



Adventist Enterprises Newsletter

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I am devoting this issue to the subject of Sabbath keeping. This truth is like the first dawning of the sun, it will grow and spread until the whole world knows about it. The origin of the Sabbath is found in Genesis 2:2-3 when God rested, blessed and sanctified the seventh-day. Therefore it is a day of rest for all mankind and will continue to be celebrated in the new earth (Isaiah 66:22-23).

The 10 Commandments are God's eternal moral law. Jesus stated plainly that he came not to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Matthew 5:17-19). The Greek word "pleroo" (fulfil) in this context carries the meaning of filling something up, such as when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus showed us the deep spiritual depths of the law; even to be angry with your brother breaks the commandment not to murder (Matthew 5:21-22)!

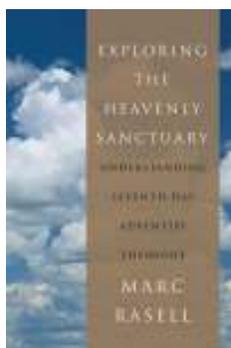
Jesus often healed on the Sabbath contrary to the man made rules of the Pharisees. He was not seeking to overthrow the Sabbath but to restore it to its original purpose as a day of blessing. This concept is found in Isaiah 58 where the Sabbath is called a delight and is associated with helping the poor and oppressed. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of his time for keeping human traditions which broke the laws of God (Matthew 15:3).

The Apostle Paul affirmed the validity of the moral law; he said that faith does not nullify the law (Romans 3:31) and affirmed that the law is holy, just and good (Romans 7:12). This agrees with James who said that to break one of the commandments is to break them all (James 2:10-11).

In the time of Nehemiah the people were trading on the Sabbath, so he made sure the gates to the city were locked before sunset (Nehemiah 13:15-22). Today we also need to safeguard the Sabbath as it is one of God's holy commandments for all mankind.

Yours brother in Christ

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