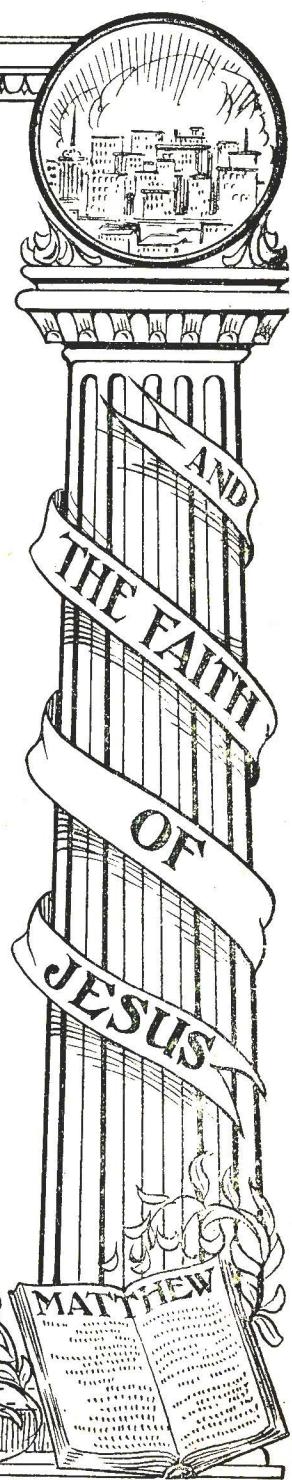
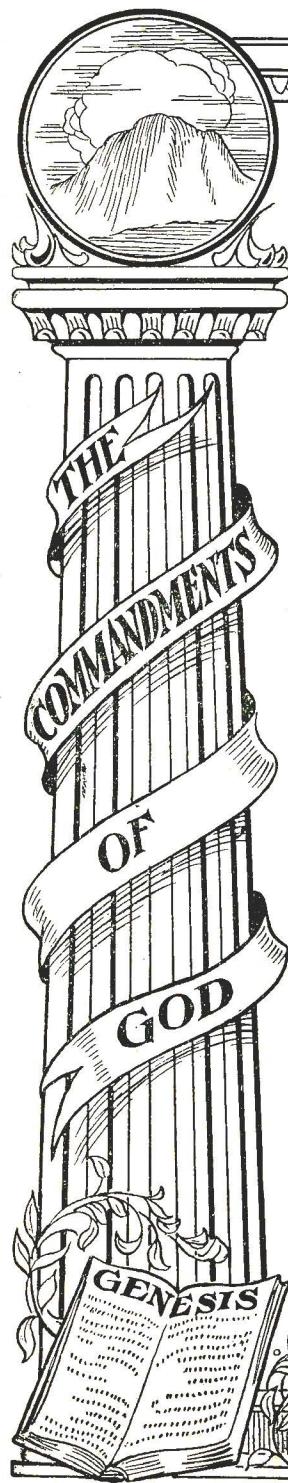


The Banner

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

"He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"



THE BANNER

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ALFRED DUDLEY.....Editor
MRS. L. L. JOHNSON.....Associate Editor
A. C. CHATMAN.....Contributing Editor

General Assembly Directory

Office Address.....610 W. 36th Street
Telegraphic Address.....610 W. 36th Street
Cable Address.....Adventist, Savannah, Ga.

Executive Committee

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IMPORTANCE OF A LIVING CONNECTION WITH CHRIST

When temptation comes upon us we need spiritual discernment, that we may detect Satan's agency, and draw close to Jesus. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

Every moment it is necessary to fight the good fight of faith; for doubt must be resisted, and faith be encouraged. In temptation, inclination must be overruled by reason. Self will clamor for indulgence, but inclination must be resisted, and temptation overcome.

The Lord has given warnings, He has presented principles that it is necessary for every Christian to heed, and bring into his practical life at this time. Those who pass on in indifference to the light and warning which God has been pleased to give, will grow more and more egotistical and self sufficient. Those who do not place their dependence upon God, will certainly be overthrown by the enemy.

Satan is working by every conceivable device to keep in his own ranks those who claim to be on the Lord's side. He can blind their eyes until they will call light darkness, and darkness light. Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the

name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

Behold all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. "This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow." Isa. 50:10, 11.

Though the light of God is shining in more distant rays than ever before, and will shine more and more clearly as we near the close of earth's history. Those who will be able to discern truth from error will be those who are often upon their knees, seeking wisdom from God. It is the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness that can alone reveal the numerous and varied plottings of the enemy of souls.

The wicked one is at work with all deceivableness of unrighteousness; and while we should not keep our eyes upon the powers of darkness, we can not be ignorant of their devices.

Our Faith Must Continue in Jesus Christ

Looking unto Him, clinging to His strength is sufficient for every emergency, our heart joins His heart, our life knit by hidden links of His life, and because He lives, we shall live also. This is practical religion; for we are to be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. No one of us can be safe unless we join the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten by us. A heart union with Christ makes believers heirs of God, and laborers together with Him.

At home, at the church and in the world, the believers in Christ are to show forth the praises of Him who has called him out of darkness into His marvelous light. Those whom the Lord intrusts with His work should cultivate copiously home religion. The world is sadly in need of it. They should continually consider what will be the influence of their actions upon those around them for lives to himself. Rom. 14:7.

If ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, who wisely instructed and indicated His children and his household after him, that they may keep the

way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, "for the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." Let us fight the fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life. 1 Peter 4:17-19. 1 Tim. 6:12.

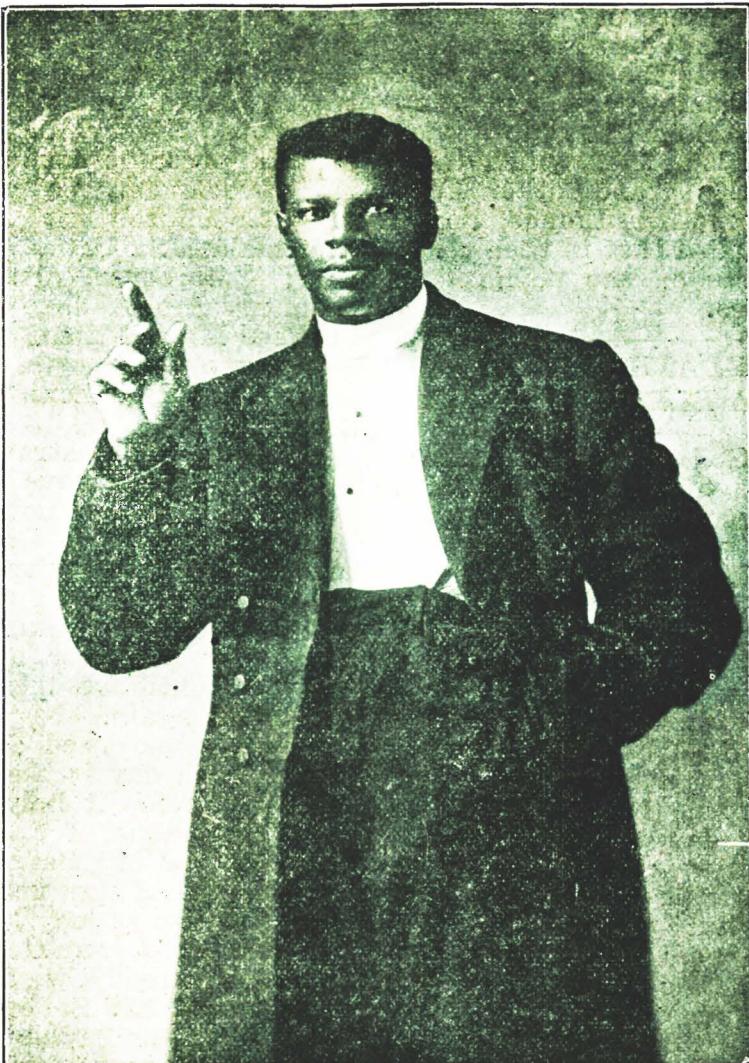
A. C. CHATMAN.

OUR GRACIOUS PRIVILEGE

"Is any among you afflicted?
Let him pray." Jas. 5:13.

Beautiful, heavenly words of cheer! With what solacing power do they come home to the bruised and chastened heart, a cure for every wound, a balm for every pain. As though the apostle would have said, "Do any grieve over the loss of loved ones, snatched away by death? Do you weep that your strong love could not avail? That you can no more behold their beloved faces, or listen to the music of voices which once possessed such gladdening power over the charmed home circle? Are your earthly hopes, over which the future shed so fair a light, dashed in a moment to the ground, leaving you in darkness of despair? Do friends, whose constancy and devotion you deemed unchanging, turn coldly from you? Is the eye of faith dim, and does Satan sorely press you on every side? For any ill, for every bitter sorrow, here find a remedy.—"Let him pray!"

Here at the feet of Jesus bring every weary burden. Is there, can there be anything more consoling than this? It is a cordial whose ingredients were composed by One who well understood our needs: a mixture of love, tenderness and pity. It softens every pain, and stirs each stagnant pulse. Its healing power gives life to those spiritual graces, faith, hope, and love. Come, then and be healed. If your faith is small, come. Weary and footsore, even while thorns still pierce your bleeding feet, come. Fear not. He who invites you gives you the blessed assurance that "Like as a father pitith his children, so the Lord pitith them that fear Him," and though you feel unworthy, be not faint-hearted, Jesus is our advocate, cast all your care upon Him for He careth for you.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FREE S. D. A.
IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELDER JOHN WESLEY MANNS

April 1st five years ago marks the passing of Elder J. W. Manns, leader and founder of the General Assembly of Free Seventh-Day Adventists.

Remember how he admonished us and encouraged us (during his lifetime) to stand together as a people and labor faithfully for the up building of this most worthy cause. Therefore as our memories are refreshed of him and his noble work; and as we are cognizant of the fact that he died at his post of duty in the foreign land, we should make new resolutions to do all that lies in our power for the advancement of this glorious cause in the earth.

*Sweet be thy rest, and peaceful thy sleeping,
 God's way is best.
 Thou art in his keeping, O blessed sleep, Where
 Ills ne'er molest thee!
 Why should we weep? For heaven hath blessed thee:
 Sweet be thy rest.
 Thy work is done, thy sowing and thy reaping;
 Thy crown is won,
 And hushed is thy weeping, from tears and woes,
 From earth's midnight dreary,
 Thine is repose where none ever weary:
 Sweet be thy rest.*

THE DIVINE COMMISSION

The divine commission given to Moses made him great. It found him different, slow of speech, hesitating, self-distrustful. It made him eloquent, patient, self-reliant, competent for the greatest work ever given to man. And such is the effect upon character whenever anyone gives himself with his whole soul to do what God commands.

Every man is called of God as truly as Moses. Obedience to that call is the beginning of new life in the soul. A divine commission is received, a kingly rank is attained, an immortal work is begun whenever any individual, however lowly or unknown, responds to the heavenly call with a loving and trusting heart, "Here am I, send me."

It always gives a man greatness, calmness, self-reliance, to feel that he has a great and sacred commission, and it must be fulfilled; he has a high and heavenly call, and it must be answered; he has a sacred and endless responsibility, and all other interests must yield to that. To have that feeling only for an hour will sometimes change the whole course of a man's life. It is the supreme moment of greatness and exaltation to man when he first takes in the mighty thought that a call comes to him from heaven, the infinite and everlasting God has a mission for him to undertake, a work for him to do.

A weak man is made strong, a timid man is made brave, the irresolute becomes a man of quick and firm decision when he wakes up to the grand discovery that he is of so much consequence as to receive a commission from the King of Kings. He is the Man, and the only Man in the world, that can do something that the Sovereign up the universe has set His heart upon having done.

This is the first and highest act of self to be sought after and chosen and his work set before him by Him who made all the worlds.

"The cheerful live longest in years, and afterwards in our regards."

DIVINE CREDENTIALS

God gives credentials to those whom He calls to his work. His work is very broad and there is a place for every one who desires any part in the cause of God. Sometimes He calls men to do a work who have no practical knowledge of God at all. The most wonderful decree in behalf of the people of God was issued by Cyrus of whom the Lord said, "He is My shepherd, and shall perform all My pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, thy foundation shalt be laid." He also calls him "His anointed whose right hand I have holden." Yet He says of Him, "I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known Me." Isa. 44:28; 45:1-5. Because God has a work to do and some one is carrying the burden of it before the Lord as Daniel did, it does not always follow that the one whom God raises up to do that work is himself a servant of God in the sense of a believer. It was Daniel's prayers that brought Gabriel and Christ from heaven to move upon a heathen general and king to do a work, and the work itself bore the credentials of the work of God. Dan. 10:1-13.

The credentials of a minister engaged in soul-saving, are the souls saved. "Need we as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, (i. e., a written document) but with the spirit of the loving God." The souls who have returned from darkness to light bears testimony of the divine calling of the laborer, whether it be in the Bible work or preaching the Gospel.

The same evidence follows the printed pages containing the truth. If the work brings souls to Christ, if it builds up the cause of God and brings unity to the household of faith, it bears the right kind of fruit. "By their fruit ye shall know

them." Some are reckoned as faithful on account of the instructions they have received. It is based on the character of their instructors. "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice, and I am persuaded that in thee also." God counts on the pedigree in some cases.

THE SABBATH IS A BLESSING TO MAN

And God spake all these words, saying, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other before me. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it (or made it holy). Exe. 20:1, 2, 8-11.

It was God Himself who was speaking to a vast number of people whom He had redeemed from bondage, and chosen to be His Own. And as surely as He had made heaven and earth and the sea and all that in them is, so surely He blessed the seventh day, none other.

Why did He not bless all the days of the week? The answer is: "And God blessed the seventh day because that in it He had rested from all His work which God had created and made." Then He blessed and sanctified it (separated), from all the rest of the days of the week. Doubtless He had something else in view besides His own rest, for Jesus said: "The Sabbath was made for man." Mark 2:27. All this blessing, this holy rest, this sanctifying goodness is for man. The man, therefore, can never make himself a Sabbath no more than he can create heaven and earth.

Our part is simply to obey what has already been done according to God's word.

Man can not, and should not try to make himself holy or righteous. Every such attempt is false, presumptuous and vain. No government, no ruler, no king, no church, no man, can ever make a Sabbath. The Lord said: "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." Ezek. 20:12.

By way of illustration, the carpenter must have his blue print in order to know how to build his house, so God has a blue print for every man to build by, and if we lose the blue print which God has given us, it is then very hard for us to find the way until we take up the blue print again.

There is no need for us to know which day is the Sabbath unless we keep it holy as the Lord commands, for He said: "And hallow My Sabbath; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." Ezek. 20:20. But today, we find many of us losing the Sabbath blessing, in that the Saviour said the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Matt. 2:27. Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as washing pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And He said unto them: Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. Mark 7:6-9.

Again the Apostle Paul declares: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies be-

tween themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever."

This has caused much distraction among God's people, men twisting the word of God and teaching it to suit themselves, instead of teaching the word of God just as it is, unadulterated. Jesus said, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Math. 4:4.

We can, and may freely work on the six working days of the week, for there are as surely six working days as there is a rest or a Sabbath day. Ezek. 46:1. Maybe a little diagram will help us to understand this.

Creation Week

1	2	3
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Gen. 1:5	Gen. 1:8	Gen. 1:13
4	5	6
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Gen. 1:19	Gen. 1:23	Gen. 31
7		
Saturday		
Gen. 2:1, 2		

God did not name the days of the week. He called them by number all through the Bible; and all almanacs and calendars agree with them. Look at your calander.

It seems to be Satan's studied plan to keep us out of the holy rest, the lovely blessing and the sanctified knowledge of God's Holy Sabbath Day. In a measure Satan has hoodwinked the whole world, making so many of us believe that any day will do, or no day at all since we say that we are converted and believe in Jesus Christ. To be converted, and believe in Jesus Christ is right, but this conviction must be coupled with obedience to all of God's commandments.

The Bible says unto you first God having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you (How?) In turning away every one of you from His iniquities. Acts 3:25. Yet if we do not make our prayers unto the Lord our God that we might turn from our iniquities, it will avail us nothing at last. Dan. 9:13.

Again, the blessing of keeping the Sabbath of the Lord is once definitely pointed out in Isa. 56. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the Son of Man that

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layeth hold of it; (what?) That keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. In this chapter He speaks of the stranger or the Gentile who has joined himself to the Lord. The great blessing is to all who will obey. Moreover the stranger (Gentile) should not say: "The Lord has utterly separated me from His people (the Jews) like some of us are saying.

It is not only by rejoicing, and even by close study of the Bible that will bring success to us, but by much deep, earnest, sincere and daily prayer with a willingness to do His will. For saith the Saviour, If any man will do His will He shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or whether I speak of Myself. John 7:17. Christ is Lord of the Sabbath.

Thou cameth down also upon Mount Sinai, and spaketh with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: And madest known unto them Thy holy Sabbath, and commandest them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses Thy servant. Neh. 9:13, 14. Come unto Me, said Jesus, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Math. 11:28. 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 labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. Heb. 4:9-11.

What is said in this article about the Sabbath does not refer

to the first day of the week commonly called Sunday. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Rev. 3:6. Not what the churches may say to you. Christ is the head of the Church.

M. L. IVORY.

TESTIMONIALS

For the last twelve months I have been a reader of the Banner. I think it is a wonderful paper to read; it is very helpful in its teachings, especially to those who are in search of more light and truth. And when you are tempted at times to be discouraged and lonesome, read the Banner, it will encourage and cheer you up.

It always gives you something to think about. I always enjoy reading the Banner. May it ever live and do its God-given work.

MRS. W. M. MITCHELL,
1815 Burroughs St.,
Savannah, Ga.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Due to the financial depression and lack of funds, we will be compelled to reduce the size of the Banner. We regret to resort to this, but the only way same can be averted is, if every member of the denomination does his part in selling a definite number of copies each month, and put forth energetic effort to take subscriptions and report for them regularly. If this is done, the financial deficit that is now looming over this part of the work will be ameliorated.

MRS. L. L. JOHNSON,
Secretary.

FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS PROGRAM**Our Program Is:**

1st—A deeper consecration to do service in the vineyard of the Lord.

2nd—To do our BIT in preaching the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, in all the world, for a witness unto all nations.

3rd—As a race, maintain self-respect, and do as Our Lord has said, "Occupy until I come."

4th—To establish among Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, Negro Conferences with Negro officers—Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Bookkeepers.

5th—To establish schools for the training of our children and for workers in our organization.

6th—To establish a publishing house in which we may furnish employment to Negro Men, Women, Boys and Girls, as we strive to preach the truth of the Third Angel's Message through the printed page.

An invitation is extended to all "INTELLIGENT" Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, those, with a vision, with moral courage, with backbone, those who are strong in the knees, in short, just common self-respect, who have the love of God in the heart, to join with us and help to put this program over the TOP, for over the TOP it must GO.

"Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34. Therefore, we are determined to, "Stand fast . . . in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us Free." Gal. 5:1.