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Study for Yourself

The world is leagued against the truth, because it does not desire to obey the truth. Shall I, who perceive the truth, close my eyes and heart to its saving power because the world chooses darkness rather than light? Shall I bind myself up with the bundles of tares because my neighbors refuse to be bound up with the wheat? Shall I refuse light, the evidence of truth which leads to obedience, because my relatives and friends choose to follow in the paths of disobedience which lead away from God? Shall I close my mind against the knowledge of truth because my neighbors and friends will not open their understanding to discern the truth as it is in Jesus? Shall I refuse to grow in the grace and knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ because my neighbors consent to remain dwarfs? . . . We cannot overestimate the value of simple faith and unquestioning obedience. TMK 116

The knowledge of the original Biblical calendar is a great gift from Heaven. It is a ray of light so brilliant that most people will see only darkness in it. Just as stepping out of a darkened doorway into the bright light of noonday blinds a person whose eyes have not adjusted, only one class of people will be able to discern the light of the true Sabbath: those who surrender their feelings and preconceived ideas to Jesus and trust Him to lead them into all truth. Only those who desire to know the truth *no matter what the cost* will be willing to say, “Lord, this sounds so crazy, but if it is true, I will obey you even if no one else I know does.” To those alone who make such a full surrender, regardless of what may be their *feelings*, to such alone will the ability to perceive this light be given.

A solemn warning all should heed is found in *Great Controversy*: “He who deliberately stifles his convictions of duty because it interferes with his *inclinations* will finally lose the power to distinguish between truth and error. The understanding becomes darkened, the conscience callous, the heart hardened, and the soul is separated from God.”¹

The reformation of the 14th and 15th centuries began a work of recovering truth that will only be concluded at the close of probation. The church of God has lingered in a world of sin many long years because of insubordination. Like Israel, we have wandered in the wilderness. The true Sabbath as counted out on God’s calendar has been unknown. Now God is sending increasing light about the Sabbath to prepare a people for translation. “By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days.”²

¹ GC 378, emphasis supplied.

² 2SM 105

Do not be intimidated by acknowledging that it is light. Too often Seventh-day Adventists fear “light” as being something sent by Satan to lead them astray. It is part of the Laodicean condition. Laodiceans think they are rich and increased with goods and *in need of nothing*. (Rev. 3:17). Therefore, they view with suspicion and skepticism any “new light” because, naturally, if it were worth knowing, they would know it already since they already know everything they need to know for salvation!

Laodiceanism is a masterful deception of Satan. True new light is far from a theory to satisfy itching ears. Ellen White defines light: “the evidence of truth that leads to obedience.”³ New light, then, will always lead to deeper surrender because it will require greater obedience. No new evidence of truth that would lead to greater obedience will ever contradict old evidence that led to past obedience.

God is calling for Seventh-day Adventists to “Fear God and give glory to Him” for He made all creation including the sun, moon and stars that measure time. The last generation will give Him glory by obediently worshiping on the 7th day that His calendar in the sky establishes. The hour for the judgment of the living is fast approaching and God needs obedience in a people willing to be sanctified. Only when His people are purified and living in obedience can they receive His spirit in their minds. In His mercy, God is leading His children forward not because of any righteousness on their part, but because the violence and evil of the world are smothering His voice in the souls of men.

The seal of God is in the Sabbath. Ellen G. White stated, “The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted.”⁴ Seventh-day Adventists have long believed the conflict would be between Saturday and Sunday. Now a larger confrontation is emerging between God’s luni-solar (barley harvest) calendation and the calendar that has passed from Babylon and Egypt to Rome and the Papacy. This choice is between obedience to God or homage to the Pope of the Catholic Church.

The footsteps of Satan are traceable through history from the Tower of Babel to the war on terror. His tactics are recognizable; God’s interference visible. Now, at the end of time, Satan knows he will be given his final and only opportunity to fully demonstrate his governance. The principles of his kingdom are force and falsehood. Deceit comes first, then those he cannot corrupt, he will persecute. It has worked well through the ages, but the final generation of God’s people will resist him unto death.

One scheme that God interrupted was the World Calendar Association’s campaign for a calendar change in the 1930’s to 1950’s. Many nations approved the plan, but the United States refused her support. This change of calendars is something the Roman Catholic Church still greatly desires. Pope Benedict XVI has an unusually active interest in political affairs. He has stated that all U. S. Catholic politicians not voting according to Catholic dogma should be refused communion which is, in effect, excommunication.

³ TMK 116

⁴ GC 605

The Pope has always based his authority on his right to frame a calendar and thereby dictate worship days. The purpose of the Gregorian calendar was not to change the format of the Julian calendar. It was to bring the date of Easter back into proper alignment with the vernal equinox by removing ten days. This did not alter the cycle of weeks – they flowed smoothly and without interruption from the Julian into the Gregorian. Currently, the Vatican is urging an ecumenical agreement to forever fix the date of Easter and eliminate any lingering tie to the Jewish Passover. The result would be unity between the Eastern Orthodox churches and Catholicism.

The movement to implement a new calendar has never died out. In 1975, when Jimmy Carter was running for president, he went on record as saying that he would work for world peace and the World Calendar. The plan is to initiate the World Calendar in the year 2012. A one world government must have total control over all aspects of society: military, finance, education, communication, religion and time. The activity and philosophy of the World Calendar Association can be investigated on the Internet at www.theworldcalendar.org.

Adventists have long speculated on how the first Sunday law would be implemented, who would sponsor it and who would obey it. It needs to be considered that the promotion/implementation of “The World Calendar” with its blank days may be the first of a series of laws that make it impossible to buy and sell without full cooperation with the state. The first setting up of the “Abomination of Desolation” was the outlawing of the Jewish calendar and thus the elimination of true Sabbath keeping. Will the second setting up of the same Abomination be a calendar that lets Seventh-day Adventists observe worship on Saturn’s Day and think they are keeping the correct seventh day? Just one blank day will have Seventh-day Adventists worshipping on a Saturday one year and a Friday the next. What will the Muslims and Jews do? What will you do?

In “The Final Warning” chapter in *Great Controversy*, there is an intriguing statement: “Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God’s people at that time . . . The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency.”⁵ This can clearly be seen in the experience of the Seventh-day Adventist church during the World Calendar crisis of the 1930s-1950s. To meet that emergency, the Lord attempted to give to His people the truth about His clock/calendar. When the church leadership refused to follow the light He was trying to give them, He held back the winds of strife and the agitation for calendar change died out.

Today, He is taking the battle into His own hands. By instrumentalities of His own choosing, scattered throughout the world, He is restoring the knowledge of true Sabbath keeping and the immutability of His laws and statutes. These issues must be investigated and widely disseminated in order for His people to be ready for the judgment to pass to the cases of the living. The agitation for the long expected Sunday law, will likely begin with the promotion of the World Calendar. The history and calendation principles discussed here are some of the truths to meet that emergency.

⁵ GC 609

Fortunately, we have been invited to “lean upon the arm of Infinite Power . . . We must have living faith in our hearts, and reach out for larger knowledge and more advanced light.”⁶ If you truly desire to know the truth, no matter what the cost, if you are willing to follow the Lamb, withersoever He goeth *even if it means walking alone*, He will lead you into all truth. However, the responsibility is yours to study and find out for yourself whether these issues are true. Everyone is held responsible not only for the light they have, but for the light that is *available*. Whether you agree or disagree with the premise of this book, you are now accountable for this knowledge.

There is much more that can be said in regard to this subject – much more scripture and Spirit of Prophecy evidence. You need to study this for yourself - this is your responsibility before God. As you commit yourself to God, determining to follow Him and obey no matter what the cost, He has pledged to care for you, walk with you, and bring you safely home. “Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. . . . Rest in God. He is able to keep that which you have committed to Him. If you will leave yourself in His hands, He will bring you off more than conqueror through Him that has loved you.”⁷

The choice is clear, but excruciatingly hard to make. Jesus, Himself, stated the principle that must govern our choice: “Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.”⁸

This admonition was given especially for the final generation. Whose superscription, whose name and image is on the Gregorian calendar that had its beginning with the Roman Cæsars? Whose name and image is on the clock/calendar in the sky made at Creation? Your choice will determine whether you receive the seal of God or the mark of the Beast.

He who commanded the light to shine out of darkness sheds light into the mind of every one who will properly behold Him, loving Him supremely, showing unswerving faith and trust in Him. His light shines into the chambers of the mind and into the soul temple. The heart is filled with the light of the knowledge of the glory that shines in the face of Jesus Christ. . . .

Yielding willingly to the evidence of truth, and walking in the light that shines in our pathway, we receive still greater light. TDG 135

⁶ RH March 25, 1890

⁷ SC 72

⁸ Matthew 22:21