

# MILLIONS FORCED TO WORSHIP THE BEAST AND RECEIVE HIS MARK

A startling warning is given by God in Revelation 14:6-10 and 12, as follows: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb . . . Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Here we have a definite message that is to be preached in all the world. The first phase of this message has to do with the hour of God's judgment. Along with this message is the plea to get right with God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. It is a warning to the people of this world to remember God as Creator, and worship Him. The second phase of this message for the world, is that "Babylon is fallen, is fallen." Following close after this comes the third message. "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation."

The preaching of this message began back in 1844. John the Revelator calls it the everlasting gospel that must be preached in all the world before Jesus comes. Before Jesus left this world He told His disciples that He would have a message of His coming kingdom that would be preached to the world before the end. This three-fold message is the very truth for our world today.

After the message of the mark of the beast is given, God points out His faithful group of saints as follows: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Do you see the contrast? The prophet John sees a group who have the faith of Jesus and are keeping the commandments of God. And on the other side he sees a larger group who have the mark of the beast.

Now whatever this mark of the beast is, it is contrary to God and the keeping of the commandments. Fearful warnings are given to those who receive this mark. I read in Rev. 16:2, which

speaks of the seven last plagues, "And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image." Notice that the seven last plagues are going to be poured out upon those who receive the mark of the beast.

In Rev. 13:16, 17 it says, "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

Some people think that this mark has something to do with politics. But the prophecy makes it clear that it is a religious mark, and that it will be enforced before the end of time. In fact these things are going to happen just before Jesus comes, because after John the Revelator presents this message of warning against the beast, he says, "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle . . . And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped." The very next thing that follows the last warning about the mark of the beast, will be the coming of Jesus.

This prophecy is one of the most striking in the entire Bible. It reveals God's last message of mercy, His very last appeal to mankind to avoid the punishment which must necessarily come from aligning ourselves against God and His commandments.

Now what are the characteristics of the beast. First let me say that I have nothing whatever against any church, or any individual. I am merely a messenger for God, and I am only interested in presenting His message as revealed in His word. The term beast as used in the Bible does not signify a beastly character but beasts represent kingdoms. Let me read about the beast of Rev. 13:5-7, "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months . . . And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

We have already found in past lectures that the Bible explains what blasphemy is as two things. One, when a man claims to be God; and number two, when a man claims to be able to forgive sins. Blasphemy against God is the taking of the prerogatives of God by man. There is only one religious leader in the world who takes these prerogatives, and that is the pontiff who sits enthroned as the head of the papacy. He has placed himself as a god on earth. Pope Leo XIII says in one of his encyclical letters, "We hold on earth the place of God Almighty." The Roman pontiff

has taken such titles as Lord God, King of kings, Lord of lords, and Lord God Almighty. This is blasphemy and the speaking of great words against the most high God.

The prophecy also says that he will make war with the saints, and power will be given him over all kindreds, tongues, and nations. In Rev. 13:8 it says, "All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." So this is something that is going to affect, not just thousands, but millions of people. Friends, if you and I are living, and I think many of us will be, when Jesus comes, we will be affected by the enforcing of the mark of the beast. It behooves us to study the Bible well to know where we stand. We truly want to be right about this matter.

John the Revelator's description of the beast is identical to Daniel's description of the anti-christ. In other words the beast of Revelation is identical to the anti-christ of Daniel 7. I turn back to Daniel 7 and read a description of this power in the 25th verse, "And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and **think to change times and laws**; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Now we can see what it is that we can expect the beast, or anti-christ, to do; something that is coming out as a mark of his power; something that is a defiance of the power of God. It says that he will think to change the time and the law of God.

Why does he wish to change God's law? According to the article "Pope" in the Catholic encyclopedia, the church claims that the pope has supreme spiritual authority on earth. They claim that his authority is so great that he can even alter the law of God. The pope's claim to the right to change the law of God, is claimed as a mark of the church's supremacy in all spiritual matters.

Now let me read you 2 Thess. 2:4-11, and I think you will have no doubt as to whom Paul is talking about, "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God . . . And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." I don't want you to think that the pope hates God or that the papal church hates God. But the system is out of harmony with God. The church makes no apologies for her tampering with God's law. In fact, the church boasts that this is the mark of its power.

What part of God's law has been changed by the papacy? Which commandment has been changed? Daniel's prophecy of the anti-christ says that it is a commandment that affects time. Which commandment alone affects time? There is only one commandment that has to do with time, and that is the fourth commandment, which tells us that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. This is an important matter with God, because the Sabbath is a sign of His mighty creative works. But the papal church claims that it has the right to abrogate, or do away

with, the very laws of God. The fourth commandment is the one that points to God as the Creator and the Ruler of the universe. The setting aside of this commandment on the part of the papacy, and the claim that the church has the right to do this, is a great sin in the sight of God.

Now since the beast power or the anti-christ, as Daniel refers to this system, has thought to change God's Sabbath, we would expect that they have tried also to establish a counterfeit Sabbath. How many of you ever saw a counterfeit thirteen dollar bill? Why none of you. There is no such thing. Any one would know immediately that it was either home made or perhaps made in Japan. There is no such thing as a thirteen dollar bill. Counterfeits are only made of the genuine. The beast power was to establish a counterfeit so near like the genuine that millions of sincere people would be deceived. God says in Eze. 20:12, 20, "Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them . . . and hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." Now what does God say He picked as His peculiar sign or mark of authority? My friends, it is the Sabbath. As long as you recognize God as the Creator, you will keep the Sabbath. Nobody will want to keep the Sabbath if he does not care about God. It must be a particular way of telling whether professed Christians accept the authority of God or not. The only way to tell is whether man accepts God's sign of authority, or the beast's mark of authority.

What is the most wide-spread teaching of the Catholic church that Protestants have adopted wholesale, and that has gone right through all their churches, and which they have swallowed completely. Could it be baptism? No, the Baptists and many other churches still believe in the true Bible baptism. That isn't the change that the beast would make which would deceive millions. Is it the confessional? No, because very few churches have confessionals. Is it prayer for the dead? No, there are very few churches which believe in that. Is it prayer to the virgin Mary? No, there are fewer that believe in that.

But there is to be something that this power would do that would deceive the religious world, and that practically all the churches in the world would accept. The Bible tells us that the world will worship the beast, and receive his mark. What is the great sign, or mark, of authority of the papacy? It is the change of God's Sabbath. The false Sabbath given to the world by the papacy has been accepted and cherished by all Protestants. It is the cleverest device that Satan could make to deceive the multitudes. Now friends, in all honesty, and giving all credit to the devil, don't you think that it is a pretty good deception? A deception so wide spread that we are actually living in a Sunday-keeping world. I won't say how well the churches keep Sunday, but they do recognize that day as their holy day. Yes, the Protestant ministers, Sunday school teachers, and millions of their followers will fight tooth and nail to defend the Catholic rest day, which is Sunday.

God's last warning message to the world tells us to avoid the mark of the beast, for those who receive this mark, believe in it, will suffer the seven last plagues, and will finally be burned in the fires of hell. Now of course, the Lord will not punish those who do not know better, for He tells us in Acts 17:30, that in the time of this ignorance God winks at it. However, I am inclined to believe that most people are not ignorant of the fact that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. Even Protestant ministers will admit that if you take the Bible alone Saturday is the Sabbath.

However, there seems to be such a love for Sunday observance that men are even willing to do anything to compel its observance. There are Sunday laws on practically all statute books in this country today. Almost every state in the Union has Sunday laws. In Rev. 13:17 it tells us that the time will come when Sunday observance will be enforced by law. "That no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Now friends, watch out! The time will come in the United States when nation-wide legislation will be enacted. Every year, new bills are introduced into Congress to try to bring Sunday laws into enactment. Some of these days, according to prophecy, such a law will be enacted and enforced. This is a serious time we are living in. Sunday laws are already on the statute books of most of the states. All that is needed, and demanded, is for a national law to put teeth into the enforcement of Sunday observance.

One Sunday morning, as I drove past a large cathedral, I became amused at what I saw. The people were filing out of the church, and I noticed a number of the men were lighting up cigarettes and cigars and pipes; and I noticed the little news boy rushing up to the steps of the church. He was selling the Sunday newspapers with the funny sheets, and people were buying them. I wondered at first if they would send the boy away, but I noticed that he was doing a very good business and there were many who seemed to want to buy his funny papers. In a little while another boy came up and he was calling out the news in his papers. There they were selling funny papers right on the church steps. People were coming out of the early morning mass. I thought of the time that I tried to buy a Bible down town, and they said that they couldn't sell me one on Sunday. But here, right on the church steps of the biggest cathedral in town they were selling commercial funny papers. This shows how unreasonable and absurd are man-made laws which try to enforce the keeping of a man-made holy day — Sunday.

Sunday is a man's day. It is certainly not God's day, for God does not once say in the Bible that it is His holy day. The Sabbath is the holy day of God, and He tells us in His word how it should be kept.

The false Sunday sabbath is the mark of Catholic authority. Let us ask the Catholic authorities themselves about this. I read from Cardinal Gibbons who was one of the greatest cardinals of the church, "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find one single

line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." Again I read from Cardinal Gibbons, "Of course the Catholic church claims that the change was her act. It could not have been otherwise as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual, and ecclesiastical, and religious, without her. And the act is a **MARK** of ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters."

I ask you friends, am I talking behind their backs when I say that Sunday is a mark of the authority of the Catholic church, and that the Bible says that she would tamper with God's law? God says that He will bring down His wrath unmixed with mercy upon anyone who takes his stand on the side of those who refuse to obey Him. Notice that the leaders of the papacy admit that Sunday is their mark of authority, and that there is nothing in the Bible that says anything about Sunday being a holy day. But they claim that they have the right to change it, and the very fact that Protestants all allow it, gives strength to the claim.

I say that it is high time for every Protestant and every Catholic to consider these things most earnestly. God would have every Protestant and Catholic in the kingdom of heaven, but those who receive the mark of the beast, God says, their names will not be written in the Lamb's book of life. Those who knowingly cling to the breaking of the Sabbath are grieving God.

After years of bitter persecution known as the dark ages, some Christians began to revolt against the idea of accepting the authority of the Catholic church in all matters of religion, above the authority of God. They refused to accept tradition on the same basis as the Bible. Martin Luther made the Bible and the Bible only his rule of faith, and set about to bring in a reform among the deluded followers of the papacy. To try to meet the argument of the Protestants, and to counteract the reform that was set in motion by Luther, the Catholic church called the Council of Trent in 1545. In this Council, they tried to set up a reason for their accepting tradition above the Bible. They had to do this since the Protestants were claiming that it was the Bible, and the Bible only, for them. That this was their only rule of faith. Debating in the Council of Trent continued for years, and finally the Archbishop of Reggio made a speech stating that the traditions of the Catholic church were above the teachings of the Bible. As proof of this, he said, "The church has changed the Sabbath into Sunday, not by command of Christ, but by its own authority." — **Canon and Tradition by Holtzman**. Another statement on this says, "Tradition not scripture is the rock on which the church of Jesus Christ is built." — **Catholic Doctrine as Defined by the Council of Trent. Nampon**.

The serious thing in regard to this matter is that the law, which God tells us cannot be changed, not even the dot of an "i" or the cross of a "t", the papacy has presumed itself powerful enough to change. The prophecy tells us that the anti-christ will particularly change the commandment of God which has to do with time, and that is

the Sabbath commandment. We read another statement from the church of Rome. "We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic church in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 338) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." — Taken from the **Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine**. Here is another catechism statement on this matter. "Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her. She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day of the week, a change for which there is no scriptural authority." — **Doctrinal Catechism**.

Again I read, "The Catholic church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by the virtue of her divine mission changed the day from Saturday to Sunday." — **Catholic Mirror**. What does Cardinal Gibbons say is the mark of the Catholic church's power? "The change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday is the mark of her divine authority." The church of Rome says that because she has the power to take one of God's commandments and change it and set up another day for worship, that this is the sign of her supreme authority in religious matters. This is their mark of power. They boast of the fact that the Protestant world has accepted their mark of authority. They continually challenge Protestants in this matter asking them why they accept the change of God's Sabbath day as given to the Protestant world by the Catholic church, and refuse to accept the other teachings of the church of Rome. Here is a challenge from Father Enright, "I have repeatedly offered one thousand dollars to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is the law of the holy Catholic church alone. The Bible says remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. The Catholic church says, no, by my divine power I have abolished the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week." Father Enright was a leading Catholic priest in Kansas City some years ago. This Catholic priest knew a lot more about his Bible than most Protestants do. But he had faith in his church.

Now I ask you, are you willing to accept the challenge of the Catholic church tonight, or the challenge of Jesus Christ? If you are willing to accept the challenge of Christ, it means that you must be willing to follow Him even to Calvary if necessary. It is a fearful thing for any man to take the law of God and place the law of man above God's statutes.

Before I go further, perhaps it is only fair that I read you some of the statements of the Protestant ministers. Here is one from the minister of St. John's church, an Episcopalian of Detroit. "Most Christians need enlightenment on this subject. It became an early custom to worship on the first day of the week, because Christ rose on the first day. Authority for this can be found in the writings of some of the early fathers of the church."

Now who are these fathers? They are writers of tradition who are accepted in the Catholic church, and their writings are accepted as inspired by

the church of Rome. I, as a Protestant, dare not go to these so-called church fathers for my authority. Catholics can, for they believe the church fathers. But I don't want a Protestant minister to tell me to go to the early fathers for my authority when we are to be judged by the law of God in the judgment day. These so-called early fathers wrote many things that I cannot believe, things that uphold purgatory and image worship, and prayers for the dead, and many other things. Friends, I must accept the authority of the Bible and not the authority of man!

Here is a statement from the assistant pastor of the Berean Tabernacle of Detroit. "I was just studying up about the Sabbath a couple of days ago. The Romans passed a law, then the pope gave out an edict calling it the Lord's day, so the new Sabbath we have is different from the old Jewish Sabbath. I believe that some day the earth will again keep Saturday, but it is wrong to keep it now." Now isn't this a strange statement to make. According to this minister, some day the world will keep the Sabbath, but right now it is wrong and a disgrace. Friends, I don't think it is wrong to obey God. Do you?

Here is a statement from the Lutheran church. Probably many of you are Lutherans. This is taken from the Augsburg confession. "The Catholic bishops allege the changing of the Sabbath into the Lord's day contrary, as it seemeth to the decalogue. And they have no example more, in their mouths, than the change of the Sabbath. They will needs have the power to be very great, because it has done away with a precept of the decalogue." — **Library of Original Sources, Vol. 5, pages 173, 174**. And then from the same source, I read, "The observance of the Lord's day (Sunday) is founded not on any command of God, but on the authority of the church.

In the official Lutheran documents they say they want to base their beliefs entirely on the Bible. If they live up to those statements they will have to observe Saturday as the Sabbath of the Lord God. Sunday is a mark of the Catholic church. If you keep God's law, then you will have God's mark for He said His Sabbath is His seal or mark. It is God's sign of sanctification. Let me read this, "Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them . . . And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." Eze. 20:12, 20.

Let me read from a Methodist minister, of the Central Methodist church of Detroit, "After the resurrection, the sacred day for the Christians became the first day of the week instead of the seventh which is the Jewish Sabbath. It is not a matter of church, sect, or denomination, but it is a Christian custom." Now this same minister further states, "My impression is that those who keep Saturday as their sacred day base their custom on the creation and on the commandment, 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.'" Friends, this great minister, of one of the largest

churches, in one of the great cities of the United States, says that they keep Sunday because of custom, and that these that keep Saturday do so because they keep the commandments of God.

Let me ask you friends, if the judgment were to come tonight, which side would you want to be standing on? Would you risk standing on the side of those who are obeying a man's commandment? Or would you take your stand on the side of those who are obeying the commandment of God. Which do you think would be the safest side to be on? So many times people come to meetings like this and when they hear these things they say, "Well isn't this terrible? How could they do such a thing? I just simply can't understand how they could change the law of God, and hand Sunday out to the Christian people of the world." Don't worry, friend, about how the Catholic church could do this, but ask yourself, "How can I do it?" For, those who knowingly submit themselves to the Catholic church and its authority, will receive the mark of the beast. Those who refuse to honor a man made day in preference to God's holy Sabbath, will be written in the Lamb's book of Life.

I want to read again in Rev. 14:12, 14, "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. . . . And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle." Notice that God says that those who keep His commandments are His saints, and that they have the true faith of Jesus. I want to have the faith of Jesus, don't you, friend? You know Jesus left us an example that we should follow in His steps. The Bible also tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He never changes. Jesus made the Sabbath, He kept the Sabbath, and He warned His followers to pray that they would not have to break the Sabbath even after He was to leave this world and go back to heaven. (Matt. 24:30).

Many times people ask this question, "Do you think that Martin Luther is going to be lost? What about John Wesley, and John Calvin, those great reformers who didn't keep the Bible Sabbath? Why, no, I don't think that they will be lost. The Lord only holds us accountable for the light that He has given us. I read in John 9:41, "Jesus said unto them, if ye were blind, ye should have no sin; but now ye say, we see; therefore your sin remaineth." In James 4:17 it says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

The message of Revelation tells us that there will be a great reform before Jesus comes. This is God's particular message for the world today. It is the last message to go to the world. And it is to get men back to God and the keeping of His commandments. This message that I am preaching to you, is being preached in over eight hundred languages and dialects. It is being preached in practically all of the world tonight. Friends, don't take what I say, but go to God's eternal book and find the truth for yourself. You will not have to face me, or any preacher or priest, in the judgment, but you will have to face God and you will

be judged upon the basis of what the Bible teaches. So search it out for yourself. And friends, don't take too long, but do it quickly for time is short.

It is almost unbelievable the statements that have been made by the church of Rome regarding the Bible. Here is what Father Enright has to say, "If you go to the Bible, you will find that the seventh day Sabbath was the original Sabbath, but there is one thing you must understand, and that is that we Catholics take the stand that the Bible does not contain all truths necessary to salvation, but that the tradition of the fathers and acts taken by the church are of equal importance with the Bible. The early church Christians observed the seventh day of the week, Saturday, as the Sabbath. In the early days the early Christian fathers began advocating Sunday as the Sabbath in honor of the resurrection of Christ. Early church councils took certain actions changing to Sunday as the Sabbath. There is no text in the Bible that gives authority for this change. Protestants broke away from the Catholic church in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, but they did not go back to the Bible Sabbath. They are still following the Catholic church in the observance of Sunday."

Now isn't this a startling revelation? Here is one of the most noted priests of the papal church saying, "Protestants are still following the Catholic church in the observance of Sunday." Here is another amazing statement, "Tradition not scripture, is the rock on which the church of Jesus Christ is built." — **Catholic Doctrine as Defined by the Council of Trent.**

Now if you are willing to take tradition and forget the Bible; and you believe that God isn't particular; and that you do not have to keep His commandments, then you can go on keeping Sunday. And the most logical church to belong to, if you do not wish to keep the commandments of God and remember His Sabbath as a holy day, and want to continue keeping Sunday, is the Catholic church, for at least they are consistent in their teachings. When they practice something that isn't in the Bible, they are free to admit that they are practicing it because of tradition, not because they believe the Bible teaches it. But Protestants say that they take the Bible and the Bible alone. Now Protestants should be consistent. If we are doing something that isn't taught in the Bible, then we should protest against it as true Protestants.

The Bible says that the mark of the beast will be received in the forehead or in the hand. Those who receive this mark of papal authority will be divided into two groups. One with the mark in their forehead and the other with the mark in their hand. Those who receive the mark in the forehead, are following the mark of the beast religiously. They believe it. The forehead is the symbol of the mind. They give their mental and spiritual assent to Sunday keeping. But there will be others in the second group who have the mark, but do not necessarily care anything about Sunday; but because it is the law of the land to recognize Sunday, they think they must recognize that day in order to keep their jobs. They do not especially believe in Sunday keeping, but they obey

with the hand, by their works or actions. Yes, I know a number of people who do not believe that Sunday is the Sabbath, but they go on keeping it. In other words, they accept the authority of the beast by their actions, though they do not believe what he has done. They are marked in their hand.

My friend, I hope that you will decide, tonight, that you will not be in either one of these two groups. I pray that when you go home tonight you will kneel down and ask God to deliver you from anything that is man made, and that you will accept only the authority of God, and prepare yourself to meet the Lord in the soon-coming judgment. You remember the discussion that came up in the day of Jesus when he said, "Why do ye also transgress the commandments of God by your tradition?" Jesus pointed out that His followers should obey God's commandments. But there were many back there then who chose to follow tradition rather than the commandments of God.

Some people say, "Well if everyone else is doing it, is there any harm if I do it? Jesus said, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:9. I ask you in all sincerity, can I dare to hold out hope to any one tonight who continues to defy God's authority? No friends, absolutely not. If we take the tradition of men in the place of the commandments of God, then all our worship is in vain. That it what Jesus said, not I.

Therefore it is high time that we Protestants protest, and get back to the Bible, and the Bible only. We do well to take our stand with Jesus and the apostles on the side of the law of God. Here is what God says about the priests and ministers who refuse to keep His Sabbath, "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, **and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths**, and I am profaned among them. Her princes (ministers) in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, thus saith the Lord God, when the Lord hath not spoken." Eze. 22:26, 28. God says that the ministers have hid their eyes from His Sabbath. They have profaned His holy law. They are getting dishonest gain while at the same time are causing souls to be destroyed. God says they claim that their authority is based on the Lord himself, when He says that He hath not spoken these things. That they are divining lies, unto the people.

But so many people ask "Do you really think that God is so particular? Do you think that it will really make any difference?" Suppose that God told me not to touch this curtain here on the platform, that if I did I should die. What if I should defiantly walk over and touch it? When they used to move the holy ark of God back in the days of ancient Israel, above the mercy seat of the ark was the visible presence of God, and God had told them they were never to touch the ark lest

they die. They were taking it along the road one day and the cart that was bearing the ark went into a rut and almost turned over. A man by the name of Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, and he immediately dropped dead. God had told him not to touch it. But he thought it wouldn't make any difference this time. He thought he was helping God out to keep the ark from falling. But he wasn't obeying God. O, if Christians could only learn that God wants our obedience! Obedience not as we may choose it, but as he specifically says. God cannot accept the service of anyone who knowingly cherishes sin or clings to disobedience. Sin is sin whether you are breaking the fourth commandment or the sixth. God must have obedience from those who plan to live throughout all eternity in the courts of heaven. There has been a rebellion in heaven once, and God does not want it to happen again. Did it make any difference when Eve took the fruit of the tree that God had warned her against, in the Garden of Eden? God promised the curse of death if they disobeyed. The devil told Eve that she wouldn't suffer the punishment that God said. Remember that the devil always sugar-coated his temptations. But you know only too well what happened as a consequence of Eve's disobedience. Can I as a minister of the gospel dare to hold out any hope to an individual who willingly breaks God's commandments, when God says to warn the people of their way?

But someone says maybe I might break God's law sometimes anyway. O, yes, but it is different when you are trying to do what is right, and fall for a moment, than it is for you to knowingly continue in disobedience to God.

If you go to God in prayer, but at the same time are planning a bank robbery next Monday, do you think that God will hear you? Or if you are planning on Sabbath breaking next Saturday, do you think God can honor your prayers? The Lord tells me that if we turn away our ear from His law, even our prayer shall become abomination. (Prov. 28:9). While we have these Bible examples and warnings of the consequences of disobedience, the most terrible warning of all is given to those who follow in the footsteps of the papacy. And I say that it is time for ministers to sound an alarm on every hand. It is high time for you to change over from the side of man and traditions and the masses of this world, to the side of God, His commandments, and His faithful remnant.

But does it really make any difference, Brother Harris? Do you think it is that important? That is what many people are saying. Well let God answer that and tell you what difference it does make. I read again from Rev. 14:9, 10, "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if **any** man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture, into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb." Yes, it does make a difference, doesn't

it? It is the difference between eternal life and eternal death.

The Roman mark or seal was placed on the tomb of Christ, but He broke it and came forth victorious. Even so, you should break the Roman Catholic seal or mark which has held you for so long, and come forth victorious. Many say, it is so hard, O, I know that well enough. I know that it is even hard for you to have to listen to these things, and it is hard for me to have to preach them. I actually marvel how many continue to come out after hearing these straightforward messages. It is not easy to obey the law of God, and it was not easy for God to give His only begotten Son to save you from the penalty of the law, which is death. The way to heaven is not easy. It never was easy. It never will be easy. O please remember that. I am thankful that so many of you who are here tonight, take God first and make Him first in your lives, and do not take offense at what I present from God's word. You are going to face the judgment as individuals, and God will be the judge. So "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Millions of martyrs in ages past gave their lives for Christ. Must they have suffered for their faith, and Christ have died, and we receive our reward without a sacrifice? The martyrs were not thinking about their jobs, and the loss of friends, or the loss of social position. They thought only of following in the footsteps of Christ, and doing what He asked them to do. They realized what His sacrifice had meant, and what heaven was worth.

Yes, it is hard until one actually takes his stand. Then the way opens up. Christ has given the promise, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; . . . for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." There is real joy in following Christ all the way.

I remember the story of a man who was in a hurry to get across the river in the winter time. As he started across he was afraid of the ice, so he laid down and crawled spreading his body out as much as possible to distribute the weight. Suddenly he heard a loud noise behind him and he turned around and was amazed to see a man galloping across the lake on a horse. So he got up immediately and walked. Sometimes we make things hard for ourselves. Harder than they should be. Actually when we step out to do God's will we will find the greatest joy that we have ever known, because God says "great peace have they which love my law, and nothing shall offend them."

Many individuals come to the parting of the ways and they know what is right, but they will not make the surrender to obey God in all points. It is amazing how many people will say that nine of the commandments are good, but the fourth one they do not like. But thank God there are a faithful few who do take their stand. First they start crawling along, then they find out that there are almost a million people with them, and they get up and walk confidently in Christ Jesus.

The world holds out many temptations to us today, especially to those who are young. The world has tempted me in times past, but I know

that I am going to have to answer in the day of judgment, and I must stand true for Christ.

I want you to picture with me tonight a scene in Rome. We get a pass to go in, for we are going into the Vatican. We cannot enter there without a pass. It is the coronation of the pope. He is the king of kings, and lord of lords, according to seven hundred million Catholics. We want to see this great coronation service. All is hushed. The cardinal who is to become the pope is coming in accompanied by other cardinals, and borne on the shoulders of the consecrated Catholic couriers. They carry him up a beautiful set of steps where he can now be viewed and adored by all. He is dressed in a gorgeous robe and decked with jewels. Diamonds sparkle from his attire. A cardinal is chosen to crown him. I see that man in his costly red robe take the triple crown, bedecked with jewels, and as he places the crown on the pope's head, I hear him say, I now crown you Vicarius Filii Dei (vicar of the Son of God), and then a shout goes up from the multitude for they have seen a god enthroned. He is a man of wealth, a man of authority. He speaks and the nations listen. His voice is heard clear around the entire globe. After a time a great church council was called and that man is the head of this holy council of the church. Church leaders bring up the disagreement which is tearing the church apart. Some of their followers have been observing the old Bible Sabbath. Some have been observing the pagan day of worship, Sunday. Different cardinals and bishops make their statements. And they decide that, in the interest of the holy Catholic church, it will establish their power if they make Sunday the new day of rest. And so the man-made king of kings, lord of lords, the pope, speaks ex cathedra, and says that from that time onward Sunday shall be observed as the day of rest instead of the seventh day. It becomes the law of the church until the coming of Jesus Christ. Centuries later Protestants continue to follow this pope-made sabbath.

I see another picture. I see a man who has toiled for many years in a carpenter shop. I hear him say, "The Son of man hath not where to lay his head." I see the mark of his authority, on his forehead the crown of thorns, and the nail prints in His hands. I see Him as He makes His way to Calvary bearing that heavy cross. He staggers under the load. Ah, friends, do you say your load is too heavy? And He has to have some one help Him. He reaches the top of the hill and they stretch Him out on the cross and drive the nails through His hands and feet. Then thrust the cross down into the hole that has been dug for it, tearing the flesh of the Son of man. Between two thieves, I hear Him cry out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me." While the crowd laughs and jeers, Jesus hangs on the cross. They spit at Him. They curse Him. They mock Him. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was smitten for your sins and for mine. And so few were willing to follow Him to the cross.

Why did Jesus die? To save people from their sins. What is sin? The Bible says that sin is the

transgression of the law. He died to save His people from transgressing the commandments. If He had had as much power as the pope claims, He would not have died on that cross, but He could have changed the law so that He would not have needed to die. He died for our sins because the law of God could not be abolished. And yet the man in Rome who claims to be God, says that he has the power and authority to break God's law. And what is the world doing? The world is bowing down in reverent obedience to the beast, and is accepting his mark of authority.

Friends, choose you this day whom ye will serve. Please don't crown Jesus, tonight, with a Roman crown of thorns. If the Lord be God, then follow Him, but if the pope be God, then follow him. There will be only two classes in the judgment, those who follow their Saviour to the cross, and those who pledge their allegiance to the pope by serving him. Christ asks you to follow Him to the cross. Then He will give you the crown of glory. I plead with you tonight to choose your Saviour even though it means a cross. Why don't you now nail your old ways of sin to the cross and crown Him Lord of all in your life?