

THE PECULIAR SIGN OF GOD'S PECULIAR PEOPLE

The beautiful scriptural truth written by the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 2:9 will reach complete fulfillment in the last generation of believers:

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, A Peculiar People; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9.

The righteousness of faith, as was manifested in Christ, and as will be fully manifested in God's last-day saints, is so vastly different to the ways and method's of this world, that such righteousness is called “Peculiar”! So true is this, that when Jesus came into the world, yes, even unto the people who professed to be God's true people, they did not know Him:

“He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.” John 1:10, 11.

And Jesus in His great prayer for his true followers, prayed:

“I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is Truth. As Thou has sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; That they

all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.” St. John 17:14-21.

Thus the scriptures make it plain that God’s truth and His righteousness will never be popular in this present world. The apostle Paul in 2 Timothy chapter 3 gives a clear description of the world in the last generation; notice a few pertinent descriptions from that very important chapter.

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” Verse 5.

“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Verse 7.

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” Verse 13.

*“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
Verse 12.*

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Corinthian Christians, also described the contrast between the wisdom of this world and the true wisdom which is from above; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased ‘God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we

preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And the base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according

as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” I Corinthians 1:18-31.

The Apostle James explains in James 4:4 that “the friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

This same “enmity” is mentioned in Romans chapters 8 verses 6,7. “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”

And in Ephesians chapter 2 the word of God shows us that “walking according to the course of this world” is the same as walking “according to the prince of the power of the air, the Spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” Ephesians 2.2. Thus we see clearly that the spirit of the world is the spirit which works in and

controls the people of the world that Spirit is Satan! The mind of the world, the carnal mind is the mind of selfishness. That is why when Jesus came “the world knew Him not,” because His was a life of unselfish love.

The scriptures teach that God’s true people are “not of the world.” Jesus said in John 17:16 “they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” And the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians told them that the true Christian no longer has the spirit of the world, but has received the Spirit of God. In fact, Paul makes it clear that the true Christian has the mind of Christ and no longer the mind-set of Satan; let us read 1Corinthians 2:12-16.

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom

teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged by no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.” 1Corinthians 2:12-16.

When the believing sinner receives Christ, he or she obtains power to become a son or daughter of God. This power puts to death the “old man”, and gives the believer the gift of Christ’s righteousness, His Life, His Mind, all through the Spirit of God. Consider the following scriptures:

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the

one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24.

“He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on Him: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God,” St. John 1:10-13.

“Jesus answered and said unto Him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” St. John 3:3.

“Jesus answered, Verily verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” St. John 3:15.

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye

shall die: but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:7-14.

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” Romans 6:6.

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:11.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son

in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might by fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after Spirit the things of the Spirit.”
Romans 8:1-5.

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”
1Corinthians 2:12.

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the Mind of Christ.”
1Corinthians 2:16.

This wonderful and miraculous work of salvation is, in fact, a work of creation in Christ Jesus as the scriptures make plain:

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed. away; behold, all things are become new.” 2Corinthians 5:17.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10.

We have already proven that the Sabbath is the sign of God’s (See Series A, No.1) creative power. Therefore, since Christ is Lord of the Sabbath, then the Sabbath must also be the sign of His redemptive power and presence. The Sabbath must therefore be the peculiar sign of God’s peculiar people, and this fact the scriptures emphatically declare:-

“Moreover also I gave them My Sabbath, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know ~at

*I am the Lord that sanctify them.”
Ezekiel 20:12.*

“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.” Ezekiel 20:20.

“Thus saith the Lord, keep ye judgement, and do justice: for My salvation is near to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth thus, and the Son of Man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.” Isaiah 56:1,2.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12.

‘For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, and God did rest the seventh day from all his works.” Hebrews 4:4.

“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
Hebrews 4:9-12.

The Apostle John, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, commands the Christian to “love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the

Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1John 21:15-17.

And Jesus prayed that His Father would keep His saints from the evil of the world.

“I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.” St. John 17:15-17.

The mind of the world, being the mind of Satan, is the mind of selfishness, pride, self-exaltation, and lawlessness. The scriptures describe this mind in Isaiah 14:12-15.

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou

has said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”

In contrast, the Mind of Christ is the Mind of complete surrender and obedience to God, the mind of unselfish love, self-sacrificing love. This Mind of Christ is described in the following passages: -

“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30.

“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent bold toward you:” 2 Corinthians 10:1.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11.

“For such as High priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. Hebrews 7:26.

The mind of Satan manifests itself in haughtiness and external pomp and pride, as described in Isaiah 3:16-26.

“Moreover the Lord saith, because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, The chains and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the

*earrings, The rings and nose jewels,
The changeable suits of apparel, and
the mantles, and the wimples, and
the cringing pins, the glasses, and
the fine linen, and the hoods and the
vails. And it shall come to pass, that
instead of sweet smell there shall be
stink; and instead of a girdle a rent;
and instead of well set hair baldness;
and instead of a stomacher a girding
of sackcloth; and burning instead
of beauty. Thy men shall fall by the
sword, and thy mighty in the war.
And her gates shall lament and
mourn; and she being desolate shall
sit upon the ground.” Isaiah 3:16-26.*

In contrast, the Mind of Christ is manifested through true believers by the virtues of humility, meekness, and self-abasement, as written in 1 Timothy 2:9 and 1 Peter 3:1-9.

*In like manner also, that women
adorn themselves in modest apparel,
with shamefacedness and sobriety;
not with braided hair, or gold, or
pearls, or costly array. 1Timothy 2:9.*

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing gold, or of putting on apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands; Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord: whose daughters ye are as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be

not hindered. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrarywise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 1Peter 3:1-9.

The scriptures therefore advise the true Christian, Not to adorn self by wearing gold and jewelry, but to be adorned by having the mind of Christ, “even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” The apostle Paul sums it up in Galatians 6:14.

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” Galatians 6:14.

The course of this world is the course of Godless pleasure: dancing, revelling, cinema going, indulgence of the appetites, sexual

vice, consumption of alcohol and tobacco, drug abuse. The scripture makes a clear contrast between the course of this world (the works of the flesh) and the course of Christ-like living (the fruit of the Spirit). Let us read Galatians 5:19-26.

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not

be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Galatians 5:19-26.

Please read and study the following scriptures carefully: I Corinthians 6:19,20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:1-16.

The last generation of God's true Christians will have the Mind of Christ fully formed in them, that is their minds will be swallowed up and blended unto the Mind of Christ. They will be fully covered and filled with the righteousness of Christ, the righteousness of faith! Thus they will be completely separate from the pagan customs and lawless, selfish pleasure-mad lifestyle of the world. By keeping the seventh-day Sabbath they will show to the world that their citizenship is in heaven; that their government is the government of the Creator God who made the earth in six days and rested upon the seventh. Yes friends, the Sabbath will indeed be the peculiar sign of God's peculiar, last generation of saints, who have the Mind of

Christ, and who are righteous by faith in Christ and by the faith of Christ, and who therefore “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” They will have come completely out of Babylon to be God’s spiritual Israel, and through them will be fully revealed the ways and character of God to the sin-loving multitudes of Satan’s last generation of sinners! Such a revelation of God’s character will give them the following peculiarities which we will now study.

1. CHRIST WILL BE THEIR HEAD

The world is accustomed to human headship; men ruling over other men as kings, presidents, prime ministers, popes, heads of churches and heads of state etc. This is the way of the world. But in contrast to the way of the world, we ask:

What is God’s divine pattern of organization for his church? The Scriptures are emphatically clear that Christ is the head of His Church. Consider the following scriptures:

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body.” Ephesians 5:23.

“Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:24-27.

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom, the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of

every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:15,16.

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11.

“And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell.” Colossians 1:17-19.

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the

heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16.

Since Christ is the head of the church (which is His body) then He must be the one to make and appoint its various officers and offices, respectively, for service. The Scriptures also teach this truth very plainly. Consider Ephesians chapter 4 verses 4-7 and 11-16.

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Ephesians 4:4-7.

And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:11-16.

A careful reading of 1Corinthians chapter 12 explains that God, through Christ, by the Holy Spirit, gives gifts to various members of His body, thereby appointing them to

service according to His will, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:18. "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him." Every single appointment in His true church is made by God, through Christ, by His Holy Spirit, working in and through the true members of the body according to the gifts given them, as it is written in 1 Corinthians 12.

In order for the Divine plan of church organization to work successfully, every member must be born-again, with Christ dwelling in the heart by faith. Christ must be Head of each member and, therefore and thereby, Head of His body, the church. When Christ dwells in the heart by faith, then the true living love of God fills the heart and mind, and there will be no striving for supremacy. Thus Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:31 advised the Corinthian believers to follow the more excellent way of love in 1 Corinthians 13! 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 13 should be studied carefully and prayerfully together! Now consider this beautiful message of truth from Paul in Ephesians chapter 3:14-21.

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:14-21.

There is no place in God’s true church for men to rule over other men by dictatorship, or committees, or boards. Listen to the word of Jesus:

“But Jesus called them unto Him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25-28.

In this passage Jesus makes a clear contrast between the way of the world, the Babylonian way and the way of true Christianity. Jesus emphasises, “But it shall not be so among you,... whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.”

Jesus also warned against giving men artificial and pompous titles such as “Father” and “Reverend”; consider His words in Matthew 23:8-12, The Apostle Peter gave similar advice to the Christian church in his first Epistle (1Peter 5:1-7).

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being Lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you. 1Peter 5:1-7.

By advising the believers to cast all their cares or problems upon Christ, Peter is

thereby declaring that God is the Problem-solver and Plan-maker for His people.

All of the above principles will be fully developed and fully manifested in God's last generation of true Christians, "who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" Revelation 14:12. The Sabbath, by reminding us that Christ is Lord of Creation, reminds us too that Christ is Lord of Redemption, and therefore Lord and Head of His church. Only Christ is capable and qualified to be Head of God's church, as is written: Hebrews 2:17,18 and Colossians 1:12-22

"Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted."
Hebrews 2:17,18.

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature; For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself;

by Him I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight: Colossians 1:12-22.

God's last generation of saints will demonstrate the perfect unity of the Spirit, under their one head, Christ Jesus. Each saint will exhibit unselfish love for each other saint, each esteeming the other more highly than Himself. Romans 12. There will be no competition for supremacy or for office, there will be no election of men by men. The Divine order of organization will be fully manifested. Christ will be fully formed in each believer, and, therefore, he will be fully manifested in and through His true last day church, thus completing the mystery of Godliness:-

“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom god would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:26-28.

“That they all may be one; as thou Father, art in Me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent Me. And the glory which thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.” St. John 17:21-23.

“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to his servants the prophets.” Revelation 10:7.

The church is not a material structure built by man. The church on earth is composed of God’s true, faithful people. It is built by God Himself upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Jesus Christ himself being the main foundation-stone. The walls and roof are made up of true believers. The church, then, is the body of Christ, his true children, and is one with the church in heaven. And, by the last generation, God’s church, His true saints, will fulfil her purpose for existence on the earth as it is written:

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone: In whom all the

building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

“Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:15-21.

“To the intent that now under the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.”

“According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Ephesians 3:10,11.

2. THEY WILL BE HEALTH REFORMERS.

God’s last generation saints will acknowledge and experience the amazing truth that health and healing are the gift of God, the Father, through Jesus Christ His Son, by the Holy Spirit. They will understand fully that the true science of health means the eradication of disease by God, and the implanting of the gift of health, the Life and Health of Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. The gift of health is then preserved by God’s grace as the believer lovingly and willingly obeys the laws of health and life.

The Sabbath reminds us that God is Creator and sustainer of the Universe. Therefore, it

also teaches us that God is the only One who can truly repair any damage that has been caused by sin. Sickness and disease are caused ultimately by the sin problem. The Sabbath is the constant reminder that salvation is not only forgiveness, but the healing of the damage caused by Sin.

Just as how the perfect character of Christ will be fully manifested in and through the fallen human natures of God's last generation of saints, so too the perfect health of Christ will be fully manifested through their weak fallen flesh and blood bodies. Both his character and health would have been received as gifts through God's grace, and would have been fully developed by that same grace through prayer, study of truth, and the obedience of faith.

The scriptures are full of health principles. The world has departed from these principles, but God's last day saints will be in total harmony with the divine principles of temperance and health reform!

Just imagine the difference it would make to the overall picture of world health if no one drank alcohol, smoked tobacco or abused drugs. In departing from God, the world has departed from the righteousness of both moral and natural principles. Jesus's life was a perfect model of health and temperance and His last day saints will again demonstrate His victorious health and temperance in their lives.

Temperance is best defined as complete abstinence from all that is harmful and the judicious use of that which is wholesome. Health reform is the process of obeying the principles of temperance and adhering to the laws of health which are God's natural laws of well being. The following passages of scripture reveal the basic principles of health and temperance:

“Beloved I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”
3 John verse 2.

“And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” Acts 24:25.

“Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:23.

“And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness.” 2 Peter 1:6.

“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1Corinthians 6:18-20.

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. 1Corinthians 9:24-27.

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” Proverbs 20:1.

“But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.” Isaiah 28:7.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” Psalm 103:1-5.

The above principles will be completely fulfilled by God’s last generation of saints, who will abstain completely from injurious substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and narcotics. They will eat natural, wholesome

food, drink adequate amounts of water in between meals, and they will make physical exercise a regular part of their life style.

Faith in God, sunlight, fresh air, water, wholesome food, exercise, rest, moderation in all good things, and abstinence from all bad habits: This is the rule of health reform for God's people.

The scripture informs us that "whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1Corinthians 10:31.

The "First Angel's Message" of Revelation 14:6,7 pictures that message being given with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give glory to Him"; for the hour of His judgement is come: and worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." In this passage, the reasons given for the command "to give glory to God" are (i) that the hour of His judgment is come and (ii) that He is Creator of heaven, earth, and sea. Therefore in order to eat to the

glory of God, the last day believer must find in Genesis the truth about the kind of diet that will glorify God as Creator. It is obvious that the eating of the kind of food which the Creator made to eat must be righteous eating, whereas to eat what God never intended us to use for food must be unrighteous eating. Whereas the former is health-promoting, the latter is health-destroying. The diet which God, the Creator, gave to the human family [and indeed to the animal as well] is described in Genesis 1:29-31.

“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed: to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Genesis 1:29-31.

Of course, after the flood, because of the devastation of the earth, God permitted the family of Noah to begin the eating of animals, and He made a distinction between those animals which are more unhealthy and those which are less unhealthy for dietary use. Genesis 7:2,3. Leviticus 11. But the scripture is clear that a diet of fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains is superior to a diet of animal products; and modern science has come to appreciate this truth. Paul in 1Timothy chapter 4 verse 1-4 mentions the last-day departure from the ideals of marriage and diet which God established in the beginning, and in verse 3 he mentions the food which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who know the truth as is written in Genesis 1:29-31.

God's last-generation saints will "give God the glory" and "worship Him as Creator" in their eating and drinking and in whatsoever they do. They will fully appreciate the three wonderful gifts which God gave to mankind in the very beginning before sin: (i) marriage and family life (ii) the ideal diet of fruits,

vegetables, nuts and grains and (iii) the Sabbath. Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:1-3.

Strength and clarity of will are directly related to a sound, clean, healthy body. Intemperance in eating, working, or any other human activity, introduces unhealthy conditions into the body, which becloud the mind, thereby rendering it unfit to make the kind of decisions essential to victorious Christian living. By a knowledge and practice of the principles of temperance and health reform, God's last generation of saints will have brought their bodies into subjection to the noble powers of the mind.

THEY WILL POSSESS THE LOVE OF GOD

The true love of God will be fully formed in the hearts and minds of God's final generation of saints. Such Divine love is the sign of belonging to God.

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one

another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another. St. John 13:34,35.

The love of God is all embracing: God loves His enemies, He does good to those who hate Him, and so His last generation of saints will exhibit that divine love, not only towards each other, but to those who persecute them and are bent upon their destruction. Consider the testimony of the scriptures. First of all, in Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus explained to His disciples the character of true love:-

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth

rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:43-48.

And in 1Corinthians chapter 13 the Apostle Paul has given us a beautiful description of divine love, let us consider 1Corinthians 13:4-8.

In 1John 4:7-12,16-21 the Apostle John lays down the same principles.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we

might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.” 1John 4:7-12.

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of Judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love

God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.” 1John 4:16-21.

There are some who believe that love is arbitrary. But in fact, love is a principle, not a feeling; it is a principle of righteousness. Love is that principle of active righteousness whereby one person does all he possible can to ensure the happiness, life and well-being of the other person. Love is service to others no matter what the cost is to self. Such love has been manifested by God in Christ for us; for when God gave Jesus to die for us He had in fact given all that He could have given; as it is written:-

“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.” St. John 3:16.

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8.

“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whosoever hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” 1John 3:13-18.

Therefore it should be clear by now that God’s love is in perfect harmony with His righteousness, His law; and the scriptures affirm this to be true:-

“By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.”
1John 5:2,3.

“If ye love Me, keep My commandments.” St. John 14:15.

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Galatians 56:14

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:31,32.

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as

Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” Ephesians 5:1,2.

Thus we see clearly that true commandment-keeping is a reproduction of the love and righteousness, yes, even the very character of Christ in the believer. When Christ is fully formed in the believer, then the love of God will be manifested in all its beauty, as it is written:-

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth and height: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus

throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:17-21.

This spirit of unselfish love, of Divine love was manifested among the early Christians, as it is written:-

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.” Acts 2:44,45.

“Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold. And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.” Acts 4:34,35.

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; Neither said any of them

that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. Acts 4:32.

The above passages of Scriptures will again be fulfilled in God's last generation of saints. This is proven by Revelation 3:7-13. Please read it carefully. In this passage of scripture (Rev. 3:7-13) God's last generation saints are described by the term "Philadelphia" (Revelation 3:7), a term which means brotherly love. The Laodiceans who are also mentioned in the same chapter, verses 14-22, have lost the indwelling Christ and therefore are devoid of the Divine love. The Philadelphians are given the promise that Jesus will protect them during the final tribulation. See Revelation 3:10.

Therefore we know for sure that God's final generation of saints will be Philadelphians, they will have gotten the victory over Laodicean lukewarmness and will fully reflect the love of Jesus.

The seventh-day Sabbath is the sign of sanctification which is the process whereby

the indwelling seed of Christ grows until Christ is fully formed in the believer. Christ in the believer is the hope of glory, for Christ in the believer manifests the divine love of God. Consider the following texts of scriptures:

“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.” Ezekiel 20:12.

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesian 3:17-19.

“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory

of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:26-28.

In the final generation of the earth's population, the hatred of Satan will be fully manifested in and through his final generation of sinners, as they seek to compel God's people to keep Sunday, the sign of the mystery of iniquity, Whereas the love of God will be fully manifested in His last generation of saints. They will keep the seventh-day Sabbath even though they will be subjected to such things as fines and imprisonment, be prevented from “buying or selling” and, ultimately be condemned to death. While Satan's people will be willing to kill God's people, the latter will be willing to die for the truth, and will love their enemies, because they will have the Mind of Christ. Finally, God's last generation will be separate from all organizations of error, they will be completely separate from Babylon and from the world. The following passages of scripture will be completely fulfilled in and by them:- Phillipians 4:6-8; John 17:15-17; Romans 13:12-14; Revelation 18:1-4.

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