



Embers

Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13

The Fullness of Time

Are you walking in step with God?

Ten Commandments

3ABN's recent Ten Commandments Rally in Washington, DC

Religious Liberty

NARLA's Religious Liberty Weekend on Capitol Hill

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The Perfect Law

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The Fullness of Time

As Seventh-day Adventists we have long understood the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. A correct understanding of the Antichrist power in Daniel 7, 11, and Revelation 13: 1-10 has been held in common with many other Christians down through the ages. Yet an understanding of the lamblike beast in Revelation 13 is unique to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We have the most thorough and complete understanding of the prophecies available today.

This should not be seen as a reason to boast, but should be viewed as a weighty responsibility. We need to share these critical messages with our neighbors, work associates, family, and friends.

Our early pioneers would have loved to live in our time and see prophecy fulfilling. I think of the statement of Ellen White in the book "The Great Controversy" in which she tells of the protestant churches joining hands with the Church of Rome. (pg. 588) This we have seen and are continuing to see.

The first annual Ten Commandments Day held on May 7 could be a foretaste of future developments. Many Adventist churches across the country planned special events on Sabbath, May 6, and undoubtedly many non-Adventist churches had special events on Sunday to promote the Ten Commandments.

To take advantage of this general interest in the Ten Commandments, we are planning to pass out the book "The Ten Commandments Twice Removed" in our area. We will do this Sabbath afternoon, May 27, at 2:30pm, beginning at the church.

Many of these books have already been given out at different locations all around the country. Some people have already begun to observe the Sabbath as a result of this book. It will help people see the importance of all of God's Commandments. It clearly reveals that Saturday, and not Sunday, was the day God blessed and sanctified, and still desires his people to reverence.

We are living in exciting times and we all need to work in harmony with God. Let us "set aside every weight and the sin that so easily besets us. Look unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith." Heb. 12:1-2.

by Pastor Frost

3ABN Ten Commandments Rally in Washington, DC

Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) sponsored a large rally on May 5-6, preceding the first annual Ten Commandments Day on May 7. The intent of the rally was to promote a better understanding of God's Ten Commandments, and especially point out the importance of the Sabbath Commandment.

Several hours of broadcasting was up linked live via satellite from the D.C. National Guard Armory and other sites across the country. Many well known 3ABN speakers delivered messages on one or more of the Ten Commandments, including Pastor Michael Oxentenko, pastor of Reaching Hearts International in Spencerville, MD.

In preparation for this event, volunteers passed out over one hundred thousand copies of the book "The Ten Commandments Twice Removed" in the Washington, DC area. Included in this book were invitations to come to the weekend event at the DC Armory. While it was unclear how many visitors attended the event, we expect that many people will be blessed by reading the book.

For those who were unable to attend, we expect 3ABN to rebroadcast these messages in the future. For more information, visit www.3abn.org.

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Religious Liberty Weekend on Capitol Hill

The North American Religious Liberty Association (NARLA) gathered about

fifty people from across the United States and Canada for a special religious liberty weekend on May 4-6. Attendees were updated on religious liberty developments in the United States and internationally. The two primary issues addressed were the Workplace Religious Freedom Act, and FDA Regulation of Tobacco.

The Workplace Religious Freedom Act seeks to restore the original intent of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Employers were supposed to “reasonably accommodate” the religious practices of employees, so long as it did not impose an “undue hardship” on the employer. Unfortunately, some employers have quickly pled “undue hardship” without really attempting to accommodate the religious practices of the employee, and courts have sided with the employers. Employees have lost their jobs as a result. This Act attempts to more clearly define “undue hardship” so employees can follow their beliefs and not have to lose their job as frequently.

A broad range of religious faiths have joined in support of this act, including Jews, Baptists, Methodists, Muslims, Sikhs, and Catholics. Major Congressional sponsors of the Act include Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, Elizabeth Dole, and Rick Santorum.

FDA Regulation of Tobacco. The FDA regulates almost every kind of food ingredient, but tobacco has enjoyed unregulated status for a long time. This type of regulation is not aimed at banning tobacco all together, but to begin to exercise some control over a substance that is responsible for four hundred thousand deaths every year in the United States.

Thursday afternoon found the attendees of the Religious Liberty weekend spread out over Capitol Hill. Led by NARLA attorneys, the attendees met Congressional staff members and promoted these two issues. A few even met members of Congress in person.

Senator John McCain addressed attendees and invited guests at NARLA’s annual Religious Liberty Banquet on Thursday evening. An avid supporter of

religious freedom, Senator McCain addressed the need to continue to promote liberty all around the world. A transcript of his speech can be found on NARLA’s website, religiousliberty.info.

On Friday, Dr. John Graz and Dr. Jonathan Gallagher spoke on international issues in religious liberty, and told interesting stories of interaction with political and religious leaders throughout the world. Friday evening and Sabbath continued with more religious liberty messages, including remarks by Angel Rodrigues of the Biblical Research Institute, and a panel discussion and question/answer session by church leaders working in the religious liberty arena.

If you would like to support the cause of religious liberty both at home and abroad, consider becoming a member of NARLA. For more information, visit religiousliberty.info, or call the NARLA office at 301-680-6683.

AST Websites

Archives and Statistics (AST) is an office of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. They have produced four different websites that you might find interesting and useful. They are as follows:

Adventist Archives

Search Historical Documents

The AdventistArchives.org website contains over twenty-five gigabytes of information, most of which are word searchable. The documents have been converted to a digital format from the original print version, so the pages can be viewed online. This website contains documents in four major categories:

- **Magazines and Periodicals** – Adventist Review (1850-1982), Ministry Magazine (1928-2005), many mission papers, English-language division papers, and much more.
- **Minutes** – General Conference Committee Minutes (1888-2000), General Conference Session Bul-

letins (1863-2005), North American Division Committee Minutes (1913-1985), and Foreign Mission Board Minutes.

- **Statistics** – Annual Statistical Reports (1899-2004), and numerous statistical documents.
- **Resources** – Archives and Statistics Research Papers (32), Church Manuals (16), Division Maps, the Life of Christ Research Project, and the Report of the 1919 Bible Conference.

Adventist Directory

Locate Adventist Entities

The AdventistDirectory.org website is designed to locate Adventist churches, schools, conference offices, hospitals, or other entities throughout the world. Attempts are made to keep available information updated.

Adventist Yearbook

Official Organizational Directory

The Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook (print version) is the official directory of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The AdventistYearbook.org website contains much of the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook content. The Yearbook is updated annually, and can be purchased in two formats. All formats contain general and administrative information on the following church entities:

- Divisions, Unions, and Conferences/Missions
- Educational Institutions (except primary schools)
- Food Industries
- Healthcare Institutions
 - Hospitals and Sanitariums
 - Clinics and Dispensaries
 - Nursing Homes and Retirement Centers

- Orphanages and Children's Homes
- NAD Healthcare Corporations
- Media Centers
- Publishing Houses
- Radio and TV Stations
- Risk Management

Other sections of the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook (print version), such as the Directory of Credentialed Employees and the Index of Institutional Employees, are not included on AdventistYearbook.org.

Adventist Statistics

Church Growth Data

The AdventistStatistics.org website contains recent statistical information on Divisions, Unions, and Conferences/Missions. It has charts showing church growth, baptisms, membership gains, etc. This database links to the current Annual Statistical Report, and other statistical information.

The Perfect Law

The law of God, as presented in the Scriptures, is broad in its requirements. Every principle is holy, just, and good. The law lays men under obligation to God; it reaches to the thoughts and feelings; and it will produce conviction of sin in every one who is sensible of having transgressed its requirements. If the law extended to the outward conduct only, men would not be guilty in their wrong thoughts, desires, and designs. But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.

In his teachings, Christ showed how far-reaching are the principles of the law spoken from Sinai. He made a living application of that law whose principles remain forever the great standard of righteousness,—the standard by which all shall be judged in that great day when the judgment shall sit, and the books shall

be opened. He came to fulfil all righteousness, and, as the head of humanity, to show man that he can do the same work, meeting every specification of the requirements of God. Through the measure of his grace furnished to the human agent, not one need miss heaven. Perfection of character is attainable by every one who strives for it. This is made the very foundation of the new covenant of the gospel. **The law of Jehovah is the tree; the gospel is the fragrant blossoms and fruit which it bears.**

When the Spirit of God reveals to man the full meaning of the law, a change takes place in his heart. The faithful portrayal of his true state by the prophet Nathan made David acquainted with his own sins, and aided him in putting them away. He accepted the counsel meekly, and humbled himself before God. "The law of the Lord," he said, "is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer."

Paul's testimony of the law is: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin [the sin is in the man, not in the law]? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the

commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me."

Sin did not kill the law, but it did kill the carnal mind in Paul. "Now we are delivered from the law," he declares, "that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter." "Was that then which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful." "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Paul calls the attention of his hearers to the broken law, and shows them wherein they are guilty. He instructs them as a schoolmaster instructs his scholars, and shows them the way back to their loyalty to God.

There is no safety nor repose nor justification in transgression of the law. Man cannot hope to stand innocent before God, and at peace with him through the merits of Christ, while he continues in sin. He must cease to transgress, and become loyal and true. As the sinner looks into the great moral looking-glass, he sees his defects of character. He sees himself just as he is, spotted, defiled, and condemned. But he knows that the law cannot in any way remove the guilt or pardon the transgressor. **He must go farther than this. The law is but the schoolmaster to bring him to Christ. He must look to his sin-bearing Saviour.** And as Christ is revealed to him upon the cross of Calvary, dying beneath the weight of the sins of the whole world, the Holy Spirit shows him the attitude of God to all who repent of their transgressions. "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."

We need, individually, to take heed as we have never done before to a "Thus saith

the Lord." There are men who are disloyal to God, who profane his holy Sabbath, who cavil over the plainest statements of the Word, who wrest the Scriptures from their true meaning, and who at the same time make desperate efforts to harmonize their disobedience with the Scriptures. But the Word condemns such practises, as it condemned the scribes and Pharisees in Christ's day. We need to know what is truth. Shall we do as did the Pharisees? Shall we turn from the greatest Teacher the world has ever known to the traditions and maxims and sayings of men?

There are many beliefs that the mind has no right to entertain.

Adam believed the lie of Satan, the wily insinuations against the character of God. "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." When Satan tempted Eve, he said, "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath saith, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

The knowledge which God did not want our first parents to have was a knowledge of guilt.

And when they accepted the assertions of Satan, which were false, disobedience and transgression were introduced into our world. This disobedience to God's express command, this belief of Satan's lie, opened the flood-gates of woe upon the world. Satan has continued the work begun in the garden of Eden. He has worked vigilantly, that man might accept his assertions as proof against God. He has worked against Christ in his efforts to restore the image of God in man, and imprint in his soul the similitude of God.

The belief of a falsehood did not make Paul a kind, tender, compassionate man. He was a religious zealot, exceedingly mad against the truth concerning Jesus. He went through the country, haling men and women, and committing them to prison. Speaking of this, he says: "I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women."

The human family are in trouble because of their transgression of the Father's law. But God does not leave the sinner until he shows the remedy for sin. The only begotten Son of God has died that we might live. The Lord has accepted this sacrifice in our behalf, as our substitute and surety, on the condition that we receive Christ and believe on him. **The sinner must come in faith to Christ, take hold of his merits, lay his sins upon the sin-bearer, and receive his pardon. It was for this cause that Christ came into the world.** Thus the righteousness of Christ is imputed to the repenting, believing sinner. He becomes a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King, an heir of God, and joint heir with Christ.

by Ellen G. White

Review and Herald, April 5, 1898 [bold emphasis added by Embers editor]

Upcoming Campmeetings

Many campmeetings are coming soon. These can be wonderful times to get to know the Lord better, make new friends from around the area, and fellowship with old acquaintances. Attend one or more and be blessed.

Pennsylvania Conference campmeeting is happening June 9-17, featuring Walter Pearson, Ben Maxson, Garry Gibbs, Michael Hasel, Mary Maxson, Bill Knott and

Dr Roger and Martha Dudley. This year's theme will focus on "Abiding in Christ." A special community invitational concert with Michael Card will be held on Sunday, June 11 at 7:00 pm. The campmeeting will be held at Blue Mountain Academy, in Hamburg, PA. For more information visit www.paconference.org/news&events/index.php.

The **Chesapeake Conference** campmeeting will be held from June 13 - June 17 at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, MD. Speakers include Dwight Nelson, Frank Ottati, James Gilley, and others. For more information call 301-739-3181 or 410-995-1910.

Potomac Conference Campmeeting will be held June 20-24 at the campus of Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, VA. Speakers include Shawn Boonstra from It Is Written, Dr. Hans Diehl, founder of the CHIP program, Derek Morris from Forest Lake Church in Florida, Ted N. C. Wilson, vice president of the General Conference, and a musical concert by Wintley Phipps. For more information visit www.pcsda.org and look for Campmeeting under the Information link.

Allegheny East Conference Campmeeting takes place on June 29 - July 9 at the Allegheny East Conference/Pine Forge Academy near Pine Forge, PA. Speakers include Ella Simmons and Roscoe Howard. For more information, call 610- 326-4610.

For information on these and other campmeetings within the Columbia Union, see the May 2006 issue of the [Columbia Union Visitor](http://www.columbiaunion.org/visitor/backissues/2006/May/index.htm) at <http://www.columbiaunion.org/visitor/backissues/2006/May/index.htm>.