



Philippians 2:16–30

Lesson 8 — Faithful Servants

Time

And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon
to another, And from one sabbath to another, Shall
all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.

(Isaiah 66:23)

The Sabbath was not for Israel merely, but for the world. **It had been made known to man in Eden**, and, like the other precepts of the Decalogue, it is of imperishable obligation. Of that law of which the fourth commandment forms a part, Christ declares, “Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law.” So long as the heavens and the earth endure, **the Sabbath will continue** as a sign of the Creator’s power. And when Eden shall bloom on earth again, God's holy rest day will be honored by all beneath the sun. “From one Sabbath to another” the inhabitants of the glorified new earth shall go up “to worship before Me, saith the Lord.”

Matthew 5:18; Isaiah 66:23. (*DA 283.2*)

God teaches that we should assemble in His house to cultivate the attributes of perfect love. This will fit the dwellers of earth for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for all who love Him. There they will assemble in the sanctuary **from Sabbath to Sabbath**, from one new moon to another, to unite in loftiest strains of song, in praise and thanksgiving to Him who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever. (*FLB 37.5*)

The Sorrowing Paul

For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. (Philippians 2:27–28)

That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow
in my heart. (Roman 9:2)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for
Israel is, that they might be saved. (Romans 10:1)

Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and **the God of all comfort**; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:3–5)

And whether we be afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you *is* steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so *shall ye be* also of the consolation. (2 Corinthians 1:6–7)

2 Corinthians 6

Work Out Your Own Salvation

Philippians 2:12

The Saviour's promise, "Whosoever hath, to him shall be given" (Matthew 13:12), applies also to the reception of truth. To him who seeks to understand its teachings will be given increased understanding.

To him who reveals that he possesses the spirit of truth will be **given a larger measure of the Spirit, that he may work out his own salvation.** The work of reflecting Christ to the world will not be done boastingly, but in fear and trembling, yet in the power of the Spirit. CT 399.1

Every besetting sin must be put away. Warfare must be waged against it until it is overcome. The Lord will work with your efforts. As finite, sinful man works out his own salvation with fear and trembling, **it is God who works in him, to will and to do of His own good pleasure.** But God will not work without the **co-operation of man.** He must exercise his powers to the very utmost; he must place himself as an apt, willing student in the school of Christ; and as he accepts the grace that is freely offered to him, the presence of Christ in the thought and in the heart will give him decision of purpose to lay aside every weight of sin, that the heart may be filled with all the fullness of God, and of His love. (*FE* 134.1)

The work of gaining salvation is one of **copartnership**, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness. (AA 482.2)

Shine as Lights in the World

Philippians 2:15

And they that be wise shall shine as the
brightness of the firmament; and they that turn
many to righteousness as the stars for ever and
ever. (Daniel 12:3)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may
see your good works, and glorify your Father
which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye*
light in the Lord: walk as children of light:
(Ephesians 5:8)

The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. **Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness.** Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness. (*PK 188.1*)

Among earth's inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, **these faithful ones will shine** forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law. (*PK 188.2*)

Even now they are appearing in every nation, among every tongue and people; and in the hour of deepest apostasy, when Satan's supreme effort is made to cause "all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond," to receive, under penalty of death, the sign of allegiance to a false rest day, these faithful ones, "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke," will "shine as lights in the world." Revelation 13:16; Philippians 2:15. **The darker the night, the more brilliantly will they shine. (PK 188.2)**

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his
only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in
him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
(John 3:16)