



THE VAIL REMOVED
A SABBATH KEEPER DELIVERED
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The following article contains the message which God revealed to me that I should give to my brethren who keep Saturday the seventh day, or Sunday the first day, as a Sabbath unto the Lord. I have no apologies to make for giving out this message, other than that it is my soul's desire to do His will. God has shown me that the conditions that will arise, and the results that will follow, will be taken care of by Him. He wants His lambs who are in error to have a chance to hear the message; and all of my actions, as His servant, must center or pivot on rendering absolute obedience unto Him. Therefore, I will proclaim this good news as my blessed Saviour gives me strength, for "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Glory to His precious Name!

THE BACKGROUND

I received a revelation from the Lord which has changed my life. I will relate my experience first hand. In that way, you can judge what I say.

Some of my people belong to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. I grew up in that belief, and was baptized into that church at my conversion; not because I had proved the Seventh Day Adventist creed to be the correct doctrine, but because I was content to be led by others who did believe in that church. It has been suggested to me that I have been influenced by others in my decision to discontinue keeping Saturday as the Sabbath; but that is a mistake. If I had listened to those who in love persuaded me, I would still be keeping Saturday as the Sabbath. The only Voice I have heeded is the Voice of God. Praise His great and mighty Name! He revealed Himself to me soon after I was converted. I would go to the Seventh Day Adventist meetings hungry for spiritual food; and, instead of being supplied, I would go away hungry. I could not understand this. I sometimes stopped at a little mission and there had prayer, and God blessed me. I could not understand this. Yet I never doubted the doctrine of my church, but upheld it at all times.

Being a firm believer in the seventh day sabbath, I observed what I believed to be the requirements of the law more closely than many others that had a more prominent position in the church. I would walk thirty to forty blocks to attend sabbath school and church, rather than have my conscience condemn me for accepting the services of a streetcar motorman and conductor; thereby, requiring them to become my servants on that day. Neither would I ride on a railway train on the sabbath. But I have gotten off the train Friday evening before sundown and stayed in a strange town until after the sabbath had passed, which would mean until after sundown Saturday evening, before continuing my journey.

These instances are brought out to show you that I was in earnest in my endeavor to render to my Saviour acceptable service. Sometimes while at my work, the power of the Holy Spirit came upon me, and my soul was filled with ecstasy and joy unspeakable. I thought I was receiving this manifestation of the Holy Spirit because I was doing God's



will in keeping zealously His Ten Commandments. I did not know, until the Holy Spirit revealed it to me later, that God was blessing me in spite of the fact that I was rendering unto Him service that was not acceptable. I have been led to see that, if God did not bless His children until we rendered acceptable service to Him, a great many of us would not be blessed. But, glory to God! He is "greatly to be praised" with boundless love; "for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever" - Psalm 96:4; 106:1.

A burden to know God' s will concerning myself lay heavily on my heart, and I was praying for knowledge and guidance. After five days of prayer and fasting, I was impressed to go to St. Louis; as I had previously noticed in the paper that a sabbath keeper, whom I wanted to see, was there holding meetings. I went about the city during the day, and attended meeting in the evening. While in my room praying, about midnight, the Holy Spirit came on me; and I was under this wonderful power that I had heard about. But I had never witnessed its equal before, in all the manifestations of the Spirit and spiritual blessings that I had received. It seemed to me I was conscious all the time, and was thanking and praising Jesus for His wonderful love. Oh! He is such a wonderful Saviour! Hallelujah, to His great and mighty Name! While I was under this power, there seemed to be a great pressure come upon me - not of pain, but of joy. This pressure increased, and became so great that I began to groan; and, finally, I began to talk. But I could not understand what I said although I kept on talking, or making a noise in a strange way, because it seemed to give me relief. This experience seemed to last only a few minutes; but, according to my watch, it probably was about two hours. Oh! It all seems so wonderful when I look back to that time. Praise His Holy Name!

THE VISION

It was while under the power of the Spirit that I had this vision, or revelation, which I will tell you. There appeared before me a column of soft white light; but, it had a shadow over it, so that I could see only the outline of the column. After a time, the veil at one end of the long horizontal column began to roll back; and I saw the most brilliant, the most wonderful, soft white light - the outline of which I had been able but dimly to make out before the veil was removed. At this time, things began to happen rapidly. At first it was revealed, oh, so plainly to me that there was no virtue in keeping the seventh day or any other day as a sabbath to the Lord - that the only Rest, or Sabbath, we have is Christ. In Him there is no lack; all things are fulfilled, filled full, in Him. My thoughts were led to dwell on II Corinthians the third chapter. I was impressed with the fact that the veil, spoken of in the fifteenth and sixteenth verses, must be removed by the Holy Spirit before we can fully discern spiritual things - "But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away." We must be guided by the Holy Spirit, and must not depend upon our carnal minds to discern God' s spiritual truths.

It became plain to me that I had been worshiping the Lord on a much lower plane than was His due - that He was exalted far above the sphere in which my conception of Him had placed Him; and that I had been dividing the glory, the whole of which was due to my Saviour, and giving part of it to the law which had been given through Moses from Mount Sinai. This was not pleasing to Him. I have been shown that the only law we are under is the law of love to God and the law of love to our fellowman. Jesus said, "Thou



shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" - Matthew 22:37-40. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments; and, although they are so great, neither one is found in the Decalogue. One of them we find in Deuteronomy 6:5 - "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." The other one is in Leviticus 19:18 - "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord." Both are in the book of the law; which law, having completed its usefulness, ended at the Cross. Paul' s words concerning Israel apply here - "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God' s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" - Romans 10:2-4.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

On that wonderful night, I continued praising the Lord for a long time before I finally went to sleep. On awaking in the morning, I felt a great joy and peace surging through my soul - a peace that words cannot express, and a joy overflowing. There was with me also a faith that cannot express, and a joy overflowing. There was with me also a faith that made the Presence of the Holy Spirit real to me. Oh, how I praise His great and matchless Name now as I think of His wonderful love manifested to me on that occasion. I also wish to say here, I have never had a regret that I followed the leading of His blessed Holy Spirit who speaks to me from time to time and shapes my life to His own will.

If we travel in God' s way, we will find it exceedingly narrow. It is easy to sing the song, "Though the way be narrow, yet I will follow." But when we are required to proclaim to the world and to our friends that God' s Holy spirit has shown us that we have been believing, living, and teaching a doctrine of error - and then our friends turn from us in derision - there are not many who are willing to follow all the way. Nevertheless, I praise God for His grace, that inspires me to "lay aside every weight."

It has never entered my mind, from that time to this, to ask anyone for advice as to whether I should be "disobedient unto the heavenly vision" - Acts 26:19. Supposing Paul, when he was struck down on his way to Damascus, had gone to Gamaliel for advice - at whose feet he had been taught all the doctrines of the law perfectly - Acts 22:3. Had Paul taken his counsel as to what he should do about the heavenly vision, would his name be anything to Christians today?

When arising in the morning after that eventful night, with a heart full of praise to God, I opened my precious Bible without thought of selecting any certain Scripture. I began reading at Matthew 12:7 - "But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless." I had been employed by people who would not permit me to work on Sunday. Therefore, I was forced to be idle two days a week. I was glad to make this sacrifice, thinking I was rendering to God acceptable service; not realizing, until that morning, the rebuke there was for me in this passage of Scripture. After a time spent in praising God, I again picked up the Bible. This



time it opened at Hosea, and I began reading this same rebuke as my eyes rested on the sixth chapter - "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" - Hosea 6:6. Though some people may try to explain away this strange coincidence, yet it has made a lasting impression on me.

A great many people, who claim to follow Christ, are endeavoring to fathom spiritual things with the carnal mind. This is impossible. Spiritual things are "spiritually discerned" - I Cor. 2:14. Jesus says, "My sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" - John 10:27. The fullness of His Holy Spirit makes us know His Voice.

My chief sin did not consist in the fact that I kept the seventh day as the sabbath. But my fault was this: I taught others by my life that it was essential to the salvation of Christ' s chosen people that this seventh day or Saturday should be kept as the Sabbath; thereby, discouraging Christians who were unestablished, by placing a barrier between God and sinners, which caused them to turn from seeking His face.

What is true of Israel is true of all who are under blind bondage - "When it (the heart) shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away" - II Corinthians 3:16.