



SAVED TO SERVE

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The Great Controversy, pt. 26: The Work of Reform

SCOTUS Partakes of Red Mass. Nations: Close Churches & Jail Protestants.

Juxtaposing Daniel 3 & NFL Protest. SDA & Reforming Catholic Confession.

1. What is the title of chapter 26 of *The Great Controversy*? _____
2. What work of reform must be accomplished in these last days? Isaiah 56:1,2,6-8 _____

These words apply in the Christian age, as shown by the context: "The Lord God which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him." Verse 8. Here is foreshadowed the gathering in of the Gentiles by the gospel. And upon those who then honor the Sabbath, a blessing is pronounced. Thus the obligation of the fourth commandment extends past the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, to the time when His servants should preach to all nations the message of glad tidings. {GC 451.2}

3. The following scriptures show that the seventh day Sabbath was observed by the Apostles and early Christians and the Gentile-converts (the strangers) after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. Acts 1:12; Acts 11:26 compared with Acts 13:1,14,42-44; Acts 15:19-21,28-29; Acts 16:9,13-15; Acts 17:1-4; Acts 18:1-4.

4. What is the seventh-day Sabbath in relation to the Ten Commandments? _____

The Lord commands by the same prophet: "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples." Isaiah 8:16. The seal of God's law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. {GC 452.1}

5. Note: Consider the fact that a Biblical seal has three components: name, title and territory. Esther 3:12,13. The Lord's seal is connected to His law. See Isaiah 8:16. The seal of God is in the fourth commandment. Read Exodus 20:8,11.

6. Which primary entity removed the seal from the Ten Commandments? Daniel 7:7,8,23-25 _____

When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority. {GC 452.1}

"On March 7, 321, **Sunday, the Day of the Sun, was declared an official day of rest**, on which markets were banned and public offices were closed, **by emperor Constantine...**" "In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. **The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians;** it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. **He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church,** who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church." {GC 53.1}

18. "Q. What is the *Third Commandment*? (Remember they renumbered the God's Ten Commandments)

A. The third Commandment is: Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

Q. Which is the *Sabbath day*?

A. *Saturday* is the Sabbath day.

Q. Why do we observe *Sunday* instead of Saturday?

A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

[*The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, 1951 printing, page 50.*]

7. Note: Pope Francis is presently pushing the nations to enforce Sunday worship as the solution for the crises facing the world.

#237. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world...It [Sunday] protects human action from becoming empty activism; it [Sunday] also prevents that unfettered greed and sense of isolation which make us seek personal gain to the detriment of all else. The law of weekly rest forbade work on the seventh day... [See Ex 23:12]. Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.

#155. Human ecology also implies another profound reality: the relationship between human life and the moral law, which is inscribed in our nature and is necessary for the creation of a more dignified environment. Pope Benedict XVI spoke of an "ecology of man", based on the fact that "man too has a nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will". The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology. Also, valuing one's own body in its femininity or masculinity is necessary if I am going to be able to recognize myself in an encounter with someone who is different. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

8. Note: As the Papacy is peddling the false doctrines and policies to the nations and churches, it is time for God's people to carry forward an aggressive work of reform to the nations and to the churches.

9. To whom was the prophet Isaiah sent? Isaiah 58:1,2 _____

10. What was one of the primary sins of Israel? What reform was Isaiah calling them back to? Isaiah 58:12-14 _____

11. Note: As the Lord raised up Isaiah to carry forward a work of Sabbath reform, so He is raising up men to carry forward the work of Sabbath reform in these last days, even the work of reformation.

12. Note: Revelation 14:6,7,12 brings to view the work of Sabbath reform in these last days. Compare Revelation 14:7 with Exodus 20:11.

13. What is one of the excuses that people use to reject obedience to the seventh-day Sabbath? _____

As the claims of the Sabbath were presented, many reasoned from the worldling's standpoint. Said they: "We have always kept Sunday, our fathers kept it, and many good and pious men have died happy while keeping it. If they were right, so are we." The keeping of this new Sabbath would throw us out of harmony with the world, and we would have no influence over them. What can a little company keeping the seventh day hope to accomplish against all the world who are keeping Sunday?" It was by similar arguments that the Jews endeavored to justify their rejection of Christ. Their fathers had been accepted of God in presenting the sacrificial offerings, and why could not the children find salvation in pursuing the same course? So, in the time of Luther, papists reasoned that true Christians had died in the Catholic faith, and therefore that religion was sufficient for salvation. Such reasoning would prove an effectual barrier to all advancement in religious faith or practice. {GC 454.2}

14. Read the following scriptures: Acts 17:30,31; John 3:19; 2 Corinthians 10:12.

15. What is another excuse that people use to reject obedience to the seventh-day Sabbath? _____

Many urged that Sundaykeeping had been an established doctrine and a widespread custom of the church for many centuries. Against this argument it was shown that the Sabbath and its observance were more ancient and widespread, even as old as the world itself, and bearing the sanction both of angels and of God. When the foundations of the earth were laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy, then was laid the foundation of the Sabbath. Job 38:6, 7; Genesis 2:1-3. Well may this institution demand our reverence; it was ordained by no human authority and rests upon no human traditions; it was established by the Ancient of Days and commanded by His eternal word. {GC 454.3}

16. Read the following scriptures: Genesis 2:1-3; Isaiah 66:22,23.

17. What is another excuse that people use to reject obedience to the seventh-day Sabbath? _____

In the absence of Bible testimony in their favor, many with unwearying persistence urged--forgetting how the same reasoning had been employed against Christ and His apostles: "Why do not our great men understand this Sabbath question? But few believe as you do. It cannot be that you are right and that all the men of learning in the world are wrong." {GC 455.2}

18. Read the following scriptures: Exodus 23:2; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Matthew 7:13,14; John 7:45-48.

19. Note: It is time for aggressive evangelism. It is now that we must carry forward the work of reformation.

20. What are some of the reasons why the Lord has delayed His coming? _____

The history of ancient Israel is a striking illustration of the past experience of the Adventist body. God led His people in the advent movement, even as He led the children of Israel from Egypt. In the great disappointment their faith was tested as was that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea. Had they still trusted to the guiding hand that had been with them in their past experience, they would have seen the salvation of God. If all who had labored unitedly in the work in 1844, had received the third angel's message and proclaimed it in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts. A flood of light would have been shed upon the world. Years ago the inhabitants of the earth would have been warned, the closing work completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His people. {GC 457.2}

21. What is the Lord saying to us as He said to Moses and Israel? Exodus 14:13-15 _____

It was not the will of God that Israel should wander forty years in the wilderness; He desired to lead them directly to the land of Canaan and establish them there, a holy, happy people. But "they could not enter in because of unbelief." Hebrews 3:19. Because of their backsliding and apostasy they perished in the desert, and others were raised up to enter the Promised Land. In like manner, it was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be so long delayed and His people should remain so many years in this world of sin and sorrow. But unbelief separated them from God. As they refused to do the work which He had appointed them, others were raised up to proclaim the message. In mercy to the world, Jesus delays His coming, that sinners may have an opportunity to hear the warning and find in Him a shelter before the wrath of God shall be poured out. {GC 458.1}

22. What must we learn from the following scriptures? Numbers 13:30-33; Numbers 14:9,10,24 _____

23. How will the saints be viewed as they carry forward the work of reformation? _____

As men see that they cannot maintain their position by the Scriptures, many determine to maintain it at all hazards, and with a malicious spirit they assail the character and motives of those who stand in defense of unpopular truth. It is the same policy which has been pursued in all ages. Elijah was declared to be a troubler in Israel, Jeremiah a traitor, Paul a polluter of the temple. From that day to this, those who would be loyal to truth have been denounced as seditious, heretical, or schismatic. Multitudes who are too unbelieving to accept the sure word of prophecy will receive with unquestioning credulity an accusation against those who dare to reprove fashionable sins. This spirit will increase more and more. And the Bible plainly teaches that a time is approaching when the laws of the state will so conflict with the law of God that whosoever would obey all the divine precepts must brave reproach and punishment as an evildoer. {GC 458.2}

24. Prime Minister Theresa May announced the plan earlier this year, but Christians and others are concerned about how the effort will affect their own civil liberties...When she was home secretary, Theresa May strongly supported the introduction of Prevent, stating, **"This strategy aims to tackle the whole spectrum of extremism, violent and nonviolent, ideological and non-ideological."** The Crown Prosecution Service defines hate crime as: **"Any criminal offense which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender."** <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/britain-forges-ahead-with-anti-extremism-commission>

24. "A fundamentalist group, even if it kills no one, even if it strikes no one, is violent. The mental structure of fundamentalism is violence in the name of God." <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/181689>

25. Amber Rudd: viewers of online terrorist material face 15 years in jail...**People who repeatedly view terrorist content online could face up to 15 years behind bars in a move designed to tighten the laws tackling radicalization the home secretary,** Amber Rudd, is to announce on Tuesday. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/03/amber-rudd-viewers-of-online-terrorist-material-face-15-years-in-jail>

26. France approves tough new anti-terror laws...The law will incorporate several measures first authorized under the emergency arrangement. **They include easier searches of homes and confining individuals to their home towns, without judicial approval...** A state of emergency was first introduced after the attacks of 13 November 2015, when militants from so-called Islamic State (IS) killed 130 people in gun and bomb attacks in Paris...The bill was approved by 415 votes to 127, with 19 abstentions, **and is expected to become law before the latest state of emergency extension expires on 1 November.** Interior Minister Gérard Collomb told parliament on Tuesday that the threat level was still "very serious", saying: **"We're still in a state of war." Mosques or other places of worship can be shut down if preachers there are found to be promoting radical ideology.** <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41493707>

27. Read the following and gather encouragement as we will encounter the modern-day giants in the land. John 15:20; Matthew 11:18,19; Luke 23:1,2; Acts 24:5.

28. In view of this, what is the duty of the messenger of truth? Shall he conclude that the truth ought not to be presented, since often its only effect is to arouse men to evade or resist its claims? No; he has no more reason for withholding the testimony of God's word, because it excites opposition, than had earlier Reformers. The confession of faith made by saints and martyrs was recorded for the benefit of succeeding generations. Those living examples of holiness and steadfast integrity have come down to inspire courage in those who are now called to stand as witnesses for God. They received grace and truth, not for themselves alone, but that, through them, the knowledge of God might enlighten the earth. Has God given light to His servants in this generation? Then they should let it shine forth to the world. {GC 459.1}

29. Note: We dare not remain silent. We must carry forward the protest. Read Ezekiel 33:7-9; Luke 19:40; Acts 5:29; Hebrews 11:26; Isaiah 51:7,8; Isaiah 66:5.

30. Note: Presently the Papacy, Apostate Protestants, and the leaders of nations are uniting to hinder the work of reform.

31. When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result. {GC 445.1}

32. Somewhere in Pope Francis's office is a document that could alter the course of Christian history. It declares an end to hostilities between Catholics and Evangelicals and says the two traditions are now "united in mission because we are declaring the same Gospel". The Holy Father is thinking of signing the text in 2017 [Oct.31], the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, alongside Evangelical leaders...Francis is convinced that the Reformation is already over. He believes it ended in 1999. <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/issues/july-24th-2015/the-popes-great-evangelical-gamble/>

33. The line between Catholics and Protestants gets blurred more and more each year. This Oct. 31 is the anniversary of that decisive point in history. For many Christians, this commemoration marks a dramatic shift, as never in history have old wounds between traditions felt closer to healing... "Today," added Francis, "Lutherans and Catholics, Protestants, all of us agree on the doctrine of justification..." "I think this is actually drawing Catholics and evangelicals closer," he tells The Daily Beast. "We both believe in Jesus as Lord, the authority of Scripture, and traditional Christian morality. Protestants are discovering the importance of a sacramental view of the world and of liturgical life. Catholics are more evangelical in their prayer and have a stronger focus on missionary discipleship and evangelization." https://www.thedailybeast.com/500-years-after-martin-luther-does-the-protestant-reformation-still-matter?via=twitter_page

34. Reprint: Letting Roman Catholics Off the Hook...For over a century, even before the publication of *The Great Controversy*, we Adventists have regarded the Roman Catholic Church leadership, typified in the first beast of Revelation 13, as our arch-nemesis, our bête noire, the enemy that takes the evil part in the apocalyptic scenario against God's remnant. Here are seven reasons why it may be time to question them in that role.

3. Ellen White fingered Catholicism in a very different world. Historians have shown that 19th-century American anti-Catholicism grew out of a general anti-immigrant nativism. In an era when we have had and could again have a liberty-loving Roman Catholic president, when Catholic immigrants have become our young work force, why can't we preach the gospel without identifying Roman Catholicism as Satan's exclusive tool? <https://atoday.org/reprint-letting-roman-catholics-off-the-hook/>

35. (A) Seventh-day Adventism cannot change its views on the Catholic Church being the Whore of Babylon without admitting that it was wrong on Sunday worship. (B) It [Seventh-day Adventism] cannot admit that Sunday worship is not the mark of the beast without changing its views on the Jewish Sabbath. (C) Seventh-day Adventism cannot cease to be anti-Catholic without ceasing to be Seventh-day Adventism.... <https://www.catholic.com/tract/seventh-day-adventism>

36. Note James A. Ayers, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in the North American Division signed the document "A Reforming Catholic Confession." <http://reformingcatholicconfession.com/>

#23: "No Remnant Church"— We acknowledge that our own churches are not the only ones who are in communion with the living Lord, and that we are not the only ones to seek to read Scripture faithfully. We therefore seek continuing reformation by the God of the gospel and the gospel of God. <http://reformingcatholicconfession.com/>

37. Note: This Confession states that the Catholic church is holy and is God's new society.

THE Church: That the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church is God's new society, the first fruit of the new creation, the whole company of the redeemed through the ages, of which Christ is Lord and head. <http://reformingcatholicconfession.com/>

38. Hundreds of Protestant Scholars and Pastors Sign "Reforming Catholic Confession," But Can the Church Trust This Document?

Other institutions that are represented in the signatures of the "Reforming Catholic Confession" are some of the most blatant contemplative-promoting Christian colleges and universities out there. And when we say contemplative, remember, we mean on a path to Rome: Wheaton College, Fuller Theological Seminary, Biola University, Bethel College, Regent University, Asbury University, **Andrews University**, Denver University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Other schools represented in the document are also contemplative promoting: Dallas Theological Seminary, Liberty University, Moody Bible Institute, Baylor University, Cornerstone University, and Westmont College. We've only named a few of the institutions that are represented on the signature list that promote contemplative spirituality (i.e., the emergent church). As we stated, it is the majority of them that do. <http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=23790>

39. Five U.S. Supreme Court justices [Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Stephen Breyer and Samuel Alito Jr.] attended the annual Roman Catholic Red Mass in Washington on Sunday, the unofficial kick-off of the fall season of the judiciary....The annual mass, which dates back 65 years [1952], is aimed at blessing the work of government officials and workers, especially judges. The name reflects the red vestments worn by the legions of priests and bishops involved in the event...The sermon on Sunday, delivered by Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez, followed that template, more or less. "There is a time for politics and a time for prayer," Gomez told the audience of nearly 1,000. "This is a day for prayer." Also in attendance on Sunday were numerous judges...as well as the deans of local law schools, diplomats and prominent lawyers... http://m.nationallawjournal.com/#/article/1202799436717?_almReferrer=

40. — Go to Sunday Mass; receive the sacraments; encounter God in everything; rest on Sundays. (233-237) http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

41. As the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States intensified in the late 1940s and early 1950s, hysteria over the perceived threat posed by Communists in the U.S. became known as the Red Scare. <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/red-scare>

42. When the tradition came to St. Matthew's in February of 1953 in the heat of the Cold War, the government was keen to promote activities that showed that the U.S., unlike its communist adversaries, was not opposed to religion. President Eisenhower sent two members of his cabinet to attend that Mass, and the following year's service was attended by Eisenhower himself, who—as a Presbyterian, and in keeping with longstanding American political worries about upsetting protestant voters—had not previously been to a Catholic service since becoming president. As time has passed, attendance by non-Catholic members of Washington's legal elite has become more and more common: last year, six Supreme Court justices attended. <http://time.com/4051932/red-mass-supreme-court/>

43. A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend. {1SM 128.1}