**Bradon Ladd**

**April 24, 2019**

**Christian Beliefs**

**Talking Points: Rice Chapter 16**

1. It always amazes me that denominations willfully choose to disregard the Sabbath, and then observe Sunday as the holy day to worship. The commandment is clearly there, the symbolism is there, and everything in the Bible points towards a Sabbath day, and yet somehow Sunday still gets priority. It may not be a salvation issue, but it makes me question the integrity of those running the church, and how they handle the interpretation of the Bible. Catholicism is explained since the congregations are handed scripture through the priests, so they may be attending on Sunday due to plain mis-information, but other denominations don’t really have an excuse.
2. In an almost contrast to the above, I observed that God seems to place a high priority on a specific day that was set seemingly arbitrarily. Why does God place such high importance on the seventh day? What reasoning does He have beyond “I rested and said it was so”? This is far from a criticism; I’ve always wondered why out of pure curiosity. But for someone that has created everything and molded us to be in his image, purposefully, the Sabbath seems to be, again, seemingly arbitrary.
3. Page 394: A passage here states that “we do not find a direct command to keep the [Sabbath] day holy, but it’s sacred significance is clearly assumed”. I find that the word “assumed” is a dangerous word to use when discussing theological matters. Nothing in the Bible should be deduced or assumed, in my opinion. There should be a reason. The sacred significance is stated and demonstrated through some of the parables and letters from Paul. They are not assumed by us from vague passages.
4. Page 395: “Misuse of the day as a means of salvation” is a fantastic way to sum up the current state of the Sabbath day. I see far too often that Adventists focus more on the practices of the day to gain salvation, while totally disregarding its spiritual significance. A common example is using the day to physically “rest”, i.e. taking a 5-hour nap or reading all day. I believe that the term “rest” is meant to take a break from work but remain active in the community, in prayer and study, and other spiritual things.