

# Voice of Baptists

**"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**  
**Isaiah 40:3**

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## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

By F. W. Lambert  
Westmoreland, Tenn.

**HOW SOON SHALL THE END BE? "TELL US, WHEN SHALL THESE THINGS BE? AND WHAT SHALL BE THE SIGN OF THY COMING, AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD?"**

**Matthew 24:3**

Everybody who cares for the teaching of the Bible is interested in the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. We cannot know the date for that is a secret known only to God. But we can see many unmistakable indications of the near approach of that day.

### The General Falling Away From the Faith

Paul said that day must not come until there first come a falling away from the faith, and we have watched that take place before our eyes.

"That day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (2 Thess. 2:3) The falling away from the faith has come to pass, and we can see the beginning of the revelation of the man of sin. There has never been so widespread skepticism and outright infidelity as we have at present. Such a decrease in true faith and fidelity to the Cause of Christ. Great numbers many times mean nothing but increased weight, and with the increase in weight there is a decrease in strength.

### False Teachers

The number of false teachers have multiplied in fulfillment of prophecy - "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts they shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Tim. 4:3, 4 When a preacher preaches the truth of the Bible, such people (and they are many) say he is dry and uninteresting. They want stories, entertainment, pep, and fables. They refuse to take life seriously and think only of pleasure. They turn away from sound doctrine, such as "a regenerated church membership," "salvation by grace," "Security of the believer," "Baptism of the believers," "restricted communion," and "scriptural church government." They demand fun.

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## GOD COMFORTS BEREAVED ONE

Just a few days ago, I received a nice letter from Mrs. George W. Johnson, Sr. telling of an experience that occurred just a little while after her companion of 56 years had passed into heaven.

"Soon after God came for George to come and live with him in that home prepared for God's saints, which we read of in John 14, this message came to me from heaven in a song. I was getting ready to go to Sunday School and Worship services and heard a gospel song on television that we used to sing. I went to my organ to look for this particular song, but instead, when I opened George's quartet book, it opened to a song entitled, "Do Not Weep For Me." I didn't remember this song was in the

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## THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH OR THE LORD'S DAY

By James C. Jones  
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Herein we attempt to answer questions often asked of the aforementioned subject.

1. What does the word SABBATH mean?

ANS. SABBATH means REST. The term SABBATH alone does not indicate what day, whether the first or the seventh.

2. May we understand Gen. 2:3 to mean God set this day (7th) aside to commemorate something?

ANS. Yes, to commemorate (honor the memory of) the glorious creation He had finished.

3. Today we observe Sunday, or the 1st day; why not the seventh?

ANS. I have not read in the New Testament "I am going to change the Sabbath from the 7th to the 1st day", or words to that effect. However, ample proof exists showing the early christians gathered and observed the first day as the Sabbath, see: Acts 20:7 and I Cor. 16:1-2. Actually the latter contains a command, "UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK....". With a command and example before us, let us not argue otherwise; the Bible has settled it.

4. The 7th day being the Sabbath for nearly 4000 years surely something must have prompted the change; what was it?

ANS. If God established the 7th day to commemorate creation something greater must have occurred. The Bible said God rested from His work, He was finished, the work completed. Therefore, a more glorious work must have been completed on the 7th for the "worker" to rest on the 1st. Indeed a greater work had been finished. The "worker" was the Lord Jesus Christ. The task was to make redemption possible for mankind. No the Lord did not

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## GOD COMFORTS

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book, and I believe the words are just what George would want the message to be."

The words of this song shall be entered as a memoriam to Bro. George W. Johnson, Sr. -

## DO NOT WEEP FOR ME

When the silent shadows mark the close of day,  
And they place my casket neath a mound of clay;  
Tho' our parting makes you lonely,  
Fondest ties must broken be, when you place the little flowers, Do not weep for me.

## Chorus

Do not weep for me when you say good-by,  
God hath so de-creed, Everyone must die;  
In that land of Eden Re-united we shall be,  
When you place the little flowers, Do not weep for me.

If I've proven worthy of some deed of love,  
While the choir is singing, of that home above  
You may ask the Blessed Father, In His love and  
Sympathy, To go with me thru the Valley,  
Do not weep for me.

When I'm cold and silent, If you miss

me then  
weeping cannot bring me to your side again,  
Just remember Jesus traveled thru the dark Gethsemane,  
He will be my resurrection, Do not weep for me.

Alda B. Johnson

## THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

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die on Saturday. Calvary was an essential part but not all. Had He not risen we would yet be in our sins and our faith would be vain. Roman's 4:25 reads in part: "Who was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification". When Christ died on the cross it was for our offences (sins), but, the plan was not yet completely finished. The tomb could not hold Him, He was raised again that we might stand before God justified. Therein was perfection, in His resurrection the work of Christ here on earth for the redemption of man was complete. AFTER the completed work he rested. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb on Sunday before sunrise, the body of Jesus was not there, therefore, the work had been finished before she arrived. The Saviour was resting on the 1st day, Sunday. Salvation for man was sure, the foreordained work was finished, an empty tomb proved it. We have a living Saviour, not a dead 'almost'. As God finished His work of creation on the 6th and rested on the 7th, Jesus finished His work on the 7th and rested on the 1st, Sunday. He (Christ) and the early christians commemorated it on the first day of the week. As each Sunday dawns we should commemorate it as they did.

5. What time period constitutes the Sabbath day?

- Evening to evening next?
- Daybreak to daybreak next?
- 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. of the same day?
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (morning worship only)?
- Midnight to midnight next?

ANS. Gen. 1:5, "And the evening and the morning were the first day". Hence, sunset one day to sunset the next constituted the first day, i.e., 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. next. This is what is often called the "old world" civil day, or the Jewish day.

Our civil day (legal day) is from midnight to midnight, each new day begins at 12:00 midnight.

Let the reader study for himself the times spoke of in Acts 20:7-11. Notice the terms: FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK; ON THE MORROW; MIDNIGHT; TIL

## BREAK OF DAY; HE DEPARTED.

I feel comfortable with our time schedule. I consider Sunday from midnight to midnight next. I hold this to be the Christian Sabbath, or Lord's Day; of course I am referring to Sunday, the first day of the week.

6. Was man made for the day, or the day for man?

ANS. Jesus said the day was made for man. It is for his benefit, to rest and worship. See Mark 2:27 Furthermore, Jesus is Lord over both man and the Sabbath.

7. Worship as well as rest, has been mentioned; why this day?

ANS. God blessed and sanctified the Sabbath (7th) in the beginning and I am sure we may believe the latter (1st) also received this distinction. What is meant in Gen. 2:3 is that God "hallowed" and "set it aside" in a special way.

The early churches met on the 1st day for religious purposes, as we have already noted.

The entire Bible reveals the Sabbath to be the day of rest and worship.

Let us imitate the early churches. Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday just will not do, the Scriptures has designated Sunday as the day of worship.

8. Should we refrain from secular (worldly, non-religious) labor?

ANS. If the Bible teaches it should be kept for religious purposes then all other is ruled out. By specifying one, all other is banned. Hence, WORSHIP not WORK.

Necessities of life permitted as: Meal preparations, Feeding livestock, Milking cows, and similar needs.

We should not: Engage in secular labor for gain, etc., Do housecleaning, Mow lawn, Work on our autos.

If I should have a flat tire on Saturday, I am going to fix it then, not wait until 11:00 a.m. Sunday. However, if I awake Sunday morning and discover I have one I am going to try to get it repaired and get to church on time.

9. What of "sinful recreation"? A term found in the Articles of Faith per PENDLETON'S MANUAL, #15.

ANS. At first glance it may appear Baptists approve of immoral activity on any day aside from Sunday. You and I know if something is immoral it would be sinful regardless of the day of the week.

What is being said is this: Our normal recreation, baseball, skating, bowling, etc., should be confined to the other six days. This is not saying this activity is sinful, rather, engaging in it on Sunday is. I believe participation in, or being a spectator of, sports, etc., on

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## TWO ORDINANCES

By Kenneth W. Massey

The Lord placed two ordinances in the church which must be kept until he comes again. These two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are commemorative and symbolic. The gospel is the message of truth derived from the facts that Christ died, was buried, and is resurrected from the grave.

### BAPTISM

Today's divisions concerning the "word of God" began with a departure from the truth relative to baptism. All united efforts for the cause of Christ must begin with harmony and unity in regards to baptism. Error concerning baptism is causing more people to be deceived about eternal salvation than all other errors combined.

The words **Baptist, baptism, baptize, baptized and baptizing** are used a total of 113 times in the New Testament. It will be our purpose to use the Bible and the Bible only as the authority for what we say about baptism. We will not appeal to history, tradition, nor man's interpretation. God being our helper, we will let the Word of God say what it was intended to say.

Baptism began with John the Baptist. (Matthew 3:4-6)

The first person ever baptized was immersed by John the Baptist. He was the only man in the world with authority from God to baptize when he baptized Jesus. The Godhead sanctioned John's work, Jesus's life mission, and the ordinance of baptism as our Lord was buried in Jordan's waters. (Matthew 3:16-17)

**WHAT IS BAPTISM?** John was sent from God to baptize with water. In John 1:33, Matthew 3:6, Mark 1:5, Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:26 and John 3:23 we find convincing evidence that John's baptism was with water and not of the Spirit.

The Bible plainly describes baptism as burial in water. "...and Jesus, when he was baptized, WENT UP STRAIGHT-WAY OUT OF THE WATER..." Matt. 3:16 In every instance where baptism is described it is always referring to a burial in water. Baptism pictures a burial and resurrection.

**WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?** Only those who have repented of sin and put their faith in Christ Jesus. Don't take my word. Look in Acts 19:4, "Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the

baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." Paul hereby sums up the ministry of John the Baptist. John baptized repenters who expressed faith in Christ, and that's what true Baptists do today. The first commandment of God toward the new convert is baptism by the authority of a scriptural, New Testament-like Church.

### The Lord's Supper

This ordinance, like Baptism, is in the hands of the church. For Christ instituted it in the church to be observed by the church until he comes again. What Paul says of the institution and design of the Lord's Supper is the substance of what the evangelists had recorded (the gospels). These are his words: "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered to you, That the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." I Corinthians 11:23-26 This inspired account by the apostle teaches without doubt that the Lord's Supper is a commemorative ordinance in memory of our Lord's death. Since every believer is commanded and therefore expected to follow the Lord in baptism, it stands to reason that only the baptized should partake of the Lord's Supper. These two ordinances together represent the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ which illustrates the gospel. Christ commissioned His church to preach the gospel. Only those members in a local church following a self-examination are scriptural subjects for the Lord's Supper. Let me give you the scripture: "For first of all, when ye come together in the church....When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper." I Corinthians 11:18-20 Paul is addressing the local, single, visible church at Corinth concerning divisions in the church and taking the Lord's Supper under those conditions. But he also teaches us that the Lord's Supper is for only one church at a time.

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"God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, and acts with a hand that never fails."

### THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

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Sunday is wrong. Furthermore, spending most of Saturday night some place and then "sleeping-in" on Sunday, preventing one from going to church is sinful also.

10. What is meant by the "devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public"?

ANS. Refer to the Article of Faith earlier mentioned. Connect these words with the main statement, i.e., We believe the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by the devout observance of all the means of grace.

Defined: DEVOUT, sincerely religious

OBSERVANCE, keeping

Simply put, GO TO CHURCH. God chose to establish a local, visible church in which to work through, therefore, every christian should attend services each Lord's Day to be fed the truths of God's Word and the christian way of life. God is the source of grace, He is to be worshipped on this day. Notice the term "PUBLIC" in this section, when we gather in the house of worship we gather in "PUBLIC" worship. Read Titus 2:11-12, grace is a teacher; it's interesting what it teaches. Apart from public worship we should display our observance of this day throughout all our public life. Close the sports arena, leave the shop locked, tools and machinery should lie idle, the work at the office will wait until Monday, today is the Lord's Day. Let us keep it that way.

Having spoke briefly on our public behavior, let us think upon our "PRIVATE" behavior. Away from the public eye, in our homes, this should be a special day. Is it? Do we treat this day any different in our homes? Can we set this day apart that we may think upon the God of glory and his goodness toward us? Or is this day as all others around our homes? Little wonder God seems so distant to our families.

11. What? "By preparation for the rest that remaineth for the people of God"

We would like to say first of all men must "get-ready" to meet God before thinking they may some day rest. Men need to get saved.

ANS. This seems to say that by keeping Sunday for religious purposes we are preparing ourselves for a different kind of rest, of the which will continue (remain) forever. See Matthew 11:28

We refer the reader to Hebrew, chapter 4, verses 1-11. We note here only the believer will enjoy this rest. It

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**SIGNS**

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pleasure, a big time, and dance on with never a care for the future. We are living now in the time foretold by this prophecy. Scoffing at the second coming of Christ was foretold (2 Peter 3:3, 4). "There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

**Doctrine of Devils, Spirits and Manifestations**

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1) I have been ask if I believe that spirits communicate with mediums who claim to have power to call up the dead. No, I don't believe it. I saw on television a woman who said she knew she talked to her husband, it was his voice. I've never heard any preacher tell what they think of this, and many people say they sure heard from their loved ones after death. This is my idea - it's not the spirits of the departed loved ones they are hearing, but wicked demons, devils, who impersonate the dead, and thus make believe that these are loved ones talking. Since the great World War, the spirit mediums have done a great business. Anxious mothers have wanted to know about their boys who went over and did not come back. These evil spirits, who impersonate the dead, never acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour, never tell of a future place called torment, and never bring any important messages. Their drivel is about little nothing!

**The Selfish Rich**

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten, your gold and silver is cankered, and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days, Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you"

(James 1:1-6)

After this terrible description of what has been seen all over the world, the inspired penman added, "Be patient therefore,

brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." The world seems to be in the exact condition described. And again the inspired writer James says, "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 1:8).

If the Bible thus holds up such conditions as an indication that the Lord will soon come, I feel safe in doing so. The "distress of nations with perplexity" is upon us. "Mens hearts failing them for fear is here as never before. Times to be as in the days of Noah was foretold - "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it also be in the days of the Son of Man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26, 27).

The point to this passage is that the world was not in the least expecting the flood to come. They had been warned by the preaching of Noah, but they did not believe.

**FOOTPRINTS**

One night I had a dream  
I dreamed I was walking along the beach  
with the Lord and  
across the sky flashed scenes from my  
life.

For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
one belonged to me, the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of my life flashed before us,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.

I noticed that, many times along the paths of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life.

This really bothered me, and I This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way, but I have noticed that during the most troublesome time in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I need you most, you would leave me." The Lord replied, "My precious precious child, I love you, and I would never, never leave you during your times of trials and suffering.

When you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

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**THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH**

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appears to imply this rest is yet future, and in the fullest extent I must agree. However, I recall the words of the Psalmist (116:7), "return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee." Yea, the soul of the believer is having a foretaste of that eternal rest that is laid up in store for the people of God. Both body and soul will someday enjoy this rest. Read Revelation 14:13.

12. May we believe the Saturday and Sunday Sabbaths to be "types"?

ANS. Yes, although each differ.

First the Jewish Sabbaths, whether day, month, or year. Colossians 2:13-17 is where many try to hide their misdeeds when it comes to keeping Sunday as the Lord's Day. The Sunday Sabbath is not being considered in this passage. We have before us the ceremonial Hebrew holy days, months, and years. Every obligation to those were abolished at the cross. Ignore one telling you you should observe Saturday, a new moon, or the fiftieth year. The reason for those "types" ceased when the substance appeared. Christ was the one casting the shadow, he was the antetype. Verse 17 states they (the holy days) were a shadow of things to come, but the body (substance) is Christ.

As every type, or shadow dissolves as the substance comes into view, likewise the Jewish Sabbaths came to an end, they were dissolved.

Secondly, The Christian Sabbath is also a shadow, or type. It is dark profile, or image of the substance that is yet to appear. The real substance is what we discussed in the preceding topic: the eternal rest of the redeemed. When that rest becomes a reality the shadow shall diminish. There shall be no Sundays in heaven, we shall be at rest.

Study the force of the statement B. H. Carroll made in his work, "NO SABBATH-----NO GOD"

**DECEMBER ISSUE**

We regret to announce there was no issue published for December, 1980. The layout was lost by the postal system, and by the time this discrepancy was detected, it was too late to send a duplicate layout copy.

