



NEVER!

In This Issue

- 2 Religious Liberty
- 2 1888 Sunday Crisis
- 4 1889 Sunday Crisis
- 5 1892 & 1893 Crisis
- 6 Rome's Challenge
- 7 Sunday Defeated
- 7 A True Leader
- 9 Biden Supports
Sunday Law
- 12 Supreme Court
Redefines Gender
- 15 God's Remnant
- 17 Christian in a Com-
munist School
- 18 The Wall Comes Down
- 19 The Miracle Exam
- 20 Catholic Leaders
Participate in Both
Conventions



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The True Work of Religious Liberty

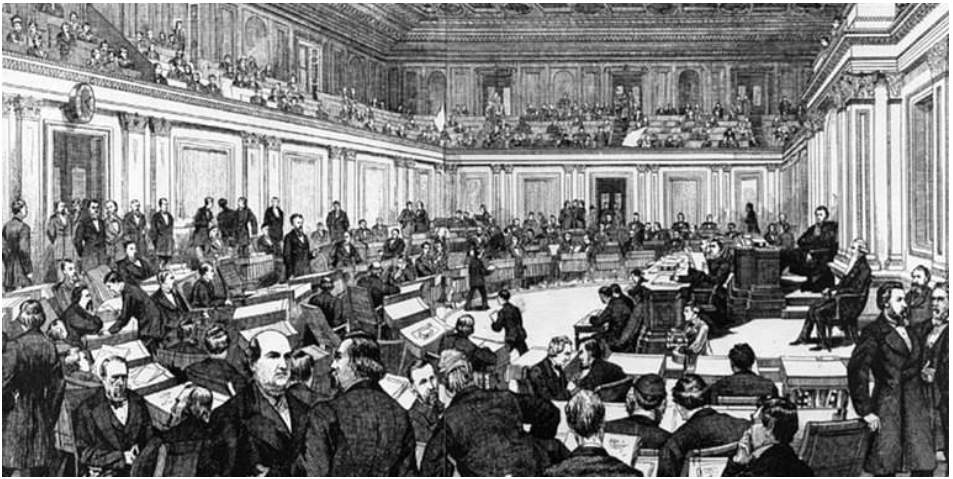
Towards the end of the 19th Century there was a religious movement that felt compelled to launch a campaign to formally recognize Sunday as the day of rest in the United States. Their desire was to bring America out of a spiritual decline caused by the Civil War. They wanted to unite the country and strengthen the morality of the nation by getting everyone to go back to church on Sunday. Different Protestant churches, reformed groups and temperance movements mobilized together into a political/religious coalition. They found a champion to lead their cause—U.S. Republican Senator from New Hampshire, Henry W. Blair. Senator Blair, a staunch prohibitionist and ardent Christian, proposed a National Sunday Rest Bill to Congress, Senate Bill 2983, on May 21, 1888.



Senator Blair

The Sunday Law Crisis 1888

The bill was designed “to secure to the people the enjoyment of the first day of the week, commonly known as the Lord’s Day, as a Day of Rest, and to promote its observance as a day of religious worship” (see *American State Papers Bearing on Sunday Legislation*, pp. 360-363). The proposed Sunday Law was ingenuously “cloaked” under the guise of a “Christian Education”



US Senate Chamber 19th Century.

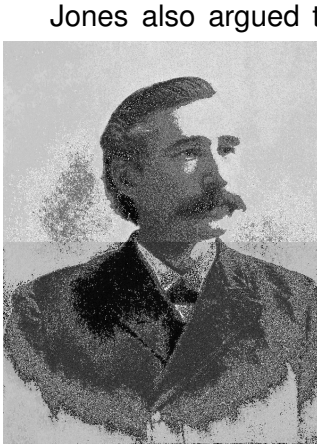
Amendment, Senate Resolution 86. **This would have amended the US Constitution and established Sunday as the mandatory day of rest for everyone under the jurisdiction of the United States in the name of “education.”** Commercial transactions would have ceased, public amusements would be closed and labor would be restricted to acts of mercy and humanity. Interstate commerce would be suspended, as would all festivities, secular activities, parades and military drills. This bill would have empowered the federal government to preserve the nation’s Christian identity through Sunday rest.

After Senator Blair introduced his legislation, his fellow lawmakers referred the Christian Education Amendment (Sunday rest bill) to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, which was chaired by Senator Blair himself! How convenient. Testimony was heard by the committee from both sides—from those who supported the bill and those who opposed it. Alonzo T. Jones, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, professor, editor and administrator lodged the strongest protest against this Sunday measure. Jones spoke boldly and clearly before the US Senate Committee for the first time on December 13, 1888 at 1:30 p.m.:

“There is a limit to the lawmaking power. The government has no right to make any law relating to the things that pertain to God, or offenses against God, or religion. It [the government] has nothing to do with religion” (see *The National Sunday Law*, Argument of Alonzo T. Jones, December 13, 1888, p. 32).

Jones said that the basis of his argument was supported by both the Bible and the U.S. Constitution. He said that Sunday laws were religious in nature and violated the separation of church and state as established by Christ: “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are

Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" Matthew 22:21. And because the Sabbath was a religious ordinance designed for worshiping God, attempting to legislate the Sabbath was a terrible infringement that both the Bible and the U.S. Constitution strongly prohibited.



Alonzo T. Jones

Jones also argued that religious liberty was enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, Article VI that stipulates that **"no religious TEST shall ever be required."** He stressed that even if the government reflected the will of a majority, it had no more authority than has a king or a pope to violate **the God-given liberty of conscience and freedom to worship.** He concluded his testimony by saying that **government should leave religion to "every man's conscience and his God. As long as he is a good citizen, the nation will protect him and leave him perfectly free to worship whom he pleases, when he pleases, as he pleases, or not to worship at all, if he pleases"** (see *The National Sunday*

Law, Argument of Alonzo T. Jones, December 13, 1888, p. 43).

The Sunday Law Crisis 1889

These words left a lasting impression upon the U.S. Senators, and as a result the Sunday Law Bill and Christian Education Amendment failed to receive the necessary votes to move on and it died in committee. Senator Blair was unfazed by this defeat. He replaced the language and resubmitted variations of the Sunday law bill called the Amended Blair Sunday Rest Bill of December 9, 1889, Senate Bill 946, and the revised Blair Christian Education Amendment of December 9, 1889; but in every instance he was met with the same fate—failure to get the necessary votes in committee.

This was a great victory for God's people and for religious liberty. Incidentally, just two days before Jones' historic testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on December 13, 1888, **Ellen White gave very important and timely counsel on what our approach and attitude should be with regard to the Sunday law question** on December 11, 1888:

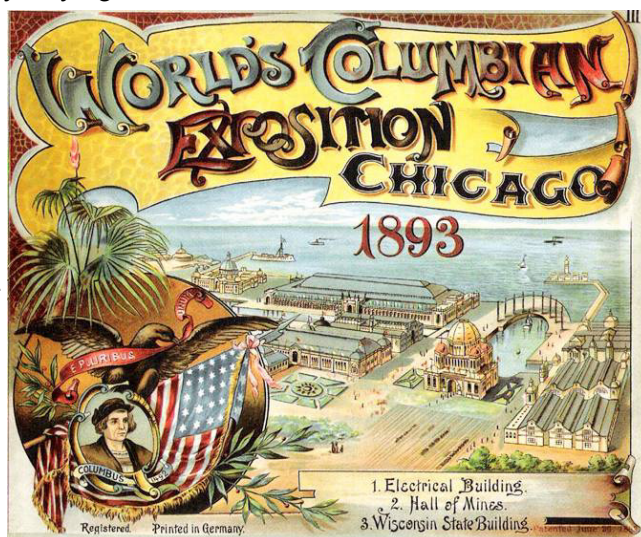
"While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. **The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness.** The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild, and apparently Christian [clearly she was referring to Blair's "Christian Education bill"]; **but when it shall speak, it will reveal the spirit of the**

dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience” (*Review and Herald*, December 11, 1888).

The Sunday Law Crisis 1892 & 1893

In 1892, after suffering previous defeats in 1888 and 1889, Sunday law agitators were able to make up some ground again with regard to a National Sunday Law. This time they found a new champion to push through a Sunday measure. His name was Alfred Hold Colquitt. Colquitt was a US Senator from Georgia. He was also a preacher and an ardent promoter of establishing Sunday rest in America. Aware of the previous failures of 1888 and 1889, Senator Colquitt introduced his own version of a Sunday Law through Senate Bill 2168 to the Committee on Education and Labor on February 11, 1892. The purpose of this bill was **“To prohibit opening on Sunday any exhibition or exposition for which the United States Government makes appropriations.”**

This laid the groundwork for what was about to take place in Illinois. The bill was essentially saying that if the US Government was to fund any major event, fairs or otherwise, Sunday would have to be kept sacred. This was done in anticipation of the largest, most significant commercial event in the history of the United States—The Columbian Exposition, also known as the Chicago World’s Fair of 1893. Even though this bill failed to pass through the Senate, it inspired another effort to push through a Sunday Law. This second



Advertisement promoting the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair.

measure was introduced through the House of Representatives called H. R. 7520 and stated: **“Sunday Civil Bill, loaning \$5 million to the Chicago World’s Fair, conditioned on Sunday closing.”** This House Bill was passed and became law on August 5, 1892. Through this ap-

propriation bill to fund a major event, **the Sunday agitators finally achieved their objective, through stealth.**

The City of Chicago and the planners of the event accepted the money along with the Sunday closing measure. All they cared about was the money. They would have to close the fair on Sundays. But this was not just any fair. This was a fair that would last 6 months and would commemorate the 400-year anniversary (1492-1892) of Columbus reaching America in 1492. People from around the world would attend to showcase the latest technological advances, building and architectural engineering, foods, entertainment, arts, innovations and inventions that occurred during this time frame.

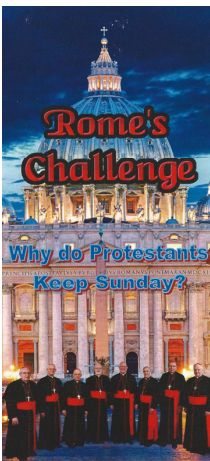
On May 1, 1893 the fair opened. In just the first three months of the six-month event, more than one-third of the US population visited the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. This was truly a historical event, and the Sunday agitators were happy. They had planned their moves and achieved their objectives through "government funding."

Yet, unknown to everyone, because of the financial success of the fair, the event planners for the Chicago World's Fair retracted the condition of staying closed on Sunday. They saw a financial benefit for staying open seven days a week. So they opened the fair on Sunday and all 65,000 booths and exhibits began to conduct their business. The people came in droves, hundreds of thousands daily. It was a huge financial success.

Rome's Challenge

This caused a volatile response from the angered Sunday Law agitators who demanded that everything be closed immediately. They began to picket and campaign with the strongest denunciations, attempting to stop the desecration of the "Lord's day." It began a national debate and the Sunday agitators began to lobby Congress to enforce the law. The debate became so engrossed that even the Roman Catholic Church took advantage of all controversy over Sunday closing.

The famous Roman Catholic Cardinal Gibbons from Chicago gave his famous "Rome's Challenge" during the 1893 Chicago World's Fair in the publication called the **Catholic Mirror**. He wrote a series of articles that openly challenged Protestants as to why they keep Sunday holy and why they were fighting for something that belonged to the Roman Catholic Church. The articles were featured in the September 2, 9, 16 and 23, 1893, issues of the **Catholic Mirror**. **Rome was laughing at all the controversy as they saw the Protestant churches fighting to establish Sunday laws in America.** Does this sound famil-



iar? This is exactly what we are seeing today. **The whole world was basically put on notice with “Rome’s Challenge.”**

Sunday Measures Defeated Again

Again, for the glory of God, Alonzo T. Jones met that challenge. Praise the Lord he wasn’t afraid to stand up to Rome or the Sunday agitators. This is the kind of leader we need today. He did it in 1888 and 1889. Now, once again, in 1892 and 1893 he took up the challenge to speak in defense of religious liberty and to denounce the oppression by the national churches in using the arm of the state to impose their religion. In 1892 and 1893 Jones stood before the U.S. Congress and spoke to the “House Committee on Columbian Exposition.” Not only did he speak against the breach in both the Bible and the US Constitution, but this time he came with a signed petition of more than 350,000 signatures from US citizens who were opposed to the Sunday Law. Jones “respectfully dedicated” his speech to each of his signers. [1]

Cardinal Gibbons

As a result, the government held its peace and allowed the fair to stay open on Sunday even though the Sunday agitators managed to convince some of the people not to attend on Sundays. To the end, the Sunday crowds remained small, but God’s people once again obtained a victory in defense of religious liberty. What can we learn from this lesson? Throughout the whole ordeal of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair (Columbian Exposition) there were **two clear voices that stood out** from all the conflicting voices, debates and confusion. (1) **Rome’s clear call that Sunday is her “mark” and all those who support this institution are honoring the papacy and not the Lord of the Bible.** (2) **A.T. Jones stood out on the side of truth and righteousness. God will always have a people who will step up at every crisis to meet the challenge.** Praise God!

“To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice and loyalty from their treason” (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 136).

A True Religious Liberty Leader

Alonzo T. Jones did not stop advocating for religious liberty even after these victories. **He continued speaking out against the dangers that Sunday laws pose to our freedoms.** At the 1893 General Confer-

ence Session he preached 24 sermons and at the 1895 General Conference Session he preached 26 sermons on the subject of the three angels' messages. **He spoke about righteousness by faith and exposed with precise accuracy the rise of the Papal power and the Sunday movement. He plainly laid out the sins of Babylon and the danger of this nation becoming an image to the beast.**

Are the leaders of the so-called "religious liberty" work today really following in the footsteps of Alonzo T. Jones? Are they exposing the fornication of Rome and her engagements with political leaders? Or are they participating in those illicit relationships? Alonzo T. Jones only did that which he felt convicted and authorized to do from the Spirit of Prophecy:

"The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the Papal power,—**all will be unmasked.** By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. **Thousands upon thousands will listen** who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 606).

Unfortunately, our religious liberty leaders are not following this mandate today. To compare what religious liberty leaders are doing today to the noble efforts and intervention of Alonzo T. Jones **is blasphemy in the eyes of the Lord.** Jones preached on the real issues of religious liberty – the third angel's message, without fear or hesitation. When did Jones engage in pantheistic, ecumenical engagements with Rome? When did Jones enroll in Rome's seminary to be nurtured by her? And **what would Jones say today as Sunday is once again being promoted through stealth but this time under the pretext of saving the environment, and our leaders say and do nothing about it?** [2] **These are just some of the serious disparities between what is done now compared to what we used to do.**

"The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, **has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands"** (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 68, 69).

We have been given two banners – the banner of truth upon which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus; and the banner of **religious liberty**, which is to open the way so that we can share the truth of Revelation 14:6-12 to the world. We cannot and must not separate these two banners, for they are one and the same work.

[1] <https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/1112.2#0>

[2] <http://adventmessenger.org/jesuit-theologian-predicts-that-laudato-si-will-become-law-in-10-years-or-less/>



Joe Biden's 2020 Presidential Campaign is Promoting Pope Francis' Climate Change Encyclical

Joe Biden is running for president, and he has presented his “vision for America.” Part of his vision is to establish an economy with “100 per cent clean energy” and “zero emissions” in the United States. On his official campaign website, Biden has promised to become a steward of “our creation and protect our planet against climate change.” And how exactly will he save America? His agenda focuses on Pope Francis' climate change encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Joe Biden's Presidential Campaign states:

- In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis directed the global community to raise awareness about the growing climate change crisis. Climate change threatens communities across the country, from beachfront coastal towns to rural farms in the heartland.
- Joe's plan will tackle climate change and pollution to protect our communities. He will ensure that communities harmed by climate change and pollution, particularly communities of color and low-

- income, are the first to benefit from his clean economy revolution.
- He will push the United States to achieve a 100 percent clean energy economy and reach net zero emissions no later than 2050. Joe's plan will create 10 million good-paying jobs in the United States, hold polluters accountable and push other countries to go further on their climate action commitments.
- He will work to ensure that every American has access to clean drinking water, clean air and an environment free from pollutants. Every dollar spent towards rebuilding infrastructure will be used to prevent, reduce and withstand a changing climate. [1]

More than 100 years ago we were warned that as we drew closer to the end we would see an ascendancy of Rome's agenda in our nation:

“Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side. See the increasing number of her churches and chapels in Protestant countries. Look at the popularity of her colleges and seminaries in America, so widely patronized by Protestants ... Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery; they have made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 566).

There is a need for our people to wake up and understand how *Laudato Si'* is just one of the Papacy's methods to accomplish her purpose. **There is a call to make Sunday the day of rest within the framework of *Laudato Si'***. This is exactly what we have been warned about:

“As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the Papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example” (*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 18).

Rome is calling upon the nations of the world to adopt her climate change policies, and Joe Biden is happy to comply. But before the final movements are permitted to take place, God's people will have a great work to do upon the earth. There must be at this time a renewal and a revival of the preaching of the three angels' messages like never before. We must reject the ecumenical movement's call to soften the preaching of the messages. We must reject this attitude of utter silence and complacency with regard to the movements of the Papacy. The world must be warned!

“If they do nothing to disabuse the minds of the people, and through ignorance of the truth our legislators should abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance and support to the Roman fallacy, the spurious sabbath, **God will hold His people, who**

For sharing: Order
Climate Change—
See page 2 for contact
information.





have had great light, responsible for their lack of diligence and faithfulness. But if the subject of religious legislation is judiciously and intelligently laid before the people, and they see that through Sunday enforcement the Roman apostasy would be reenacted by the Christian world, and that the tyranny of past ages would be repeated, then whatever comes, we shall have done our duty" (1888 *Materials*, p. 503).

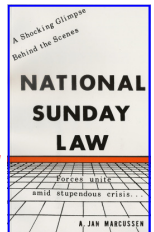
Surely we can see that the enemy of souls is not slumbering or resting during this momentous period. Joe Biden, a Roman Catholic, is pledging to make *Laudato Si'* (climate change) part of his vision for America if elected president of the United States. **This should be a wake-up call. We should be giving the trumpet a certain sound and warn the world while there is yet time.**

Unfortunately, **the weakness of our response to these and other prophetic signs is just another example of how we have failed** to fulfill our responsibility in the face of danger. Let us not repeat the history of the past. God has called us to present our message before the multitudes. If we do not respond, all of our freedoms will soon be lost and the golden opportunities to proclaim our message will soon run out.

"The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists [THIS IS NOT ECUMENISM], because they will not yield homage to the Papacy, by honoring Sunday, the institution of this anti-Christian power. **It is the purpose of Satan to cause them [SDAs] to be blotted from the earth, in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed**" (*Review and Herald*, August 22, 1893).

We can say what we want about President Donald Trump, but right now, it is Joe Biden who is pushing *Laudato Si'* (The Sunday Law) in America!

[1] <https://joebiden.com/catholics/>





The US Supreme Court has Redefined “Sex” to include Gender Ideology

In a 6-3 majority decision, the unelected, unaccountable, Ivy-league educated and elite judges on the US Supreme Court have declared that the laws of all 50 states must now be struck down, and the decision of these six judges has determined that sex has officially ceased to be a biological reality. Sex is now officially defined as a social construct in the United States and it can mean whatever you want it to be. [\[1\]](#)

The Supreme Court has included “transgender” in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The original law states that there can be no “discrimination based on sex.” That’s what the 1964 federal law says. However, the current United States Supreme Court has just ruled that the word “transgender” must also be included in the original biological meaning of the word “sex,” which in 1964 meant a man or a woman.

Judicial activism has raised its ugly head again and is destroying the moral fabric of our nation. Instead of allowing the American people to decide for themselves what the word “sex” means, six United States Supreme Court justices have done that for you. They have just declared that the word “sex” in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 must now include “transgender” (sexual orientation and gender identity) to the list of federally protected rights, something which the original authors of the 1964 law never imagined.

This new decision by the US Supreme Court will have immedi-

ate consequences and will affect the church and Christians who still believe and teach what the Bible says about sexuality. The court's decision could be used to compel churches to 1) recognize same-sex marriages, 2) override the conscientious objection of certain professionals not to participate in gay weddings, 3) force employers to finance hormonal treatments and sex change surgeries, and 4) force girls and women to share changing rooms and public toilets with men who say they are women.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling was not based on reality or biology but on "equality." And the problem does not lie entirely with conservative judges versus liberal court judges. The problem is the pressure that the radical LGBT+ lobby

exerts on both sides equally. The well-funded gay lobby is just one of many special interest groups that put massive pressure on our leaders in Washington, D.C.

"Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain, and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many, so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. 'Justice standeth afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter' Isaiah 59:14" (The Great Controversy, p. 586).

The radical social engineering of the LGBT+ movement is at work. They want to force-feed us their confusion and madness. This is just the beginning of sorrows. Prepare for persecution in the United States and throughout the West. In some cases it has already begun. All this is emboldening the LGBT+ movement to continue their war against God, the Bible and Christian organizations. May God have mercy on America. They are mocking our Creator to His face. They have declared war against His moral law.



The New York Times
@nytimes



Conservative Christian groups say Monday's U.S. Supreme Court ruling protecting the rights of gay and transgender workers could lead to years of lawsuits against religious organizations, many of which refuse to employ LGBT people



- 1962 – The US Supreme Court declared war against prayer in *Engel v. Vitale*.
- 1963 – The US Supreme Court declared war against the Bible in *Abington School District v. Schempp*.
- 1973 – The US Supreme Court declared war against the unborn in *Roe v. Wade*.
- 2015 – The US Supreme Court declared war against marriage in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.
- 2017 – The US Supreme Court declared war against families in *Pavan v. Smith*.
- 2020 – The US Supreme Court declared war against sex in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*.

Do we really believe for one second that we can have it both ways? Do we really believe that God will protect us in our times of national crisis when we reject Him, His word, His standards of right and when we remove Him from our day-to-day lives?

“With unerring accuracy the Infinite One still keeps account with the nations. While His mercy is tendered, with calls to repentance, this account remains open; but when the figures reach a certain amount which God has fixed, the ministry of His wrath begins. The account is closed. Divine patience ceases. Mercy no longer pleads in their behalf” (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 364).

[1] <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/15/us/lgbtq-supreme-court-religious-freedom.html?smtyp=cur&smid=tw-nytimes>

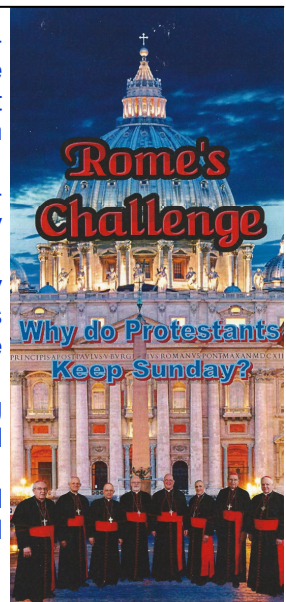
Rome's Challenge was written by the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland and published in the *Catholic Mirror* in 1893. It was a series of articles that have been reproduced in booklet format as shown on the right. (Now translated into Spanish!)

These articles were the result of the protest of Protestants allowing the World's Fair to be open on Sunday in Chicago, Illinois in 1893.

Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. But is it really? If Protestants want to base their teachings on the Bible and the Bible only this booklet will tell you how to make that happen.

Numerous offers have been made, promising \$1,000 to anyone that can show the biblical command that changed the day of worship from the seventh day, Saturday, to the first day, Sunday. Perhaps you could be the one who finally gets the reward. This booklet will help you find the truth of the matter.

Order while supplies last – Contact info on page 2.



What Makes us God's Special Remnant People?

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you except ye be reprobates?" 2 Corinthians 15:5.

Three serious and prudent questions are asked in this biblical passage. We who live in these last hours of earth's history must seriously consider these questions and answer them every day with an affirmative "Yes." Are we "in the faith?" Do we believe, live and communicate the faith, the glorious faith of the Rem-

nant people of Revelation 12? **The Remnant Church is a restoration movement that is building the "old waste places" and raising up "the foundations of many generations"** Isaiah 58:12.

"There will be a remnant who will do the will of God. 'And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places; thou

shalt raise up the foundation of many generations and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in'" (*Signs of the Times*, March 12, 1894).

"The Lord has a special message for His ambassadors to bear. They are to give the people the warning, calling upon them to repair the breach that has been made by the Papacy in the law of God" (*Evangelism*, p. 225); where they changed Sabbath to Sunday.

The special light given to "repair the breach" and "restore the paths to dwell in" is found in both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The historic, apostolic faith was lost during the 1260-year reign of the Papacy in Europe. The work of restoration is found in the Three Angels' Messages and this is the mission of the Remnant people. Are we living and communicating this light? The preaching of the everlasting gospel in context to the Three Angels' Messages is the final warning for this time. This is the historic and prophetic work that makes up God's people in the final generation.

In Paul's second question he inquires, "How that Jesus Christ is in you..." 2 Corinthians 15:5. In the Christian experience this is called reflecting Christ. God's Remnant people will not only preach the Three Angels' Messages with a "loud voice," but they will reflect the image of Christ as well. The righteousness of Christ is a necessary, absolute component to the finishing of the gospel work in our time. This is what gives "power" to



the message. The Remnant Church will develop a unique character and experience: “And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints” Revelation 19:8. Are we desiring this linen every day? Are we praying to obtain it? Are we washing and ironing our garments through the blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5) and the word of God (Ephesians 5:26) daily?

We can't preach the Third Angel's Message, the most solemn warning ever entrusted to human beings if we are wearing filthy, dirty and disgusting garments. **The Remnant Church will develop an experience in Christ that will give them “victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name” (Revelation 15:2) and over every lawless, sinful element that soils our garments and makes us unfit for the Second Coming of Christ.**

Finally, in 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul cautions against becoming reprobates. This is a very harsh and severe classification. The word “reprobate” could also be interpreted as degenerate or good-for-nothing. This is a serious characterization that should cause us to examine our walk with the Lord. Is it possible that we could be professing to be part of the Remnant Church only in word and tongue? Could some only have a guise of religion that is based on pretensions? Can we claim to be working for God while working against Him? Yes, it's possible to praise Christ with our lips and deny Him with our lives:

“Men may deny Christ by evil speaking, by foolish talking, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny Him by shunning life's burdens, by the pursuit of sinful pleasure. They may deny Him by conforming to the world, by uncourteous behavior, by the love of their own opinions, by justifying self, by cherishing doubt, borrowing trouble and dwelling in darkness. In all these ways they declare that Christ is not in them” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 357).

The signs of the times and the end of all things are fast fulfilling. The whole world is in agitation. We have been entrusted with earth's last and greatest message and everywhere people are looking to heaven for light and truth. At this very time Jesus is calling Christians to be the light of the world. We are to make visible the marvelous truth from heaven before the eyes of men and women so that when the world sees the power of God both in the message and in the life of the Remnant people, they will worship and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

Notice the future and glorious prospect of God's faithful, “despised” Remnant people, who, by the grace of Christ, will meet every requirement ordained by God:

“The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world. Their names are retained in the Lamb's Book of Life, enrolled among the faithful of all ages. They have resisted the wiles of the deceiver; they have not been turned from their loyalty by the dragon's roar. Now they are eternally secure from the tempter's devices” (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 591).



The Experience of a Christian in a Communist School

Note: This is the story of a young man who grew up in a communist country. It was not popular to be a Christian, and even less popular to be a Seventh-day Sabbath-keeping Christian. We will let Martin Bernar tell the rest of his story.

Golden Opportunities

I grew up in former Communist Czechoslovakia and attended high school in a small town near the Polish border. I was raised in an unconventional home. You see, we were Christians.

Let me give you a brief sketch of how the average Czechoslovakian under communism viewed Christians:

They [Christians] do not reason but simply believe what they are told in a book which they call the Holy Bible. They also believe in their right to worship as they want, despite the laws of the country. Some of them keep quiet and submit to the government. But others speak out for what they term their rights to religious freedom. In their churches they are brain-washed to sympathize with the West. Obviously, they cannot be loyal to the Communist Party because of these connections.

For a long time I thought I was the only Christian in my school. Later, I discovered "closet believers" who didn't have the courage to publicly stand for what they believed.

Once a month we were required to attend school on Saturday. But my Bible told me to keep God's seventh-day Sabbath holy. When I was an elementary student my parents talked to the teachers about our convictions. When I entered high school, however, my parents considered me old enough to answer for what I believed. I went before the teachers and board members to explain my situation. I didn't like telling them that I was different than other students, but my childhood experience as a Christian pushed me to do it. I wanted to be free on Sabbath to attend church with my family.

The teachers approved, but they would not excuse my absences. A student's attendance record is very important. You could be expelled from school

for too many unexcused absences. Many other students missed Saturday classes. But they were vacationing with their parents or at parties drinking or doing drugs, and were never penalized. Missing school for a religious reason, however, was not tolerated.

A new supervisor entered our school. He studied my attendance record and was surprised to see so many absences. "You don't seem to be one who would miss school just for fun," he commented, looking directly at me. He waited for an answer, while the whole class became quiet.

I began to explain timidly, "Well, I think I am not as smart as other students who miss Saturday classes." Then I told the administrator the real reason why I did not come to school on Saturday. "I believe in keeping Saturday holy – I am a Seventh-day Adventist."

"I didn't think it's that you were not smart," the teacher replied. "You are being honest. And I hope you will be a good example for all of us." The students were surprised! It was not normal for a teacher to stand up for or acknowledge a Seventh-day Adventist as being a good person. This was incredible!

The Wall Comes Down

After the fall of Communism in 1989, most of my teachers left the Communist Party. One of them even tearfully apologized to me for having to mark me absent on Saturdays. She knew I was innocent of any real wrong-doing.

My Russian teacher and I had similar hobbies. We both liked to read about foreign countries and cultures, so we read the same magazines and became good friends. One day she came up with the idea of posting the Ten Commandments in the school lobby. She knew that I was the religious one, so she figured I knew the Ten Commandments, or at least knew where to find them.

"Which Ten Commandments would you like; the ones from the Catholic Catechism or the ones found in the Bible?" I asked.

"Is there a difference?" she asked in surprise.

The next day I brought the Bible and the Catholic Catechism. She quickly saw the difference. In the Czech language the word Sabbath does not exist, so our Bible writes clearly: "Remember Saturday and keep it holy..." In the Catholic Catechism she noticed that the second commandment forbidding images was missing and the last one was divided into two. The wording in the fourth commandment was changed from "Remember Saturday" to "Remember the sacred day," which the Catholic Church taught was Sunday.

"This surprises me," my teacher said. "I didn't know there was a difference.

Which one is right?" she asked sincerely.

I explained, "The Bible was from the beginning, and it was written by men under the inspiration of God. The Catholic Catechism appeared much later and has no proof of divine inspiration."

"Just write both of them," she finally decided.

I turned the project into a piece of art. It took me a long time to write each commandment carefully and nicely. On one side I copied the Bible's Ten Commandments. On the other side I copied the Catholic Catechism's Ten Commandments. The teacher made another copy from mine. She posted one in the classroom and one in the lobby. Students and faculty, approximately 1,500 people, had the opportunity to see the difference between the two sets of commandments.



The Miracle Exam

Before graduation in 1991, I had to take exams in both Czech and Russian literature.

We had to read a lot, mostly Communist ideologies. I did not read much of it. I wondered how I was going to pass the exams. I prayed. I did not want to fail the exam. On the written section I received a C. The oral section would be decisive. We had to know over thirty topics but would be examined on only one of them. Which one, we did not know. We drew numbered questions out of a bag in front of our examiners.

At the examination I drew question 15. “I think you can pass,” the teacher encouraged me. I knew that 90% of the students who drew question 15 failed the exam. I had 15 minutes to prepare the answer. The question required a discussion about ethics in society, and morality vs. legality.

The first book that came to my mind was *The Great Controversy*, a book which discusses Christian history. Certainly none of my teachers had read that book, it contained a whole chapter about religious freedom and explained how the American constitution is based on the principles of liberty. Slowly, I started talking about the great conflict between good and evil in the universe and on the earth. “Men tried to put their own laws above the Law of God. God never forces the will or the conscience but Satan, through fear or force, endeavors to rule the conscience.”

As I was talking the teachers were listening quietly. They had never heard such things before. “Any questions, ladies and gentlemen?” the head examiner asked. They had no questions about the exam, only “Where can we find that book?” The teacher who lectured on Communism and dialectic materialism and knew the Bible better than I did wanted that book too. The next day I had a *Great Controversy* sale at school. It was my first experience selling religious books!

“I think they liked my answers. Maybe I got an A on the oral exam and that will average my final grade to a B,” I thought to myself as I checked the posted scores for my final exam. There it was: *Martin Bernar*—A! They must have made a mistake. I blinked and looked again. God had worked a miracle. I smiled, my heart overflowing with joy.

Two years later some friends from my old school told me that the teachers were still talking about that student who passed question number 15 with an A. I don't think I was actually all that brilliant; **God's truths just impressed them.**

The teacher who taught Communism encouraged me with these words, “If I were a Christian, I would be a Seventh-day Adventist.”

God had a purpose in leading me to that school at that particular time in history. Even though I often endured uncomfortable experiences, God's character needed vindication in the eyes and hearts of these dear people.

As told to Roxana Kiss, *Last Generation*, vol. 9, no. 2, 1997. Used by permission.

The Law of God (Chapter 10: The Ten Commandments)	The Law of God (Chapter 10: The Ten Commandments)	The Law of God (Chapter 10: The Ten Commandments)
1 I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me. (Ex 20:2-3) (Ex 20:3) (Ex 20:3)	1 I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me. (Ex 20:2-3) (Ex 20:3) (Ex 20:3)	1 I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me. (Ex 20:2-3) (Ex 20:3) (Ex 20:3)
2 Thou shalt not worship the Lord by God, and this only shall thou have none" (Ex 20:3)	2 Thou shalt not worship the Lord by God, and this only shall thou have none" (Ex 20:3)	2 Thou shalt not worship the Lord by God, and this only shall thou have none" (Ex 20:3)
3 Remember to keep the Lord's Day: Six days the Lord created the heaven and the earth, and the sea, and all the things that are therein: but the seventh day he rested: and therefore blessed he the seventh day, and commanded that the children of Israel should keep the Sabbath day. (Ex 20:8-11) (Ex 20:8-11) (Ex 20:8-11)	3 Remember to keep the Lord's Day: Six days the Lord created the heaven and the earth, and the sea, and all the things that are therein: but the seventh day he rested: and therefore blessed he the seventh day, and commanded that the children of Israel should keep the Sabbath day. (Ex 20:8-11) (Ex 20:8-11) (Ex 20:8-11)	3 Remember to keep the Lord's Day: Six days the Lord created the heaven and the earth, and the sea, and all the things that are therein: but the seventh day he rested: and therefore blessed he the seventh day, and commanded that the children of Israel should keep the Sabbath day. (Ex 20:8-11) (Ex 20:8-11) (Ex 20:8-11)
4 Honor thy father and mother: (Ex 20:12) (Ex 20:12) (Ex 20:12)	4 Honor thy father and mother: (Ex 20:12) (Ex 20:12) (Ex 20:12)	4 Honor thy father and mother: (Ex 20:12) (Ex 20:12) (Ex 20:12)
5 Thou shalt not kill: (Ex 20:13) (Ex 20:13) (Ex 20:13)	5 Thou shalt not kill: (Ex 20:13) (Ex 20:13) (Ex 20:13)	5 Thou shalt not kill: (Ex 20:13) (Ex 20:13) (Ex 20:13)
6 Thou shalt not commit adultery: (Ex 20:14) (Ex 20:14) (Ex 20:14)	6 Thou shalt not commit adultery: (Ex 20:14) (Ex 20:14) (Ex 20:14)	6 Thou shalt not commit adultery: (Ex 20:14) (Ex 20:14) (Ex 20:14)
7 Thou shalt not steal: (Ex 20:15) (Ex 20:15) (Ex 20:15)	7 Thou shalt not steal: (Ex 20:15) (Ex 20:15) (Ex 20:15)	7 Thou shalt not steal: (Ex 20:15) (Ex 20:15) (Ex 20:15)
8 Thou shalt not bear false witness: (Ex 20:16) (Ex 20:16) (Ex 20:16)	8 Thou shalt not bear false witness: (Ex 20:16) (Ex 20:16) (Ex 20:16)	8 Thou shalt not bear false witness: (Ex 20:16) (Ex 20:16) (Ex 20:16)
9 Thou shalt not covet: (Ex 20:17) (Ex 20:17) (Ex 20:17)	9 Thou shalt not covet: (Ex 20:17) (Ex 20:17) (Ex 20:17)	9 Thou shalt not covet: (Ex 20:17) (Ex 20:17) (Ex 20:17)

Catholic Leaders Participate in Both Republican and Democrat Conventions

Jesuit priest and editor of the Jesuit's *America* magazine, Father James Martin, S.J., is a Vatican advisor and a self-proclaimed apostle of the LGBT+ movement. [1] It was announced that Father James Martin, S.J. would participate and speak at the Democrat National Convention, [2] which in 2020 became the most pro-abortion platform in its history. This is not a surprise, since the Jesuits and many in the American Catholic hierarchy have been embracing leftist ideologies for decades.



It was also announced that Roman Catholic Cardinal, Timothy Dolan, would participate in the Republican National Convention. [3] **Rome is playing both sides and has all bases covered. They have a seat and a position of influence in both camps.** The Vatican has made a long and valiant fight to regain the temporal power which it lost in 1798. In the course of its struggle for restoration, even when everything seemed as if all hope had been lost, Rome today is in a position to see her dream finally fulfilled.

Seventh-day Adventists have preached for decades that Rome's deadly wound (Revelation 13:3) would be healed. SDAs are about to see some amazing prophetic developments, regardless of who wins the presidency on November 3, 2020. **Who will win in 2020? Rome! No matter which party takes over the presidency, Democrats or Republicans, Rome will somehow come out on top.** Whatever Rome's motive may be for sitting at the table with both political parties, the conclusion can only lead to the United States fulfilling the prophecies of Revelation 13. We believe this move by Democrats and Republicans will eventually lead to the image and mark of the beast crisis described in Revelation 13:11-18. **According to prophecy, the United States and political Protestantism will play a prominent role in restoring the Papacy to its former power.**

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed" Revelation 13:12.

Will SDAs keep quiet about these important developments? Some will; others will not. True Christians have a great responsibility in seeing these prophetic signs. **It is up to us to give a warning and to seek to stay the hand of the enemy as long as possible through the preaching of the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6-12.**

[1] <https://twitter.com/JamesMartinSJ/status/1179141080173944833>

[2] <https://www.foxnews.com/faith-values/catholic-abortion-james-martin-dnc>

[3] <https://www.ncronline.org/news/politics/cardinal-dolan-offer-prayer-republican-national-convention>