the far better course of entering the catholic Church, and uniting with it in holy fellowship, whereby you will be enabled to arrive at the knowledge of the truth. In any case, the delusions of your perverted understandings must entirely cease to mingle with and mar the felicity of our present times: . . .

"And in order that this remedy may be applied with effectual power, we have commanded, as before said, that you be positively deprived of every gathering point for your superstitious meetings, I mean all the houses of prayer, if such be worthy of the name, which belong to heretics, and that these be made over without delay to the catholic Church; that any other places be confiscated to the public service, and no facility whatever be left for any future gathering; in order that from this day forward none of your unlawful assemblies may presume to appear in any public or private place. Let this edict be made public."

That is how the religion of the Roman State was enforced on all the civilized world.

Notice how Eusebius, the Catholic historian, describes the enforcement of this decree.

"THUS were the lurking-places of the heretics broken up by the emperor's command, and the savage beasts they harbored (I mean the chief authors of their impious doctrines) driven to flight. . . . Accordingly, numbers . . . acknowledged the Church as a mother from whom they had wandered long, and to whom they now returned with joy and gladness. Thus the members of the entire body became united, and compacted in one harmonious whole; and the one catholic Church, at unity with itself, shone with full luster, while no heretical or schismatic body anywhere continued to exist. And the credit of having achieved this mighty work our Heaven-protected emperor alone, of all who had gone before him, was able to attribute to himself."

And that is how the tribulation of the Dark Ages began. Truth was suppressed. Sunday was everywhere en-

forced. The people were branded with the mark of the beast—a political brand marking the people as subjects of the Government of Satan the devil!

But how did Sunday ever become the symbol of the devil's Government? How did it all originate? Why was the Sabbath stamped out?

Facts of History You Should Know

HOW AND WHEN did Sunday replace the Sabbath in this Western Christian-professing world? *Why* did the churches *lose* the one and only SIGN—the Sabbath—which designates who God's people are?

How did Sunday become known as the "Lord's Day"?

It is time we—in God's Church—peer behind the curtain for the *facts*! It is time we become grounded in the faith and understand HOW, WHEN and WHERE Sunday observance originated. You will be shocked to learn that Sunday originated with *human* government just after the Flood! It became the MARK or symbol of authority imposed by the State to commemorate Nimrod's name! The facts of history will shock you!

Sunday Is the "Lord's Day!"

The churches today are in a *Babylon of confusion*. And no wonder! For their religion sprang from Babylon! (Rev. 17.)

Most Church doctrines and practices have Christian-sounding names, but they are in reality Babylonish customs *falsely labeled*. This is especially true of Sunday—the "Lord's Day"!

Believe it or not, Sunday was celebrated by pagans as the "Lord's Day" over 2000 years *before* the resurrection of Christ. The apostle Paul saw the heathen observing it. Yet never once did he observe it. And he forbade Christians to celebrate it (Gal. 4:10).

Then why do we find the churches today observing Sunday supposedly in honor of Christ?

The answer is simple. Consider I Corinthians 8:5. The heathen world, in which the New Testament Church began to grow, was filled with pagan *holidays* in honor of "gods many, and lords many."

WHICH "LORD" IS IT, THEN, WHOSE RESURRECTION IS CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY TODAY?

Certainly NOT Jesus Christ! *He* was resurrected near the close of the Sabbath, or Saturday. Jesus Christ *was not there* when the women came to the tomb Sunday morning (Luke 24:1-5).

If Christ is not the "Lord" whose resurrection is honored on Sunday, then who is the "Lord" whom the churches worship today when they observe Sun-

day, the "Lord's Day"?

It is none other than Nimrod, the world's first recorded *false* Messiah! It is *Nimrod's fictitious resurrection*—a clever counterfeit of Christ's *resurrection*—that the nations celebrated every Sunday in Abraham's day and in Paul's day, and that professing Christians are celebrating today!

But how is it possible that Nimrod—who was known among the heathen as "Baal," the "lord," and the "Sun-God"—came to be honored on Sunday as the "Lord" among Christians? How is it that *his* day—Sunday—instead of God's Sabbath, has become the chief of "Christian holidays"?

Now let us peer behind the curtain and understand the almost unbelievable record of history. If it were revealed it would shatter the traditions of the churches!

Now let us consider when and how it all came about.

The Testimony of Justin Martyr

About a century and a half had elapsed since the death of Jesus Christ. About this time Justin Martyr addresses his "Apologies" to the Roman Emperors. He explains to them "Christian" practices of the Catholic Church in the West.

Among the customs he relates are these:

And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits. . . . Then we all rise together and pray, and . . . bread and wine and water [a pagan practice of Mithraic sun-worship] are brought . . . But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, *because it is the first day on which God*, having wrought a change in darkness and matter, *made the world*; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead. For He was crucified"—so claimed Justin Martyr—"on the day before that of Saturn; and on the day after that of Saturn, which is *the day of the sun*, having appeared to His apostles and disciples, He taught them these things, which we have submitted to you also for your consideration" (*First Apology*, ch., LXVII, *Ante-Nicene Fathers*).

The *first* reason for the observance of Sunday offered by Justin is that it was the day God began TO WORK! Justin, however, did not teach that Sunday ought to be kept as a rest day!

Notice also that Justin calls it the "day of the sun." Why? Tertullian (*Please continue on page 8*)

The People of God Are Blessed!

A new office in Canada! A new church in Wichita!
Blessings and healings in the local churches.

by Roderick C. Meredith

THOUGH persecuted and opposed by the forces of Satan, God's people are richly BLESSED. Having a direct part in the very WORK of the body of Jesus Christ is a wonderful challenge and privilege to every one of us!

Many of you scattered brethren have constant trials, problems, persecutions. But as each year passes, those of us in God's work who have direct contact with thousands of you realize more deeply than ever how tremendously *blessed* with a truly "abundant life" (John 10:10) God's people in this age really are! After all, what would life be without any real *purpose* and *challenge* and *trial*? And out of them all, God has delivered and WILL deliver! As the Apostle Paul said, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

So although many of you—and *all of us*—have personal trials and tests from time to time, the great FACT is that God is doing an increasingly powerful work through the few of us in His Church today. Objections and persecutions are heard, but *the work of God grows ever more powerful!* And those of us in it receive ever-increasing *blessings*, *joy*, and "the *peace* of God, which passeth all understanding" (Phil. 4:7).

It is on these *blessings* that we should think and give God continual thanks (verse 8).

New Radio Stations—and a Canadian Office

As I write this article, Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong are both away from God's headquarters on flying trips in the service of Jesus Christ. Mr. Herbert Armstrong is braving somewhat rough and dangerous flying weather in order to become personally acquainted with the directors of an important chain of radio stations. With our advertising agent, Mr. Armstrong has flown back to Toledo, Ohio, on a quick trip which should enable God's Church to begin broadcasting on more powerful stations throughout the East and Midwest!

Brethren, you should be continually PRAYING for Mr. Armstrong's safety and guidance on these important trips. You should earnestly beseech God to—according to His will—open up in-

creasingly powerful "doors" of radio and television that His message may be preached with effective power to warn our fellowmen here in Israel.

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong left by plane early yesterday morning for Vancouver, British Columbia. This trip was necessitated because it has now become imperative to establish our own mail receiving offices in Canada in order that our Canadian brethren and listeners will be able to obtain full income tax deductions on the tithes and offerings which they send to God's work.

The establishment of this new office in Canada should be a great source of encouragement to our Canadian brethren and listeners, and perhaps later we will even have a mailing office set up in Canada. Through your earnest prayers, a Bible study or church might be anticipated for the Vancouver area in the not too distant future!

The establishment of this new office shoulders a great deal of responsibility upon Mr. Dennis Prather, a graduate of Ambassador, who has been serving faithfully in the mail receiving and reading offices here in Pasadena for many years. In addition to opening and channeling the mail, Mr. Prather and his dedicated wife, Barbara, will be assisting Mr. Friddle in the Seattle-Tacoma area, and also possibly in the Vancouver area, in visiting and encouraging many of you brethren and helping you with spiritual problems.

Let us all *rejoice* in this new development and growth—and go to our Father in heaven to ask the help and guidance which Mr. Prather will need in his new responsibility.

New Faces in Pasadena

There are three new faces around the Pasadena campus of God's college this semester. One of them is a returning graduate and minister, Mr. Wayne Cole—recent pastor of the Churches of God in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Akron, Ohio.

Also coming in for special ministerial training and study are Mr. Harold Jackson, and Mr. Frank McCrady—both formerly assisting Mr. Dean Blackwell in the Chicago-Milwaukee church area.

Mr. Wayne Cole has formerly pas-

tored the Churches of God in San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Houston, Texas, in St. Louis, Missouri, in Chicago, Illinois, in Tacoma, Washington, and more recently in the Pittsburgh-Akron area. Mr. Cole graduated from Ambassador College in 1954 and had much experience in the work on baptizing tours and other ministerial activities even before his graduation. It is a real pleasure to have him and his zealous wife, Doris, back on the Ambassador campus, and they have already begun to inspire many of the students and personnel here with their hard work and dedication.

One interesting question is where Mr. Cole will go after his semester of graduate work here this spring! He was originally slated to return to the Pittsburgh-Akron area, but now the possibility is opening up of sending him and his family to South Africa to open a mailing office and establish local churches in that area—one of the few areas of Israel that we are not yet directly reaching with local churches.

Mr. Jackson and Mr. McCrady are both contributing a great deal to the spiritual atmosphere here at Ambassador, also. They have both spoken recently in the local Pasadena church, and are giving particular help to the advanced ministerial students in special lectures about their experiences in the field.

Also, of course, these men are themselves benefiting a great deal by the direct training and Bible classes here in Ambassador College, by more direct personal contact and counsel with Mr. Herbert Armstrong, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and the other evangelists at headquarters, and by just being here to see what makes God's work "tick" at headquarters.

Examples of Local Elders

Mr. Jackson and Mr. McCrady are both examples of older men in God's Church who have so *dedicated* themselves to growing spiritually and serving others that they have been ordained—without previous college training—as local elders in the Church of God. Their example and zeal should inspire

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ministering to its members
scattered abroad

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Herbert W. Armstrong
Publisher and Editor

Garner Ted Armstrong
Executive Editor

Herman L. Hoeh
Managing Editor

Roderick C. Meredith
Associate Editor

Address communications to the Editor,
Box 111, Pasadena, California.

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**Be sure to notify us immediately of
change of address.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grateful for Church-Government Article

"I read your article 'How Far Does Church Government Extend Into Your Life?' and I must tell you that my heart is filled with gratitude and peace because I have been called into the church where Christ is the living, ruling head and all the ministers are responsible to Him. There is no Church near me so I have no minister to go to for instructions. The Bible literature and The WORLD TOMORROW program are what I live for and I thank God I do have them."

Lady, Story, Arkansas.

Money Used Wisely

"It was a privilege to be able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year and to hear you speak. It would have been nice to have met you. The grounds are beautiful and the buildings are a credit to any organization. I have also been to Ambassador College in Pasadena and it seems to me that the money is being used to good advantage."

Woman, Missouri.

Sacrifices Joyfully!

"I am very thankful for what God has given me to make a sacrifice in His glorious work. I never would dream that I would have a part in 'the very work' of God like this. Words are not found to express the happiness it brings."

Man from Shreveport, Louisiana.

Remembers Church in Will

"I happened to be making a will when your letter arrived and you are doing such a wonderful work I wanted to help a little bit. I won't be able to give a lot but I'm leaving \$1,000.00 to the Radio Church of God."

Woman from Indiana.

From the West Indies

"Last week I visited a lady. She told me that she was suffering from hernia and the doctor commanded her for immediate operation. She was making ready to go, but she said she has no faith in the doctors. Then I started to tell her about divine healing and I told her about Mr. Armstrong's anointed cloth. She asked me to bring one that I may pray for her healing. I met her this afternoon and she told me she has a good relief from the hernia. Praise God for His wonderful gift!"

Mr. Leo Joseph, West Indies.

Editor's comment: We are mighty happy to have Mr. Joseph working with the people in the West Indies.

Umbilical Hernia Healed

"I sent for a cloth from you when our child's navel protruded as a round bag of water. It persisted and I refused to see the doctor. When the cloth came, we removed the fifty-cent piece from beneath the band. After placing the cloth on it I prayed and then discarded the cloth. Several days later the condition was normal."

Man from Newfoundland.

Doctor Could Do Nothing— God Healed!

"We have been waiting for this day when we could write you about the complete healing of our son from dermatitis. A family doctor said he could do nothing. Our son had an inflammation about one month and a half before we wrote you. It was an ugly sight covering a diameter of 6 inches on his head, eyes and nose; it had an advancing border. When we trusted in God's word, although healing was not immediate, it was complete. We praise God for His healing power."

Family from Hawaii.

Doctor Baffled

"Some time ago we wrote in requesting a prayer cloth as our baby was about due. My wife had trouble giving birth to our first two babies. When this baby was born he was from a natural childbirth and was larger than the two previous babies. The doctor and the attendants could not understand how it could all be possible. My wife was in such good condition after the baby was born

that she left the hospital the next day feeling wonderful."

Santa Rosa, California.

Puts Glasses Away!

"Healing began as soon as I requested it and when the anointed cloth came this affliction was almost healed, but an amazing thing happened after applying the cloth. I no longer need my glasses. Things that were a blur before are now clear and I have put my glasses away. Praise God!"

Woman, L'Anse, Michigan.

Bible Course Packed With Meaning

"Just a few lines to tell you how much we do appreciate your Bible Correspondence Course and also The PLAIN TRUTH. As to the Bible Course, it is so interesting—never saw or had the Bible references fit together in so perfect harmony, and so packed full of meaning."

Couple, Sligo, Pennsylvania.

From Far-Off Nigeria

"Please note that the pamphlets published by you and sent me have impressed me very much indeed, and I very much trust you would please kindly arrange to send me more. They have indeed helped me greatly in both my studies of God's word and in my ministry, and they are likely to be of very great assistance to me in the future."

Man, Yolo, Nigeria.

Tears of Gratitude

"I have just finished the second test of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. While I was taking the test I was nearly in tears. The course is everything you said it would be."

La Puente, California.

Blessed by Fellowship

"Thank you so much for sending someone from the church to see me. I attended last Sabbath for the first time. Those were the shortest two hours I have ever spent. For the first time I knew people meant what they said when they greeted me by 'We are so very pleased to have you.' Although we just met once I feel a closeness to them. I thank God for the privilege of going to His house to learn and worship Him. I am going to attend faithfully so I don't miss a thing."

Woman, Harvey, Illinois.

The PLAIN TRUTH Stimulates Discussion

"When I started to receive your magazines I was plagued with questions. Later on after some of the boys had read all the magazines available they began to talk about them with the help of their Bibles. This has continued

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People of God Are Blessed!

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many other spiritually mature men in God's Church to dedicate themselves to prepare for more direct service in the work of Jesus Christ as HE directs. No one dares take the office of a minister or spiritual priest of Jesus Christ to himself (Heb. 5:4). But, nevertheless, there is a real NEED of dedicated men in God's Church who are really *prepared* and *surrendered* to rightly and humbly fulfill the offices of deacon and local elder in the growing body of Jesus Christ!

After the spring semester of training, Mr. McCrady and Mr. Jackson will both return to local church areas—probably in this country—and will undoubtedly continue to serve and to inspire many of you brethren with even greater spiritual power.

Report from New York

We will now quote directly from Mr. Carlton Smith's report showing the spiritual growth and blessings among God's people in New York City:

"God's Church here in New York City has continued to grow spiritually and His people have continued to reap the great benefits of His blessings. Many continue to tell me and my wife of their unexcelled joy and happiness as a result of finding God's way of life. Also the physical blessings are being exacted, as God has promised to bestow them on His faithful ones. There has been much sickness during the past few weeks of bad weather which has struck this part of the country, but God's unfailing promises have been kept.

"Outstanding healings have taken place in the New York church recently. One of them was Mr. Paul Eckel of East Rutherford, New Jersey. On the 23rd of December, Mr. Eckel was the victim of an accident that would have certainly cost him his left eye and a permanently scarred face had God not intervened to heal him. On that date while working with a steam hose of ninety pounds pressure, he lost control of the hose which turned itself with a high-pressure nozzle blasting him squarely in the left eye at very close range. The left side of his face and the eyeball, specifically, was cooked. Upon examining the eye, the doctor told him that he would not give him 'two cents' for it. Humanly speaking, he was certain to lose it.

"Four days later, Mr. Eckel went to the doctor to have the bandage removed. To the doctor's amazement, the face was almost perfectly healed and the eye was

looking very good. At that time, however, he could see nothing out of the eye and the doctor was still doubtful as to whether he would ever be able to use the eye again. But the vision began to improve and today Mr. Eckel very joyfully related to me that he can now see better out of his left eye than ever before. Truly a great miracle! It certainly shows that God does heal those who call upon him through his elders, as instructed in James 5:14-15."

As the result of Mr. Carlton Smith's report, I am sure many of us can truly REJOICE with this brother who has had an eye virtually restored through the healing power of Almighty God who is "the *same*, yesterday, today and forever."

Many of you scattered brethren who have met Mr. Carlton Smith on baptizing tours or at the Feast may be interested to know that Mr. Smith and his wife, Beverly, have a darling little baby girl — now approximately six months old! As Mr. Armstrong has said several times recently, God's ministers are certainly "fruitful" in many ways!

Springfield-Saint Louis Church News

The pastor of the Churches of God in Springfield and Saint Louis, Missouri, is seeing to it that his wife is truly a "helpmeet." Writing for her husband, Mrs. Clark has written this brief report about the Saint Louis and Springfield churches:

"There were two babies born to members of the Saint Louis church in January. One birth was significant in that the mother was terrified at natural childbirth due to a previous painful delivery. However, God intervened for her so that she had an extremely easy labor this time. She and her husband were very enthusiastic about the birth.

"Tomorrow night, January 30, there is to be a wedding in the Springfield church. Mr. Adrian Howard, a long-time member of the Church of God, and Miss Imogene Sutton are to be married in the home of brethren with a reception for the guests following. Miss Sutton is the last of three young women in the Springfield church who have married young men also in the local church.

"This wedding will be the only one where a number of brethren have been invited. The brethren are anxious to see a wedding in the Church of God, knowing it is far different from traditional weddings."

Later, she adds, "The wedding was very successful. After the solemn ceremony, the 28 guests enjoyed the reception and the delicious punch and three flavors of cake. It lasted three hours."

Then, giving encouraging news of growth in the churches, Mrs. Clark

states: "The Bible study attendance this week set another record with 78 present. [This was at Springfield.] The meeting hall is being closed, but a new one has just been located. It is the Union Hall, a much more attractive place and with improved parking facilities, yet costs less."

Mr. Friddle Reports from the Seattle-Tacoma Churches

Up in the Pacific Northwest, Mr. Jim Friddle—aided by his wife, Marjorie—has charge of the two large churches in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. Mr. Friddle reports that both of these churches are growing spiritually and numerically—with an average Sabbath attendance of 185 in Seattle and 155 in Tacoma.

Reporting on recent social activities for the local church brethren, Mr. Friddle describes a recent skating party for the brethren in that area: "This was a wonderful opportunity for the parents and children to do something together. A large number came to the skating party. We met in a very nice rink that has strict rules for dress. No Levi's, shorts, etc. are allowed. The music was furnished by a very large pipe organ played by an expert organist. The little ones and even the bigger ones who had not skated before were just as anxious as those who knew how. Several children between ages three and six years even tried it and surprised most of their parents with their progress. After a few spills, some "goodies" at the refreshment bar and a delightful time, the evening's skating ended at 10:30 p.m. We plan to have another skating party, since everyone enjoyed this one very much.

"A wedding was an inspiring highlight on December 17, 1960. Mr. Bob Smith and Mrs. Ethel Smith were married after church services in Tacoma. Mr. Smith has been one of our "very eligible" bachelors for a long time, and when Mrs. Smith was converted and came into God's Church, many of us were hoping that perhaps they would be married. So, our hopes came true and even though Mrs. Smith didn't even get a new name out of it all, she said she didn't care about that part at all!

"A lovely reception followed the ceremony and it was very well supervised by Mrs. Robert Simmons, who had been in charge of planning it. Mrs. Valden White from Seattle cut the beautiful wedding cake, Mrs. Vernon Jones poured coffee, Mrs. Leslie Fix and Mrs. Coral Johnson served at the punch bowl. Attendants for the bride and groom were Mr. Vernon Jones, best man, and Mrs. Donald Osborne, matron-of-honor. Piano music was played by Stanley Ditt-

man and Mrs. J. L. Friddle sang two wedding songs.

"God has truly blessed Mr. and Mrs. Smith by bringing them together as man and wife.

Spokesman Club Meeting

"Ladies' night at the Spokesman Club! Again, the men were privileged to perform for the ladies and the ladies dearly enjoyed the performance. The club met in Tacoma.

"Mr. Bob Smith, president, opened the meeting shortly after 6:00 p.m. After welcoming the guests of the evening, new and old business was discussed. Then Mr. Friddle asked the regular Bible question. On this night, the men, with the help of their wives, were to prove that the resurrection was not on Sunday and that Jesus Christ was three days and three nights in the grave. The Bible questions are always very interesting and thought-provoking. After this came the topics session headed by Mr. Goethals and we learned many things—all the way from how to dismount after riding an elephant to opinions of a lady being Secretary of the Treasury. And then—refreshments!"

Afterward "the speaking portion of the meeting began. There were six speeches. All were very enlightening and interesting. After the over-all evaluation, the evening ended shortly after 10:00 p.m.

"Each ladies' night is an inspiration to the men. They seem to strive harder on the road to perfection. The ladies add to the meeting very much."

We are Christ's Body

I know that reading Mr. Friddle's report will make many of you scattered brethren long for a local church and the intimate fellowship among the brethren that it affords! But we must be thankful wherever we find ourselves in God's service, unless definite facts indicate that we should move elsewhere.

Remember that Jesus Christ is the living Head of the true Church (Eph. 1:22-23). Remember also that it is Christ who said that His people would be scattered—"the salt of the earth" (Mat. 5:13).

So wherever we are, we have an important job of being a light and witness to others—and having our *hearts*, our *prayers* and our generous *offerings* as well as commanded tithes in the work of God's Church. And no matter how scattered, we are still the "body" of Jesus Christ our Lord (I Cor. 12:27).

The inspired Apostle Paul tells us that we should consider ourselves as family "members"—one of another. "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of

another" (Rom. 12:5).

Occasional "get-togethers" and social events of the right type among God's people are often encouraged in local church areas, for these are a means of helping the brethren to *personally* know and love one another even more. After all, we are all part of one *begotten* FAMILY! Ultimately, we will all be BORN of the *same Spirit* into the very Kingdom and Family of God. In the truest sense—in the *everlasting* sense—we will be "relatives," related and bound together by Spiritual rebirth, and by love and mutual purpose FOREVER!

And so, even though we are not all able to be together and share the personal love and fellowship that we would like, we must nevertheless train our minds and hearts to express that deep LOVE and *kindness* and *sharing* which we would do if we could in a personal way. Though physically scattered, our *spiritual* UNITY not only gives us an inner peace and sense of "belonging," but—through God's Spirit in us—gives us the POWER to teach, preach and publish Christ's message of His coming world government in a greater manner than our physical numbers would seem

to make possible.

As we read of the love, joy and fellowship shared by our brethren in local churches, let us *rejoice*! In like manner, as we read of the challenges placed before the various ministers of Jesus Christ in various parts of this earth, may our *hearts*, our *efforts*, and our fervent PRAYERS go with them that Christ's full POWER may be expressed through His body in these last days!

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 4)

on and many hours of valuable discussion have been held thanks to your great magazine.

Boy, Victoria, Australia.

Jets Now—What Next?

"Thank you very much for your interesting letter on your trip around the world. Could it not be possible that in another 19-year time cycle you and your coworkers will again circle the earth, and this time without the aid of a 707 jet. This gives much interesting food for thought."

Man, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.

Question Box

Your questions answered in these columns! Your opportunity to have discussed those problems pertaining directly to members of God's Church.

Recently I received a surprise visit on the Sabbath from an old school friend who is not in the Church. After she had left I felt guilty of breaking the Sabbath by talking about material things. What should I have done?

Unconverted friends do come to visit on the Sabbath occasionally. If our friends come on the Sabbath, should we dismiss them just because it is the Sabbath day? What should we talk about?

First, *guide* the conversation with your unconverted friend so that it becomes constructive. For example, you can talk about world news. This would be obeying Christ's command to watch world news (Mat. 25:13), although you need not necessarily refer to scriptures to antagonize your unconverted friend.

As it is the Sabbath day, you naturally should have your Bible and notes in plain view—*do not be ashamed to admit* that you have been studying the Bible. The open Bible on the table will invariably send your unconverted friends away rapidly! Or they may become interested in what you are studying. Tell them what it is if they ask.

Your keeping of the Sabbath is a SIGN that sets you apart from those who

follow this world. Undoubtedly you may have to face questions about the Sabbath. Tell your guests only the minimum. You may have to explain this is just not the day on which to socialize and do business. Tell them to come again on Sunday or another day when you can devote more time.

My husband complains that I spend too much time praying and studying the Bible, and that I don't spend enough time with him. Can we pray and study the Bible too much?

One of life's most important lessons is the *proper use of TIME*.

Husbands are to provide for their own house (I Tim. 5:8), and to love their wives (Eph. 6:25). Wives are told to submit themselves to their husbands (Eph. 5:22), and to not be idle (Prov. 31:27).

All of these things require *TIME*. Solomon said, "To every thing there is a season, and a *time* to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecc. 3:1). There is a time to pray and to study.

But, we must find the *right* time for prayer and study. We should find time to pray when unconverted members of

(Please continue on page 12)

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by Kenneth C. Herrmann

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Can Constitution Enforce SUNDAY?

(Continued from page 2)

gives us the answer a few years later!

When some Romans reproached the early Catholics for sun-worship, he admitted:

"It is a well known fact that we pray toward the east . . . we make Sunday a day of festivity. What then? Do you [pagans] do less than this? Do not many among you, with an affection of sometimes worshipping the heavenly bodies likewise, move your lips in the direction of the sunrise. . . . It is you . . . who have admitted the sun into the calendar of the week; and you have selected its day, in preference to the preceding day, as the most suitable in the week for either an entire abstinence from the bath, or for its postponements until the evening, or for taking rest, and for banqueting" (*Ad Nationes*, book I, ch. xiii).

Sunday observance came from Sun-worship. Tertullian justified the practices of his day by appealing to the practices of the heathen, instead of the Bible!

Tradition Began Customs

Tertullian, the father of Latin Christianity, never cites any scripture for his beliefs. *He claims tradition* for the customs of his day. Here is what he wrote about Sunday:

"If, for these and other such rules, you insist upon having positive Scripture injunction, you will find none. *Tradition will be held forth to you as the originator* of them, custom as their strengthener, and faith, as their preserver. That reason will support tradition, and custom, and faith, you will either yourself perceive, or learn from some one who has" (*De Corona*, sect. 4).

Sunday did not come from the Bible.

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It was and *is* a tradition of men!

Justin Martyr admitted, however, that there were many who followed the Bible in his day. There were Christians with whom he sometimes associated *who observed the sabbaths and the annual festivals of God* (chapter 47). He adds, however, that they were rejected by the main body of early professing Christians. The doctrines of God's Church were the same a century after the apostles as they are today. *We*—in God's Church today—maintain the same faith and body of beliefs that were *rejected* by the multitudes who were running after paganism!

Constantine Enforces Sunday!

The opening of the fourth century was tumultuous for the churches everywhere. Diocletian, Maximian and Galerius were the Roman Emperors who proscribed every form of Christianity. The persecutions lasted nearly a decade. Then the professing Christian religion suddenly emerged to freedom under an Edict of Toleration. The nature of such an edict could mean but one thing, that Christianity was looked upon by the political leaders of the Roman Empire *as the future State religion*. Events now happened fast.

In 321 A.D., on the seventh of March, an unusual edict was issued by Crispus and Constantine, often designated as *the earliest Sunday law*. It read thusly:

"On the venerable day of the sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain sowing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost." (*Codex Justinianus*, lib. 3, tit. 12, 3; translated in *History of the Christian Church*, by Schaff, Vol. III, p. 380).

This edict was a civil statute, *not* an ecclesiastical one. It was *a heathen institution* of which Hutton Webster says:

"This legislation by Constantine probably bore no relation to Christianity; it appears, on the contrary, that the emperor, in his capacity of Pontifex Maximus [a title the popes later took from the Emperors], was only adding the day of the Sun, the worship of which was then firmly established in the Roman Empire, to the other ferial days of the sacred calendar" (*Rest Days*, pp. 122, 123).

Sunday is the "MARK of the Beast"—the political Roman Empire. It was imposed by the STATE! The Church voluntarily accepted it.

The Council of Laodicea

About 365 A.D. the Council of Laodicea was called to settle, among other matters, *the sabbath question!* One of its most famous canons was the twenty-ninth, which reads thus:

"Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather, honouring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting them as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, *let them be anathema from Christ.*" (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. VIX, p. 148).

The force of the Roman State had already been utilized in 325 A.D. to confiscate the property and destroy the lives of any who obeyed God's commandments and the Passover. So now, in 365 A.D., the heavy hand of the State fell upon any who continued to be faithful in resting on the Sabbath day as commanded in the Bible.

Why give such a command if there were none observing the Sabbath?

Not only was sabbath-keeping forbidden at this council, but canons XXXVII and XXXVIII also forbade Catholics to observe any of the annual festivals! "It is not lawful to receive portions sent from the feasts of Jews or heretics, nor to feast together with them." "It is not lawful to receive unleavened bread from the Jews, nor to be partakers of their impiety" (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, p. 151).

These ecclesiastical laws had the force of civil laws, especially following the time of Theodosius (378-395).

But one important canon is often overlooked in this Council. The sixteenth canon reads: "The Gospels are to be read *on the Sabbath*, with the other Scriptures" (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, p. 133). The "Sabbath" mentioned is the seventh day of the week!

Notice. Although Catholics were required to work on Saturday, they were still commanded to attend church that day! *Saturday then was observed much as Sunday is now!*

Says Socrates, the Catholic Historian, in speaking of the Eastern churches during the life of Chrysostom (345-407). "Saturday and the Lord's day [were] the two great festivals, on which they always held church assemblies." And Cassian takes notice of the Egyptian churches, that among them the service of the Lord's day and the sabbath was always the same" (*Bingham's Antiquities*, p. 656).

Public worship on the sabbath was far from expelled in the churches of the East. Even the Western bishops, (Please continue on page 12)

Is JUDAISM *the Law of Moses?*

Which books belong in the Old Testament? What about the Apocrypha? In this fourth installment you will learn how and by what authority the canon of the Old Testament was determined.

by Ernest Martin

PART 4

THE LAST installment revealed how Ezra and Nehemiah reestablished God's Government in the Old Testament church.

The central authority in Palestine to carry out that government has often been called by the Greek name "The Great Synagogue." The word "synagogue" in Greek means *assembly*. This is the name most modern writers use when referring to that authoritative body of priests established by Ezra and Nehemiah (Neh. 10). But whether the name Great Synagogue or Great Assembly is used, it always represents the same institution.

We shall see in this installment how this Great Assembly, with the Spirit of God guiding them, put together the Scriptures of the Old Testament. Our Old Testament comes to us because of the work of this Great Assembly!

What the Great Assembly Did

The firm reestablishment of the religious and political government in Palestine was accomplished by Ezra and Nehemiah. They convened the Jewish elders for the purpose of signing and officially sealing a covenant to keep God's commandments. It brought about the inauguration of a constitutional government in Palestine. *The constitution was the Law of Moses!*

Both Ezra and Nehemiah were at this covenant—signing, with the leaders of the Jews, to acknowledge *the written Law of Moses* as the law of the land—as their constitution. All the Jewish leaders, except a very small minority, happily covenanted to perform the requirements of the Law. In consequence of this, the people put away their foreign wives, started tithing, established proper Temple services and began to keep God's Sabbath!

This is the real beginning of the religion of Moses after the Babylonian captivity. And it was the true religion of Moses, no additions or subtractions!

New Controversy Arises

In the previous installment we found that Eliashib, the High Priest at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, did not countenance the decision of the Great Assembly in regard to the putting away of foreign wives. One of his older

grandsons was involved in such an illegal marriage. This grandson, Manasseh, was married to one of the daughters of Sanballat the Horonite—a Gentile.

Had Manasseh been married to an ordinary woman of no repute, it probably would not have made a great deal of difference. But he was married to the daughter of Sanballat who was governor of the northern province of Samaria. Sanballat was an influential government official of the Kingdom of Persia.

The grandson of the High Priest of the Jews being married to the daughter of the governor of Samaria offered a type of alliance between the two peoples. This presented a delicate political situation. If Manasseh repudiated his wife, in order to keep the Law, this friendly relationship would undoubtedly have ceased.

There were a few other Jews along with Eliashib and Manasseh who felt that this marriage should not be terminated even if the Law of Moses and the decision of the Great Assembly commanded it. So, Manasseh openly rebelled against God's Government—the constitutional law—defying Ezra and Nehemiah and the Great Assembly.

When Manasseh refused to adhere to the Law, Nehemiah, who was governor of Judea, excommunicated him from the Jewish society and banished him from the country (Neh. 13:23-31).

Manasseh was exceedingly indignant over the excommunication. He especially was angered because he would have become High Priest of the Jews upon his father's death, had he remained faithful to the Law and had not been excommunicated. In lieu of this, he, and some of his Jewish sympathizers, even some of the priests, left Judaea and went northward to Samaria.

Samaritans Enter the Picture

The Samaritans, who nominally adhered to some points of the Law of Moses, only as it suited their fancy, readily accepted these renegade Jews. The Samaritans had no scruples over marrying Gentile wives, for they themselves were Gentiles who had been placed in central Palestine about 250 years before by the Assyrians.

With the arrival of Manasseh in Samaria, Sanballat, his father-in-law, sympathized with him because he had been deprived of the opportunity to be

High Priest among the Jews. But Sanballat had cunningly devised plans to honor his son-in-law for his rebellion against Nehemiah and the Great Assembly.

Since the Samaritans had no temple in which to worship, *Sanballat petitioned the Persian government to grant him permission to build a temple for the Samaritan people*. Because it was the general policy of the Persians to allow their captive nations to worship their own gods, this permission was granted.

It was the design of Sanballat to build this temple and install Manasseh, the son of the Jewish High Priest, as the High Priest of the Samaritans. This plan was carried out.

The Samaritan temple was built on Mount Gerizim in Samaria and Manasseh received his schismatic priesthood. This is the beginning of the Samaritan religion.

Manasseh's Further Rebellion

The first act of Manasseh after being installed as the Samaritan High Priest was to repudiate the true Temple of God located on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. He did this by maintaining that the Temple should be located on Mount Gerizim and not in Jerusalem. Manasseh's rebellious motive was to strengthen his own position among the Samaritans and perhaps to gain some of the Jews in Judaea to his side.

In maintaining that the Temple should be situated on Mount Gerizim, he encountered, however, an embarrassing situation. Throughout the writings of the Old Testament prophets were the clear prophecies that the Temple of God should be located only on Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2 and Micah 4). The prophecies concerning this fact were so conclusive, so decisive, that it was impossible for Manasseh to reconcile his temple being located on Mount Gerizim with the statements of the prophets.

Realizing that the writings of the prophets and many of the Psalms specifically taught just the opposite from what he was endeavoring to maintain, he seized upon the only alternative to seemingly justify his temple being on Mount Gerizim. His way out of the dilemma was to formally *reject the writings of the prophets*. To do this, he had to represent them as the uninspired opinions of men.

As a result of this, Manasseh acknowledged that the only books which were really the inspired words of God were the books of Moses—the first five books of the Old Testament. The reason he accepted this portion of the Old Testament was that in this section there was no direct mention of the necessity of having the Temple of God on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. By accepting only the first five books of the Bible and none other, he put his own authority ahead of the Word of God.

With Manasseh ruling as the Samaritan High Priest and finally claiming that only the books of Moses were the inspired word of God, the situation called for drastic action by Ezra, Nehemiah and the Great Assembly. Here was a new temple built in Samaria, and Manasseh loudly proclaiming that all the Jews in Judaea were in error.

Something had to be done about this situation.

Ezra and Nehemiah knew it was possible that there might be an internal disruption of the Jewish society that they were developing in Judaea, unless a determinate and authoritative counter-action could be launched against the falsehoods of Manasseh and his heretical followers, especially since many of his ideas were being subversively planted in the minds of many Jews in Judaea. The people had to know who was right, Manasseh—or Ezra and Nehemiah!

The Great Assembly Settles the Question

Under the divine inspiration of Almighty God, Ezra and Nehemiah with the Great Assembly convened to settle the matter. These two authoritative servants of God, along with the ordained priests of God, were given the responsibility of assembling the inspired books of the prophets and holy men of God. Their task was not to write the books, for they were already written. They had to assemble the already acknowledged inspired books into one book in a final order.

Thus, we read: "To erect a wall of partition between the Jews and these apostates (Manasseh and his followers), and to show the people which of the ancient prophetic books were sacred . . . the men of the Great Synagogue (Assembly) compiled the canon of the prophets" (*Cyclo. of Bib., Theo. and Ecc. Lit.*, vol. x, p. 83).

The Canon of the Old Testament

That Ezra, Nehemiah and the Great Assembly, under the divine inspiration of the Spirit of God, compiled the books of the Old Testament is the universal acknowledgment of all early Jews and Christians (*ibid.*, vol. ii, p. 75).

All of the Old Testament books, re-

member, *were already written*. The task of the Great Assembly was merely to put them together into one book in proper order! And this they did!

It has been thought by some modern critics that Ezra and the Great Assembly may have sanctioned only the Law of Moses, the first five books. This is decidedly not the case! The very reason the canon of the Old Testament had to be defined at this time was that the renegade Jew, Manasseh, erroneously maintained that the first five books of Moses were the only inspired books. He, out of his own vanity, rejected the inspired books of the Prophets and Psalms. These books were already as much a part of God's Word as the Law of Moses.

It was not necessary to OFFICIALLY proclaim the Law of Moses as *being inspired for it had already long been recognized as God's Word*. See II Kings 22:8.

It was, of course, God's purpose that all the writings of the Prophets be transmitted to those of future eras in final and unchangeable form. The books of the Prophets, the Psalms and the other books were now officially established, properly placed in the canon and *proclaimed* as the authoritative Word of God.

Proofs that Canon was Compiled Under Ezra and Nehemiah

We have the testimony of Josephus, the Jewish historian, that the complete Old Testament was finally settled and established in the days of Artaxerxes, king of Persia (*Against Apion*, I, 8). By this, Josephus meant that the Old Testament canon was completed in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, for these two men of God lived in Artaxerxes' time.

Josephus also mentions that there had not been any prophet who had left any writings from the time of Artaxerxes until the New Testament Period (*ibid.*). Even the writer of Maccabees recognized that up to his time the inspired prophets had ceased with Malachi. "And there was great stress in Israel [in 168 B.C.], such as there had not been *since the time when the prophets ceased to appear to them*" (I Macc. 9:27). Without men of God in a prophetic office, it was impossible to have inspired writings. It is therefore plain that Josephus, who was one of the leading Pharisees of his day, and other prominent Jews, believed the canon of the Old Testament was completed under Ezra and Nehemiah.

The Three Divisions of the Old Testament

When Ezra and Nehemiah compiled the Old Testament books, they placed

them in three general divisions. These are known as the Tripartite Divisions. The first division was called *The Law*, and consisted of the first five books. The second was called *The Prophets*. The third division was called, in Christ's day, *The Psalms*, because this division commenced with the book of Psalms.

Thus, the inspired Old Testament, from Genesis to II Chronicles (the Hebrew order), was divided into three divisions—*The Law*, *The Prophets*, and *The Psalms*. This arrangement of the books has always been reckoned by the Jews as having had its origin in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (Ryle, *Canon of the Old Testament*, p. 252; Angus, *Bible Handbook*, p. 568). There is no question about this fact.

Historical References to the Tripartite Divisions

There are several early references which show that the Old Testament was divided into the Tripartite Divisions. One notable mention is that of Sirach's grandson—a Jewish religious leader who lived in the second century *before* Christ. He says in his prologue to the apocryphal book, Ecclesiasticus, that the recognized Scriptures of official Judaism were those books found in "The Law," "The Prophecies," and "The Rest of the Books." This is a clear reference to the authoritative Tripartite Divisions established by Ezra and Nehemiah.

You will perhaps notice that the grandson of Sirach did not use the name "The Psalms" for the third division. This is easily explained. This third section did not have a proper name in the time of Sirach. It became popularly called "The Psalms" by the Jews of Christ's time because that particular book introduced the division. This is clearly indicated by Philo, a Jew who lived a few years before Christ. He said that the Tripartite Divisions were then being called "The Law," "The Prophets," and "The Psalms" (*On the Contemplative Life*, 3). Later, in the third century A.D., however, the Jews began to refer to the third division as "The Writings." This designation has been used by the Jews up to our own times.

Christ Sanctions the Tripartite Divisions

It is important to realize that the Jews accepted only the books within the Tripartite Divisions as inspired. No other books were ever recognized as being canonical. The Apocrypha were never accepted. But regardless of the beliefs of official Judaism, we have the testimony of much greater authority, telling us of what books the inspired Old Testament consisted. That witness is Christ Himself—the very One who inspired the prophets of the Old Testament (See

Colossians 1:15-17).

After the resurrection of Christ, we are told in the Gospels, He began to teach His disciples many important truths from the Scriptures. On one occasion, mentioned in Luke 24:45, Christ referred to "the Scriptures" of the Old Testament and about the prophecies concerning Him. What books did Christ mean by the expression, "the Scriptures"? What was the Old Testament to Him? Notice what Christ Himself related:

"And He said unto them, these are the words I spake unto you while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me.

"Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand THE SCRIPTURES" (Luke 24:44, 45).

Yes, the inspired Old Testament Scriptures for Christ comprised those books found in "The Law, The Prophets, and The Psalms"—the Tripartite Divisions. These were the very books compiled by Ezra and Nehemiah, and the very books which have come down to us today in the King James Version. We can assuredly know that *our Old Testament* is the complete Old Testament of God. Christ has told us this in the plainest of words.

The Arrangement of the Old Testament Books

You will notice that the Old Testament in the King James Bible begins with the book of Genesis and ends with the book of Malachi. However, in the original authoritative arrangement of the Old Testament books by Ezra and Nehemiah, this was not so. The Jews have never approved the King James arrangement because *its origin was in Egypt*. About 250 years before Christ there was a Greek translation made of the Hebrew Old Testament. This has become known as the Septuagint Version. The translators of this version decided to *change the order* of the books. Our King James Version follows the Latin which had this erroneous Egyptian arrangement of the books in it. The Latin translations followed the Septuagint Greek translation made in Egypt. The Septuagint does not follow the original Hebrew order established by Ezra and Nehemiah.

When the Jews of official Judaism recognized the corruptions in the Septuagint Version, they completely repudiated it. Notice how the early Jews looked on this translation: "The day on which the translation of the Bible into Greek was made was regarded as a great calamity, equal to that of the golden

calf" (*Sopherim*, i, 7). "The day on which it was accomplished . . . was commemorated as a day of fasting and humiliation (*ibid.*).

The Septuagint Version translators did not take away or add to the books of the Old Testament, but they did disrupt the Divine order of the books and faultily translated much of the original Hebrew into Greek (*Prologue to Sirach*).

It will be profitable for you to know what the authoritative order of the Old Testament books really is. And notice that originally, before printing, the number of scrolls were 22—now subdivided in the King James Version into 39.

The LAW:

- 1) Genesis
- 2) Exodus
- 3) Leviticus
- 4) Numbers
- 5) Deuteronomy

The PROPHETS:

- 1) Joshua & Judges
- 2) I & II Samuel & I & II Kings
- 3) Isaiah
- 4) Jeremiah
- 5) Ezekiel
- 6) The Twelve:
 - Hosea
 - Joel
 - Amos
 - Obadiah
 - Jonah
 - Micah
 - Nahum
 - Habakkuk
 - Zephaniah
 - Haggai
 - Zechariah
 - Malachi

The WRITINGS:

- 1) Psalms
- 2) Proverbs
- 3) Job
- 4) Song of Songs
- 5) Ruth
- 6) Lamentations
- 7) Ecclesiastes
- 8) Esther
- 9) Daniel
- 10) Ezra & Nehemiah
- 11) I & II Chronicles

Notice that the first seven books are the same as in our King James version, but afterward there are considerable changes. You will notice that the so-called "Minor Prophets"—from Hosea to Malachi—are not really the last books of the Old Testament. These Minor Prophets really belong in the center. The last books are actually I and II Chronicles.

This authoritative arrangement of the Old Testament books is the one which the official Jewish community has al-

ways recognized as authoritative.

Other Books Rejected

Let us clearly understand that the books of the Apocrypha and all other spurious books *never* found a place in the official Tripartite Divisions of the Jewish Old Testament. All these "outside" books were totally rejected by the Jews. You will recall that Josephus, the Jewish priest and historian, who represented the beliefs of official Judaism in the days of the Apostle Paul, said that the Jews *never* accepted any other books as inspired other than those compiled in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah.

"It is true," says Josephus, "our history has been written since the time of Artaxerxes [the time of Ezra and Nehemiah] very particularly, *but has not been esteemed of the like authority with the former [writings] of our forefathers, since that time*" (*Against Apion*, I, 8).

Yes, the last prophet to write an inspired book was Malachi—a contemporary of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Christ Used Only the Inspired Old Testament

Another proof that Christ used only the Scriptures recognized by official Judaism is the fact that He never once quoted from or alluded to any of the Apocrypha or other spurious books. Had He made even the slightest indication that the sources of His doctrines were from these unrecognized books, the Jews would have vehemently countered Him with all their intellectual might. They would have loudly and persistently pointed out to the people that Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah, for He was making use of uninspired books. But the Jews *never* had an opportunity of accusing Christ of such things. They railed Him for going contrary to the doctrines of the Jewish denominations of His day, but they never criticised Him for using uncanonical books. The silence of any Jewish censure on this point is *definite proof* that Christ utilized only the inspired books in the official Jewish Old Testament as the Scriptures.

Further Witness From the New Testament

We have further evidence throughout the New Testament that Christ and the Apostles recognized only the books of the Jewish Version as the complete Old Testament. Notice how it is taken for granted, in so many parts of the New Testament, that the Jews had the "Scripture" (John 10:35; 19:36; II Pet. 1:20), "the Scriptures" (Matt. 22:29; Acts 18:24), "Holy Scriptures" (Rom. 1:2,

II Tim. 3:15), "the Law" (John 10:34), "the Law and Prophets" (Matt. 5:17; 22:40), and the Law, Prophets and Psalms (Luke 24:44). All the New Testament writers recognized the Jews to have had the complete Old Testament.

Paul was also careful to let the Romans know that unto the Jews, "*were committed the oracles of God*"—the Old Testament (Rom. 3:3; 9:4). Paul was fully aware that the oracles of the Jews were the inspired books of the Jewish canon—the same books that are in our King James Version today.

It is very clear, from secular history, and especially from the Word of God, that we have the complete Old Testament. *All other books not found within the Bible* as we have it are entirely worthless for teaching true doctrines, and are to be completely rejected in this respect. The Apocrypha, and all other books, are the writings of men, not of God.

With the canonization of the Old Testament Scriptures, the Jews of this time entered into a period of prosperity and happiness. They were keeping the Law and being taught by the Great Assembly. This period from about 430 B.C. to 331 B.C., until the overthrow of the Persian Empire by the Greeks, can be called a time when the Law of Moses was adhered to by the people.

We are now compelled to look to a period later than the time of Persian control for the origin of the confused and mixed-up condition of Judaism. The next installment will plainly reveal the source from whence Jewish denominationalism arose.

Question Box

(Continued from page 6)

the family are either away or preoccupied. We express love to them, not by running to the prayer closet every time they come in the house, but by spending time in sincere, earnest prayer when they aren't there. When they are home, that time can be used to *show* our love to them, to be an example of good Christian living. If we neglect the unconverted members of our family by spending excessive time in idle praying while they are home, we will only succeed in driving them further from God, and our prayers will have been in vain.

Do spend the time you need in fervent prayer. Prayer is needed to draw close to God and to grow in faith, but spend your time in prayer when unconverted members of your family won't be constantly noticing it. Remember it is the *kind of earnest prayer* and Bible study that count—not idle time spent in prayer to be noticed by others.

Can Constitution Enforce SUNDAY?

(Continued from page 8)

especially at Rome, had to allow it to continue.

After the Council of Laodicea

Public worship on Saturday persisted in Greek churches long after the Council of Laodicea.

Gregory, Bishop of Nyassa, a representative of the Eastern churches, about ten years after the Council at Laodicea dared to tell the world: "With what eyes can you behold the Lord's day, when you despise the Sabbath? Do you not perceive that they are sisters, and that in slighting the one, you affront the other?"

Observance of Sunday in a sabbatical manner was not strictly enforced for almost two centuries more, for we even find *Jerome, the translator of the Latin Vulgate Bible, working after the Sunday services several years following the enactments at Laodicea.*

Augustine, around 400 A.D., soon declared: "*The holy doctors of the church [not the Bible, but men] have decreed that all the glory of the Jewish Sabbath is transferred to it [Sunday]. Let us therefore keep the Lord's day as the ancients were commanded to do the Sabbath*" (Sabbath Laws, p. 284).

It was the *State* which declared Sunday an imperial holiday. But now the Church dominated the State. Notice what happened.

It was the *Church* which sanctioned the Roman Sunday as a rest day. It was the Church which claimed to have altered God's law (Daniel 2:21) and transferred the law of the Sabbath to Sunday.

It was another six hundred years until the last recorded semblance of public worship on the Sabbath was extirpated from the Eastern churches. Pope Gregory of Rome, in the West, anathematized "Those who taught that it was not lawful to do work on the day of the Sabbath" (*History of the Popes*, Vol. II, p. 378).

Sabbath keeping was obliterated from Rome by the sixth century (Andrews, *History of the Sabbath*, p. 375). The Eastern churches extirpated it in another four hundred years (about 1000 A.D.). The Sabbath was also stamped out by the churches of the British Isles and the continent where, according to Webster's *Rest Days*, "The Celts kept Saturday as a day of rest, with special religious services on Sunday (A. Bellesheim, *History of the Catholic Church in Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1887-1890, i, 86)."

The Protestant Attitude

The early Protestants and translators of the Bible, Cranmer, Tyndale, Zwingli, Calvin, Luther and others recognized that Sunday is merely the result of tradition. They knew it did not come from the Bible!

Why did the Protestants not accept the seventh day as the Sabbath? What made them accept the customs of ancient Baal worship?

Let's read the Protestants own answer:

"Luther's Larger Catechism taught that one day is not essentially better than another, but that, since it is not possible to devote each day in the week to a special religious celebration, one day should be set apart for that purpose and that, *to avoid the unnecessary disturbance which an innovation would occasion, it should continue to be Sunday.* The Augsburg Confession (art xxviii.) protests against the Sabbath substitution theory" (*Shaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, article "Sunday").

Carlstadt was one of the few men in the Reformation who observed the Sabbath and the festivals. With him, the laws given by God to Moses were still binding. But his teachings were rejected by the leaders of the Protestant movements. Luther admitted in his book *Against the Celestial Prophets*: "Indeed, if Carlstadt were to write further about the Sabbath, Sunday would have to give way, and the Sabbath—that is to say, Saturday—must be kept holy."

From the beginning Protestants were not interested in obedience to God, or in the Gospel of the Kingdom. Exactly as the early Catholics, *they were seeking to convert the kingdoms of this world to their religions.* The truth that was open to them passed through their fingers!

This is why Protestants observe Sunday today! They have voluntarily adopted the MARK of the Beast—the ROMAN EMPIRE'S national holiday!

But our nations—the English-speaking world—*do not like State-authority to dictate* in matters of religion. The "blue law" controversy is only a softening-up procedure to prepare the way for a late Gentile Church-State combine in Europe to impose its will over all the western world. *They will impose the MARK OF THE BEAST*, not the day mentioned in the U.S. Constitution.

Thus it remains for the *Church of God* today to proclaim the final message. Only this Church—our Church—has remained steadfast through the centuries and has KEPT THE COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS!