

## Sabbath *Selah's* A Blessing Forever

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it [made it holy], because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made (Gen. 2:3).

I have sworn by Myself, The Word has gone from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back... (Isa. 45:23).

God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent...Behold, I [Balaam] have received a command [from God] to bless; When He has blessed, then I cannot revoke it"(Num. 23:19-20).

And now it has pleased You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before you; for You, O [Eternal], have blessed, and it is blessed forever (I Chr. 17:27).

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable (Rom. 11:29).

Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster And does not retract His words...(Isa. 31:2)

*God blessed the Sabbath day. He cannot, by His very nature and His Word, take back a blessing once He has issued it. So the Sabbath is still blessed today and will be a blessing to those who keep it. It is one of the perfect gifts from our Father of Lights (James 1:17). Selah.*



## CHAPTER TWO

### *It's About Time!*

Satan has done a nasty number on the body of Jesus Christ. He has deceived the church – and for that matter all mankind – into losing out on one of the greatest blessings Jesus ever offered.

Satan's rule is soon coming to an end. God's time has come to reveal to the end time church and to the world the truth about one of the greatest blessings He has given to mankind.

It's about time!

You can take that two ways. It's literally about time. It's about a special gift of time from a Father who loves His children -- a Father who wants to spend some special time with those He loves. It's about the special time Jesus instructed us to meet with Him.

It's about time! It's about time the Bride of Jesus heard this truth! It was lost to the vast majority of the church for some 1700 years. It is also a major reason why the church has not been blessed.

The first book God anointed through this ministry was *Why Doesn't God Heal Me?* It explained the blessing of healing that God promised His people and why many have missed out on that blessing. I identified personally with the subject,

for I had been denied healing for twelve excruciating years. When God revealed the key to open the door to my healing, I reaped the blessing of a healing that was deemed impossible by man.

The awesome blessing revealed in this present book is one of the greatest blessings ever given to us by our Father of Love. I also identify with it in many ways. At times I related some personal testimonies in the first book. While this book is not about me, I am going to get a bit personal in this first chapter so you can understand.

## **A Father's Greatest Present -- His Presence**

When my children were quite young, I did spend time with them. I enjoyed being with them. I enjoyed watching them, savoring their verbal jewels, their laughs, and their antics. That "quality" time, however, did not have much quantity attached to it.

I had a three-church circuit (Quebec City, Trois-Rivieres, and Saguenay), in two of these I preached every week, and a large geographical area to cover. While I was off "saving the world," I too often left them alone and abandoned.

Struck by deadly Legionnaire's disease and the resulting organic personality disorder caused by a lack of oxygen on the brain, I was forced to live separately from my (now-ex) wife and my son and daughter. My son was only eight at the time, my daughter eleven. Daddy wasn't the same daddy they had known, and they couldn't bear him. And their daddy had a hard time bearing being without them.

As some of you know, mental illness is a great tragedy that Satan has inflicted on many in our society. But the greatest pain falls on the family members. It's hard for them to heal even if the sick one does. It can take time.

As I write these words over ten years after my healing, I look forward to seeing my children again. They're taking time to heal. Although we live only minutes apart in the same city, they aren't ready to see their dad.

I have many blessings I would like to give them. The greatest blessing I believe is time – time with their dad. Time he didn't give them enough of when they were young.

All of you who read, of course, have – or have had -- fathers. As you think about your relationship with your dad, if it was basically a good one, what was missing? Many adult children have the same answer to that question. I think both fathers and children would say the same thing: "If we could go back in time and do it all over again, we would spend more time together."

# Love with a Capital L

This book is all about time. And it's all about love -- with a capital L. The Bible says, "God is love (I John 4:8)." That's who He is. He *is* Love.

All He wants to do is to lavish His love on us. To do that He needs to spend time with us. Lots of time. Every day. He wants to be with us and bless us every day.

He has set aside, however, a special day where He invites us into His presence in a way He doesn't on any other day.

Our God is offering us, His children, a special blessing. His greatest gift was His Son Jesus. And Jesus' greatest gift as well was Himself.

Yet before He even gave Himself for all mankind so they could be a part of the Family of God, He gave the gift of Himself in a day, a 24-hour day. Jesus blessed a certain day of the week and made it holy. It could not be holy unless He was in it.

One of His greatest presents is His presence.

He poured a part of Himself into that 24-hour period. The God who is outside of the realm of time gave His people who live in the zone of time and space a precious gift – the gift of time.

Paul told us that nothing we do means anything if we don't have love (I Cor. 13:1-3). The same is true with love written with a capital L. So if Love offers us His presence in a day of time and specifies the exact day, what does that mean to us? If we know about it and don't meet with Love on that day, what would Love say to us and about us? Good question. Thank God that mercy is part of Love.

Love has a day. This day of Love is a vast and virtually unknown subject to the Christian world. The chapters that explain it will overlap. And because it's new understanding, some repetition will be beneficial. Each chapter addresses the anti-Sabbath arguments in a different way, using some of the same Scriptures as they fit into the context of the chapter. The hammer of God's Word will break the Bible code bit by bit.

It's about time we heard the truth about God's gift of time with us. It's time to meet with Jesus at *His* appointed time – not ours!

## Can You Handle The Truth?

If you are able to humble yourself like a little child as Jesus said in Matthew 18, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to understand the Word, you can understand this simple truth. God spells it out clearly in His Word.

Unfortunately, for centuries theologians have shrouded this simple truth in a fog of falseness. Parishioners have gobbled up their gobbledygook. The ruthless robber has snatched Jesus' blessed day of rest from His beleaguered bride. Tradition triumphed over truth.

A famous movie line has often rung in my head: "You can't *handle* the truth!"

Can you?

If you can, you will open up a *gateway to intimacy with Jesus* – a doorway to the Door Himself. You will never regret it.

If you think we're talking about lifeless legalism, think again. Please withhold judgment. Keep an open mind and an open book – and don't forget to open up the Book of books and prove in the Word everything you read (I Thes. 5:21).

Do us -- and yourself -- a favor. Don't ask your pastor. Don't see what the commentaries have to say. Go to the source. Jesus said, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth (John 17:17)." Open your bible and see for yourself.

## **It's Time to Enter Jesus' Rest**

God's Book has much to say about the rest of Jesus and resting in Him. But before we examine the Scriptures to find rest, let's consider why it is so difficult in our modern society to rest.

We live in a harried, hurried, hectic world. We rush to and fro, doing five things at once, with cell phone in hand, wondering why we don't have time to enjoy life. We're so stuck to our Blackberry™ that we don't have time to pick the blueberries. God and family get put on the back burner of the sloppy stove of our frantic lives. We don't rest.

Author and humorist Phil Callaway is a busy man. He not only writes books about golf; he also takes time to relax and play the game. More importantly, he takes time for people. At a conference a few years ago he invited me to lunch and shared some time and ideas with me. He even allowed me to share the following excerpt from his book, *Who Put My Life on Fast Forward?* He lays groundwork for understanding the need for the Sabbath. Phil writes. . . . .

On August 13, 1971 (a Friday, I believe), the devil invited millions of demons from the far corners of the Western Hemisphere to the annual Creative Chaos Convention held 300 miles beneath Texas. It was a hot day (even above ground) and attendance was mandatory.

"Fellow enemies," Satan began in his keynote address, "we have had some victories. We have split some churches and burned some Bibles, and we've got

them arguing about music again like we did in the 1600s. I congratulate you on a terrible job!”

The demons began lobbing fiery darts at one another and booing loudly. Lifting his hand, Satan calmed their gleeful enthusiasm. “But let’s be honest—though none of us finds it easy,” he continued. “We haven’t stopped these Christians from reading their Bibles, loving their neighbors, or worshiping God. It’s time we tried something else.”

“Like what?” shouted a particularly ugly little demon whose name tag read “Hal.”

Satan emitted a long and sinister cackle, then adjusted his notes and gazed out over the darkened auditorium.

“We will gradually distract them,” he wheezed. “We will keep them from God by making them too busy with other things. Oh, let them go to church, but start stealing their time. If they have no time for a relationship with Jesus, we’ve got ‘em.”

“But how?” shouted ugly little Hal, who was still trembling at the mention of That Name. “How do we steal their time?”

“Redefine success for them. It’s not about people or faithfulness anymore, it’s about things. Make them equate success with stuff. Keep them borrowing, borrowing, borrowing. Lower the prime rate. Replace the front porch with a garage. Convince them that they need bigger houses and more cars. Keep the husbands and wives working longer hours to get out of debt and rarely let them see their kids. I’ve hated the family since the beginning. This just might fix it.”

“Is that all?” shouted another demon near the back.

“No, I’m just getting started,” said Satan, who was met with another enthusiastic round of jeers and catcalls.

“Make them comfortable and complacent. Blind them to the needs of others. And would someone invent seedless watermelons? They’re having way too much fun spitting them. I hate it when Christians laugh.”

“What else, what else?” sneered Hal, just before being pelted by a rotten egg.

“Make silence a fearful thing. Create so much noise that they can’t hear the still, small voice of God. Turn the music up in restaurants and supermarkets, pound their minds with 24-hour news channels, invent something better than that awful 8-track and keep the music loud. The sound systems in our cars are lousy—do something about that. There isn’t nearly enough junk mail either, so have it increased. And we need more television channels. How about a shopping channel? See if you can get away with a golf channel, though I doubt you can. Offer free products and sweepstakes and trips and pyramid marketing schemes. Get them to take excessive vacations and return broke. Keep them away from nature. Let them

find their rest in amusement parks, sporting events, and movies, and could someone increase the cussing in Hollywood? There isn't nearly enough cussing. Hal, you take care of that."

You could barely hear Satan now above the rising enthusiasm. But he wasn't finished.

"Speed up the world!" he yelled above the roar of the minions. "Don't give those Christians time to think. Or rest. Make them too tired to walk with God. Too weary to lift a hand to help others. Keep them busy with good things—with programs and charts and reports—but don't let them rely on Christ. Let them think they can get by on their own. Let them sacrifice their health and their family and their God on the altar of busyness. Then they will be ours."

Over Satan's sinister cackle, the demons began to stomp and chant, "We will, we will, rock them."

Some say the standing ovation is still going on.

## Breaking the Yoke of Busyness

Phil's point is well taken. Someone even came up with a clever and accurate acronym for the word *busy*: Being Under Satan's Yoke. The devil has been giving us the *business* and the busyness for too long. He has not only deprived us of rest, but he has also substituted the anointed day for rest for a replacement that is far from restful.

While the "anointing" (presence and empowerment of the Holy Spirit) breaks yokes, Satan has cleverly deprived Christians of the day in which the anointing of the Holy Spirit is strongest. The Holy Spirit nonetheless uses the anointing to teach new truth. Truth is not new to God and has always been contained in the Bible; it is new, however, to the one who discovers it. The Divine Master of the Sabbath is calling out to every reader of this book to accept new understanding.

Jesus is beckoning to our rushed, tired generation in words similar to those etched on the Statue of Liberty. I paraphrase from my school days: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." I also paraphrase Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest... you'll find rest for your souls. Enter into my Sabbath rest. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Are you "tempest tossed"? Are you tired out by the storms of daily life? Enter into the glorious freedom of Jesus' Sabbath rest.

Are you ready? Are you tired enough? Are you tired enough of human tradition? Are you ready to hear what God says? It may surprise you. Then again, maybe not. When you heard what pastors preached about this subject, and you looked in

the Bible, deep inside you felt something was amiss. Many of you have known in your hearts the truth about the Sabbath rest. If you have read the Book from beginning to end (which I hope you will do for this book as well), you saw this truth in black and white throughout the Bible. Many of you are simply waiting, waiting for some encouragement to do what you know you should do – to do what pastors have not had the courage to do.

## **Foretaste of a World at Rest**

The price they would have to pay to obey this truth is probably greater than the price you have to pay. The Holy Spirit is inspiring a number of TV preachers to come closer and closer to understanding this truth. We know that some are even obeying this truth without preaching it. When God reveals this truth in a greater way, we believe blessings will come.

“If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land,” God promises (Isa. 1:19). The pastures of pastors and laymen alike can be so much greener than they have been. When this truth is understood and obeyed, the anointing will increase. Our cups will overflow. Our Shepherd will lead us beside truly quiet waters and will restore our tired souls (and bodies). His rod and staff will give greater comfort. The banquet table He will prepare before us in the presence of our enemies (who will increase when we step out and obey this truth) will be sumptuous.

We will have a foretaste of a millennial rest pictured in Isaiah: “The [Eternal] of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples [even the religious people], Even the veil which is stretched over all nations” (25:6-7).

Isaiah ends his book by pointing us to the time when all will rest in Jesus the way He instructs: “For thus says the [Eternal], ‘Behold, I extend peace to her like a river...As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you... Then you will see this and your heart will be glad, And your bones will flourish like the new grass...And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me...’” (66:12-14, 23).

It’s time Jesus lifts the veil -- the veil stretched over all peoples, especially the veil covering the Bride of Jesus.