

Why Do You Observe Saturday?

(Copyright) by John Currier
(Douglasville, Georgia)

PAGE 1 **A Blast from the Past**

The Truth about GOD'S CALENDAR

Part One
by Jamie McNab (England)

PAGE 3 **Articles**

One Small Step

by John Jewell
(London, England)

PAGE 9 **Articles**

Color Blind Justice: Black Criminal Lives Matter – and More?

by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

PAGE 11 **Articles**

To Unsubscribe from this newsletter:

Send a blank email to church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

To Subscribe to this newsletter:

Send a blank email to church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

To Submit Items for Print: Send to: church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com or Mail to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502

The "New" Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

Publisher: Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron.

Contributors: John Currier, Richard Frates, John Jewell, Jamie McNab

Website: Church of God, Bismarck <https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org>

A Blast from the Past

Why Do You Observe Saturday? (Copyright) by John Currier (Douglasville, Georgia)

This is a fair question and one that is asked quite often of those of our faith. I mean, after all, isn't Sunday the day that people are supposed to worship God? All the churches counting from the Roman Catholic Church right on through the Baptists, the Methodists, the Pentecostal churches, and even the Mormons and the Jehovah Witnesses observe Sunday as the day of worship. So, if all these churches say that Sunday is the day of worship, how can we claim otherwise?

Well, the answer lies in your Bible. Is there any place that Jesus said to change the day from the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week, Sunday? Are there any examples of the apostles observing Sunday as a day of worship? Did any of the apostles say that the day should be changed? **How** and **when** was it changed and **why** was it changed, and **who** changed it?

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

Many people today assume that the day of worship has always been Sunday. Others presume that it doesn't make any difference what day is used? Sunday is sometimes referred to as the "Christian Sabbath." Are any of these things according to God? Let's go to the only true source of knowledge--the Bible.

There are only eight places in the Bible that mention the first day of the week. Six of these have to do with the Resurrection of Jesus and in no way relate to a worship service. The other two (Acts 20:7 & I Cor. 16:2) have to do with Paul. Obviously, from the text in **Acts 20:7** he and others had come together to eat an evening meal. This was apparently on Sunday, but there was no intention of a worship service. There was no singing of songs of praise. There were no prayers being offered. There was no worship being done. What was being done is that Paul was teaching. And why was he doing this on Sunday? Because he was planning on leaving the next day and the people were wanting to hear as much as possible from him before he left. And so, he taught all through the night! At best, one may describe this as a "Bible Study" but certainly not a worship service.

In **1 Cor 16:2** Paul writes the following: "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made." NIV Paul is not saying that he is coming on the first day of the week, but for the people to set aside a sum of money on that day. Why? Because this is the first day of the week--- the business day. Set aside the money on that day before they have spent it during the week. Then, when Paul comes, the money will have already been collected. There is no mention of a worship service. Those who support Sunday as the day of worship try to read into this that it's a **tithe** that is being collected during worship service. It is not.

Where did the idea of Sunday worship come from? From the ancient pagans!

This was the day all the "sun gods" were to be worshipped. These pagan gods had been worshipped in one form or another throughout the world for hundreds of years. Only the Israelites --- the Hebrews --- the Jews knew the command of God to worship on the Sabbath and of course, to worship Him only. The rest of the world worshipped on Sunday the pagan false gods.

When the Gospel began to go into the world, it was spread east by the apostles through Asia Minor and into Greece, etc. When it went to the west, it began to become distorted in the area of Alexandria, Egypt and on into Rome. In order to gain followers, the western church not only allowed many of the pagan rites and rituals to become part of the church, but actually adopted some of the thinking of those cultures. One of the things that made it easy for the pagans to accept this new religion is that they still worshipped on Sunday.

As time went on, there were many controversies between the eastern and the western churches. The western church wanted more authority and more power in the church since they had the larger following. It became their intention that they would separate themselves from everything that was "Jewish." This, of course, meant the Sabbath! However, they had to have some just cause for doing this. First, they claimed that the "Jews" had killed Christ. Second, they claimed that Jesus was resurrected from the dead on Sunday and therefore, Sunday was now the "Christian Sabbath." In 325 A.D., the emperor **Constantine**, being a good sun god worshiper, declared and enforced the day of worship to be Sunday! Anyone observing the true Sabbath would be arrested and put to death. The western church had won!

The enforcement of the Sabbath went throughout the world. It wasn't until the **Reformation** started by **Martin Luther** that the subject was brought out again. Since then, many people have given their lives in support of the Sabbath of God. Remember, what Christ said in **Luke 6:5**: Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." He did not say that He was Lord of Sunday!

Did Jesus say to change the Sabbath to Sunday? NO! Did the apostles say to change the Sabbath to Sunday, or did they give any examples of worshipping on Sunday? NO! Do you think that any day is just as good as any other day to be the day of worship? God thought enough of that particular day to include it in the Ten Commandments and after so many thousands of years, why would He change it? He didn't!

We can see plainly that neither God the Father, nor Jesus Christ the Son, nor any of the apostles ever sanctioned the changing of the Sabbath to Sunday. We see that it was the church in Rome that was at the core of this. But what do the other churches of today say about the Sabbath? Let's read just a few comments: (All emphasis and underlining mine)

1. **Episcopal**- "Is there any command in the New Testament to change the day of the weekly rest from Saturday to Sunday? None." **Manual of Christian Doctrine, p. 127.**

2. **Methodist**- "Take the matter of Sunday... there is no passage telling Christians to keep that day, or to transfer the Jewish Sabbath to that day"- **Harris Franklin Rail, Christian Advocate, July 2, 1942.**

3. **Baptist**- "There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday... it will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week... Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament---absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week." - **From a paper by Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, author of The Baptist Manual.**

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

4. **Christian-** "There never was any change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change." - **First Day Observance. Pp.17,19.**

5. **Congregationalist-** "The current notion that Christ and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day for the seventh, is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament." - **Dr. Lyman Abbott, Christian Union, January 19, 1882.**

6. **Church of Christ-** "I do not believe that the Lord's day came in the room of the Jewish Sabbath or that the Sabbath was changed from the seventh to the first day."- **Alexander Campbell, Washington Reporter, October 8, 1821.**

7. **Lutheran-** "Observance of the Lord's day (Sunday) is founded not on a command of God, but on the authority of the church."- **Augsburg Confession of Faith, quoted in the Catholic Sabbath Manual, part 1, Chapter 1, Section 10.**

8. **Presbyterian-** "The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not in the Scriptures and is not by the primitive church called the Sabbath." **Dwight Theology, vol. 4, p. 401.**

9. **Roman Catholic-** "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we (Catholics) never sanctify."- **James Cardinal Gibbons, The Faith of Our Fathers. P. 111.**

"Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." -**The Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August 1900.**

"Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the (Roman Catholic) Church, has no good reasons for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath." - **John Gilmary Shea, American Catholic Quarterly Review, January, 1883.**

"It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church." - **Priest Brady, in an address, reported in the Elizabeth, NJ "News", March 18, 1903.**

"Protestants... accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change... But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that... in observing Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope." - **"Our Sunday Visitor", February 5, 1950.**

10. **Dictionary-** "The notion of a formal substitution by apostolic authority of the Lord's Day (meaning Sunday) for the Jewish Sabbath (or for the seventh day) and the transference to it, perhaps in spiritualized form, of the sabbatical obligation established by promulgation of the Fourth Commandment, has no basis whatever either in Holy Scripture or in Christian antiquity." - **A Dictionary of Christian Antiquities, vol. 2, p. 182. Article "Sabbath"**

11. **Encyclopedia-** "It must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first day."- **M'Clintock and Strong, Cyclopedia Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature. Vol. 9, p. 19.**

Note: Though some individual pastors may argue the point, we have not found one single Sunday-keeping organization yet, which did not in its official literature plainly admit that there is no Scripture to support Sunday observance.

Since there is no Biblical evidence to support the change from the seventh day Sabbath that God has commanded to the first day of the week, Sunday, it is our belief that this command is still to be obeyed. This has been a very short paper and a little information in support of the Sabbath. There is much more evidence to be shown throughout the Bible in support of the Seventh Day Sabbath.

(This article has been updated and re-printed from “The Church of God Messenger” September/October 2001— Issue No. 5.)

Articles

The Truth about GOD’S CALENDAR

Part One

by Jamie McNab (England)

What is the truth about “God's Holy Day calendar?” It is very likely that many of you will have been challenged over the past few years about the Holy Day calendar – and if you haven’t been challenged so far, you probably soon will be!!

The story usually goes along the lines of: “The calendar that we have traditionally followed in the Church of God is a MAN-

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

MADE CALENDAR. God *originally* gave the calendar rules to Moses, but the Jews have long since perverted those rules. The Jewish calendar we use today is the result of many alterations and is of purely human origin. If you keep the days shown in the “Jewish calendar,” you will often be adrift of God’s *real* Holy Days – sometimes by a day or two, and sometimes by an entire month!” You will then usually be shown an *alternative* calendar which, you will be assured, is based **entirely on the Bible**, and gives the proper dates for God’s Holy Days.

The major divisions in the Church of God (such as United, Living, Philadelphia, International, etc.) continue to follow the traditional Hebrew calendar. There are a number of smaller groups who adopt different calendars.

The calendar can become a very complex subject, and a huge amount has been written about it. With references to molads, conjunctions, dark moons, equinoxes, postponement rules, and so on, it can all become very technical and difficult to follow.

In the space available in this article, it will not be possible to cover all aspects of the calendar debate. However, we will look in detail at a couple of specific points which are most often brought up; these will be KEY POINTS. As we look at these points, we will hopefully see why we have chosen to hold fast to the calendar traditionally observed by the Church of God.

The two key points we will review are: WHEN in God’s calendar do the MONTHS start, and when does THE YEAR start? In assessing how valid any calendar is these are pretty fundamental points!

The Month and the New Moon

One of the first objections to the traditional Hebrew calendar that you are likely to hear is that its months begin “at the wrong time.”

If you look around, quite a *selection* of possible times are “on offer” for how to establish the beginning of the months! Various calendar writers will propose, for example, the visible crescent (sometimes based on Jerusalem time, but others insist on their local time) – or the astronomical conjunction – or the dark moon. The Hebrew calendar uses the molad. So, straightaway that gives us around four or five possibilities to identify the start of the month! Which one is correct?

Let us look more closely at one of the most popular of these ideas – that the months start with the VISIBLE CRESCENT of the moon. Here, we will be told that the months must always begin with the “new moon,” and that the new moon is to be defined as the first faint *visible crescent* of the moon, as observed over Jerusalem. This, we will be assured, is clearly demanded by the inspired Scriptures, and any other time of starting the month is not recognised by God and is not valid.

But what, in fact, does the Bible say?

Firstly, God did indeed give us the sun and moon “for signs, and for seasons and for days and years,” see Gen 1:14. In Psalm 104:19 we read of God that “He appointed the moon for seasons.”

The Hebrew word for “seasons” here is *moed*, which means an *appointed time*. It is frequently used throughout the Old Testament to refer to the Bible Feast Days or assemblies of the congregation.

Virtually all calendar writers acknowledge that the moon determines the beginning of the months. They usually refer to the relevant moon as the *new moon*.

So far, so good. But what then IS the *new moon*? Can those who want us to follow a different calendar PROVE FROM THE BIBLE that the new moon is the first faint visible crescent?

One writer says that he cannot find any Scriptures supporting the method the Jews adopt, but “*I did find one demanding observation of the New Moon.*”

Is there such a scripture – that says we must physically SEE the faint crescent of the young moon in the sky? Which Scripture is the writer referring to?

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

This particular writer devotes a whole chapter of his article to what he calls *God’s Sacred New Moon*. The chapter is over 4 pages long. Extensive quotes are made from a number of *external sources* (historians, calendar experts) to support his point, but strangely ONLY ONE SOLITARY SCRIPTURE is given to “prove” there must be a “visible” moon – Deut. 16:1. However this verse merely states:

“Observe the month of Abib ... for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.”

The terms “month” and “new moon” are used interchangeably in the Old Testament. The writer opts to use the meaning “new moon” in this verse, then continues, “*Notice the command to observe it! ... The new moon must be observed.*”

He tells us that the new moon must be OBSERVED with the eye – seen visibly. In the sense that we might say: “observe that cat about to pounce on that bird.”

The writer continues: “*The word observe is the Hebrew shamar (Strong’s 8104) meaning to hedge about; guard; protect; mark; look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard.*”

Agreed. But the majority of these meanings do NOT require us to observe physically with the eyes!

The Hebrew word “shamar” is very common in the Bible. It has a number of related meanings. According to Young’s Analytical concordance, the word is translated 284 times as “KEEP” – which is its most common meaning. It is translated a further 45 times as “observe,” and 19 times as “preserve” – and then a handful of times as the other words given in the definition above. Some of the over 300 usages are:

Ex 12:17: “And ye shall **observe** (shamar) the Feast of Unleavened Bread ... therefore ye shall **observe** this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.” Obviously, we don’t just look visibly at the Feast days – we keep or celebrate them!

Deut. 4:40: “Thou shalt **keep** (shamar) therefore His statutes, and His commandments...” We don’t just visibly “look at” them.

Deut. 5:20: “**Keep** (shamar) the Sabbath day to sanctify it...” We don’t just look at the Sabbath day with our eyes – we KEEP IT holy.

Ex 31:13: “...Verily my sabbaths ye shall **keep** (shamar)...”

This verse in Deut. 16:1 appears to be the main Scripture (possibly the only one) used to justify a visible crescent new moon. Yet the English word “observe” has here the sense of “keeping” as in hopefully most of us “observe” the laws of our land. And hopefully also “observe” the laws of God – i.e., DO THEM! Not just LOOK AT them!

So, if Deut. 16:1 is the *only* verse they’ve got then there is, in reality, NO BIBLICAL SUPPORT at all for a visible crescent moon. That is why virtually all of its supporters refer to dictionaries, historical records, and other calendar “experts” rather than provide us with a collection of clear and convincing scriptures. There aren’t any.

Rather than anything that needs to be physically seen, the Hebrew calendar uses what’s called the *molad* to determine the beginning of the months. For those with a technical interest, the *molad* is that particular moment in each month when the moon comes directly between the earth and the sun; this occurs, on average, every 29 days 12 hours, 44 minutes and a few seconds. The molad is obtained by calculation and has been worked out for decades to come.

You may wonder, “Well then, if the Bible doesn’t command that the month begin with the visible crescent ... does it then command that the month begin with the molad?” The answer, quite simply, is NO – the Bible itself does not give any instruction as to what, exactly, should constitute the “new moon” or new month.

As we look further into the subject, we will see that the Bible itself does not contain sufficient information to set up a calendar whose rules are beyond dispute. If it did, we wouldn’t see more than a dozen different “true Bible calendars” circulating among the Churches of God!

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

We will see why an authoritative standard must be established to ensure the safekeeping of God's Holy Days.

Some who argue for a visible crescent have said that a calculated conjunction (e.g., a molad) was an impossibility, because the ancients didn't have the astronomical skills to calculate an “invisible” conjunction. This logic is flawed. A Jewish rabbi, Hillel II, is generally regarded as having made public the molad calculations somewhere around 390 A.D. A number of calendar writers demonstrate that these calculations go back to at least 300 B.C. However, bearing in mind that there was no new technology in use in those eras (no telescopes, radar, dopplers, computers!) then, if it were possible to calculate the molad in 300 B.C., it was also possible in 1,300 B.C or 3,300 B.C.

There is historical evidence that the ancient Chinese calculated the conjunctions as far back as 1,850 B.C.

So ... we find NO BIBLICAL PROOF of a “visible crescent moon.” We see no reason logically to prefer a visible crescent over a calculated conjunction – both were accessible to the ancients. So, WHO gets to choose? Do we all get to select the one we prefer?

The New Year

If the Bible itself is essentially silent as to when the months should begin, does it at least give us a clear starting point FOR THE YEAR?

Well – not according to the calendar experts, who will give you a *choice* of numerous starting points – for instance, the date of the equinox ... or the new moon *nearest* the equinox ... or the first new moon *after* the equinox ... or the new moon when the “barley ears are green,” and one writer gives the date when the sun appears in the constellation of Aries. Not much agreement here!!

One critic, commenting on the standard Hebrew calendar kept by the majority of the Church of God a few years ago stated: “*This year you will recognise the first day of the year in the Winter, but next year you will recognise it in the Spring. This year you will keep the Feast of Trumpets in the Summer, and next year you will keep it in the Fall.*” The writer states that he finds no scriptures for such practice, but that he does find a scripture “*that demands that the Festivals be observed in their seasons.*”

Is this correct? Are we keeping the Holy Days in the wrong *seasons*? Are we disobeying God's scriptural instructions?

Well ... we need to be a little careful here not to read our own ideas into the scriptures. In the context of the calendar, it is easy to interpret the term “seasons” as applying to Spring, Summer, Fall, and so on. These are of course “seasons” as used commonly in conversation and generally referring to astronomical or meteorological periods of time.

We do, however, also hear of the “Yuletide season” – or the “football season” – or the “mating season,” and similar. By “seasons” we just mean recognized “periods of time” when certain things come about or happen.

So, what is the **Biblical usage** of “seasons” when referring to the Holy Days?

Gen 1:14, when talking of the sun and moon, states that they are given “for signs and **for seasons.**” Psa. 104:19 says God “appointed the moon **for seasons.**”

The Hebrew term is mo'ed (Strong's 4150). According to Strong's the meaning is: “properly *an appointment* i.e., a fixed *time* or season; specifically, a *festival* ... by implication an *assembly* (as convened for a definite purpose).” It is translated in the KJV as “congregation” 149 times, as “time appointed” 9 times, as “solemn feast” 9 times, as “set time” on 6 occasions, “set feast” 5 times, “feast” 6 times and “appointed season” 4 times.

As we can see, none of the uses of mo'ed relate to what we might refer to as our agricultural or weather “seasons,” such as spring or autumn.

People often quote Lev 23:4 “These are the Feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim **in their seasons.**” However, the Hebrew here is mo'ed – and simply means that the Feasts are to be kept at the “time appointed.” There is no instruction regarding spring or autumn.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

The NIV translates the verse as: “These are the LORD’S appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their *appointed times*.”

The RSV: “These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at *the time appointed* for them.”

Perhaps a critic might use Num 9:2? In the KJV it reads, “Let the children of Israel also keep the Passover at his appointed season.” So, doesn't that demand a specific season such as Spring?

However, here again we have the Hebrew *mo'ed*. The NIV gives us: “Make the Israelites celebrate the Passover at **the appointed time**.” The RSV translates as: “Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time.”

So where are the scriptures that demand that the Passover be observed in the “season of Spring?”

The only use in the Bible of the word “spring” is with regard to “springs of water” and so on! There is no “Spring season” mentioned anywhere. The only agricultural seasons mentioned are summer and winter, and there is no Biblical definition as to when winter ends and summer begins.

[For clarity, there is a separate Hebrew word for “seasons” when we're referring to agricultural activities. The Hebrew word is “eth.” It appears in Deut. 11:14: “the rain of your land in his season” or Job 5:26: “...like a shock of corn cometh in his season.” *However, God did not use this word in connection with His holy days.*]

What the **scriptures require** therefore is that Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread be kept **at their appointed times**. Likewise, the other Holy Days. That's all the Bible says. We don't have to attempt to shoehorn them into some particular agricultural season.

The Equinox

On the topic of “the seasons,” some writers make much of the importance of the “equinox” in producing “a true Bible calendar.” We are told that the Feast of Tabernacles **MUST** be kept in the Fall season.

Perhaps the equinox is important? But, once again, where do we find the clear, explicit, scriptures which tell us so – and that it forms a calendar rule? Where is the clear **BIBLICAL PROOF**?

The word “equinox” does not appear in the Bible. One writer, commenting on his view of the vital importance of the equinox, states that *equinox* is the “correct” translation of the Hebrew *tequwphah* as used in Ex 34:22.

In Ex 34:22 we read: “Thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's *end* (tequwphaw).”

The word is used only 4 times in the Old Testament, being translated (in the KJV) as “circuit” (2), “end” (1), “come about” (1).

It is true that a number of writers identify one of the possible meanings of *tequwphah* as “equinox” – but others stand by its basic meaning of “revolution” or “end,” meaning, in this context, “the end of the growing season” or “the end of the year's agricultural activities.”

One critic writes of us, “*This year you will keep the Feast of Trumpets in the Summer, and next year you will keep it in the Fall*”. We agree – by our customary definitions of Summer, Fall and so on, that is correct. But we cannot find any Scripture saying that that is wrong! The feast days still fall at their “appointed times.”

Recent Church History

We could look at several other points, but this article is already long enough.

One useful principle in all of this is: *we do not want to move away FROM something TO something else, unless we have clear and unequivocal evidence that it is better.*

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

Many men have put in a tremendous amount of work investigating and debating the calendar. Some writers have spent more than twenty years researching the subject. We perhaps cannot doubt their sincerity.

However, despite all the decades of hard work and scholarship, THERE IS NO SINGLE AGREED ALTERNATIVE TO THE HEBREW CALENDAR!! That is very interesting!

I've read of at least EIGHT DIFFERENT ways of beginning the New Year, and FIVE DIFFERENT ways of starting each month – and you can “perm” those any way you want to get over a dozen different calendars, ALL claiming to be the authentic Biblical or Sacred calendars.

And they obviously can't all be right!!

Although the Church of God seems to have lost much truth over the centuries, it appears that they generally held on to the truth of the Passover. During some eras of the Church, they also kept the Holy Days. Lesson 52 of the Bible Correspondence Course, referring to the Thyatira era in the late 1500's, gives a history of the brethren in Transylvania, saying, “They also kept all the *annual* Sabbaths or holy days. They kept the true Passover with unleavened bread ... Their civil New Year was the Feast of Trumpets.”

Let us ask: What calendar did the Church of God use during these past nearly 2,000 years since the time of Jesus?

The only calendar available to them is the calendar that we accept today – the Hebrew calendar!

In our recent history, for nearly 90 years, most of the Church of God has followed the Hebrew calendar.

Whilst the novelty of the other calendars can prove quite a fascination, and they can initially appear plausible, the end result seems to be the creation of more division among God's people.

As we saw earlier, the Bible nowhere gives us a clear and unambiguous definition of what constitutes a “new moon,” or how to begin a month. It does not give us a clear statement of what constitutes the “new year” – either when there are “green barley ears” or an equinox, or whatever other idea someone is suggesting. The Bible does not give us details of the various *other rules* that would be necessary for a fully functioning calendar.

So – if we cannot find the calendar rules clearly stated in the Bible WHERE can we look to find out about the Holy Day calendar? Surely somebody must have them?!

Interestingly, Mr. Herbert Armstrong came across the self-same problem some seventy-five years ago in his early days among the Church of God. Let's read his comments to the brethren, taken from a Good News Letter 1940:

“Research reveals two basic points on this question. 1st, GOD DID NOT RECORD IT IN THE BIBLE, which gives us absolutely NOTHING more to go on than I have stated above. 2nd, History is vague on the subject, shedding little light that can be accepted and trusted.”

As we've already covered in this article, we can't know purely from the Bible how to identify a new month or a new year! And calendar experts disagree with each other, so which one of those are we going to go with?

Mr Armstrong adds, *“In conclusion, unless God has preserved His sacred calendar thru the Jew, then WE DO NOT KNOW how to figure Passover or ANY of the holy days this year. For there is NO AUTHORITY for any other day. There is NO BIBLE AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER for (for example) figuring the 1st day of the month from the new moon NEAREST the spring equinox!”*

It's hard to disagree with Mr. Armstrong's conclusions of seventy-five years ago.

It would seem most unlikely that God would have left His people with the almost hopeless task of sifting among the confusion of a dozen or more “biblical calendars,” with every man doing that “which is right in his own eyes.”

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

I believe we can trust God to have faithfully provided His people over the centuries with access to the correct dates to keep His appointed times. And that standard has been the *Jewish calculated calendar*, as kept by the majority of the Churches of God today.

One Small Step
by John Jewell (London, England)

THAT’S ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN! ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND! are the words uttered by Neil Armstrong as his left foot touched the surface of the Moon on 21st July 1969, as he stepped down from the Eagle landing craft which he had piloted and guided from the mother ship Columbia accompanied by Ed (Buzz) Aldrin, one of the two other crew members who had brought Columbia along with Eagle from their base at Houston in Texas.

A further 10 astronauts in six more missions have travelled to the moon with the final, manned lunar landing with Apollo 17 in December 1972. Since then, 43 years have passed, and now, **just a few days ago, on 25th August, as has been widely reported, Neil Armstrong himself died, aged 82.** Before we can ask the question as to what was achieved, we have also to consider another and much more recent excursion into space. This took place during the early part of August on the 6th. It was not a further lunar endeavor but instead had the planet Mars in the sights of NASA, the American space agency. And instead of an evocative name such as ‘Eagle’ it bore the rather more appropriate title of “Curiosity”.

It landed safely on Mars after an 8-month trip and for the next two years will rove under remote guidance by NASA on its 6 wheels throughout a 96 mile wide crater. It is intended that it will explore a 3.4-mile-high mountain at the center of the crater for signs of any microbe life, and in fact whether or not Mars could have been habitable for microbes. Interesting however were the early photographs of the rover’s tracks in the Martian dust as it executed some early maneuvers as the ground controllers were checking its systems. The Martian surface, at least in the region of Curiosity’s landing, showed itself to be mainly heavy dust, liberally peppered with pebbles of all kinds and sizes. In fact, not much different to what we now know about the surface of the Moon, although the landing site selected in the Sea of Tranquility and known as Tranquility Base was littered with large rocks!

The BBC’s weekly listing of television programs, “Radio Times”, had this to say about a program televised on Monday, 27th August with the title “How Big is the Universe” – that it is infinitely large and getting bigger all the time ... it would appear that the huge amount of space, empty space, of which it is composed is increasing all the time! The program followed the work of cosmologists who are attempting to create a map of everything in existence. Their latest research has revealed some unexpected results, suggesting the universe is merely the starting point for something much bigger.” We find it hard, if not impossible, to accept that the scientists at NASA realized exactly what it was they were saying or expressing! But the reality is that the universe may indeed be, as they thought, the starting point for something much, much bigger. Something which is way beyond the imagination of mankind today.

Why exactly did Mankind want to go to the Moon in the first place? What he could see using powerful telescopes did not exactly look as though it was a hospitable place! What is more not only was there no sign of life, intelligent or otherwise, but it did not look as though it was capable of supporting life as we know it here on earth! In fact, there appeared to be no life of any kind whatsoever, whether strange bugs, odd germs or lunar versions of plant growth. Six further missions to the Moon involving 10 more highly trained astronauts and the use of ever more powerful telescopes confirmed what had already been observed from Earth and experienced from the previous missions to the Moon.

Now we have the missions to the planet Mars! As with the missions to the Moon they are technically brilliant, but tell us very little, if anything, that we didn’t know from observation here on Earth. The view has been expressed that it is possible that bacteria may well be found on Mars. In our view, given what we know about the observable bodies in the rest of the Universe this is not likely. The pattern was set by the Moon! The Moon is simply representative of the rest of the Universe with the exception of the blazing radioactive furnaces of the stars and various suns. Everywhere we, Mankind, look, we see the same thing!

So why did America launch those missions to the Moon and to Mars? Partly because they could be carried out and some advantage may have been found here on Earth. Certainly, political advantage was very much in the thinking, mainly by demonstrating the power of the United States, that it was a nation that was not to be argued with! **For this same reason both China and India are now planning missions to both the Moon and to Mars.** They neither of them need to mount such expeditions. It would show greater thought and concern for their citizens if greater care was taken of their people.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

A further factor is the hope that traces or evidence of intelligent life might be found and thereby, many feel, would go some way to proving the theory of evolution and disprove the existence and reality of a creator. In fact, everything so far discovered serves only to reinforce the belief of a supreme intelligence, God.

Consider the facts! The planet on which we all live is unique in the solar system and in fact is unique in the entirety of the visible or known universe. Even with all the equipment we have we still have found no other planet like earth in any way whatsoever. Earth is perfectly designed and equipped for its purpose which is the development and nurture of human beings. The size of it and the consequent force of gravity is just right for the human frame! Our world has been carefully and thoughtfully equipped with all the supplies needed. What is more those supplies perfectly match our physical needs. Supplies of fresh water of which the human body has constant need are available. You may say that it is not as available as it should be! That it is not everywhere is mainly due to our mismanagement of those supplies. The human body needs a constant supply of vitamins and minerals. Foods of all kinds supplying these are made available around the world and in great variety.

Advice has been given to us all as to what foods are suitable for the maintenance of health. It is human irresponsibility should we not follow through on these things and we become sick. **It was not the intention of the Creator that we should suffer ill health**, the principle is stated in 3rd John in the New Testament of your bible. It shows God’s mind and thinking. It says “I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. For that reason, one section of the bible is devoted to clearly spelling out what foods are fit for the human frame and which are not. As one old saying goes “we are what we eat!” Another biblical text encourages mankind to exercise. It is in the first epistle to Timothy in chapter 4 and says “... bodily exercise profits for a little while: but godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”

The focus of the present Moon and Mars landings has been on mankind’s achievements which should not, of course, be minimized! But why are the stars where they are and for what reason! I am reminded of the poem entitled “Sea-Fever” by John Maisefield. A couple of lines read “... All I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.” For centuries Man has used the stars and the position they are placed in the sky at night to accurately and safely travel across the seas and around the world. In the first chapter of Genesis and in verse 16 we read how God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.” It continues: “... And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, “

In some parts of Britain, and especially in the south west of England the Moon was often referred to as “the parish lantern” it may still be. But isn’t it extraordinary how the moon is in exactly the right orbit to supply light overnight around the planet and to indicate various points in the calendar month! The moon is virtually a very large mirror, reflecting the sun’s light to give a softer light at night! Isn’t it extraordinary how the stars are in identifiable patterns so that people around the world could navigate at night and especially so for ships over the centuries!

When you were a youngster did you ever have one of those cheap compasses that toyshops sell and which provided a lot of interest and source of questions to us as young people. Later on, when we had a small sailing cruiser it was fitted with a compass so we could find our way around the river estuaries. However, it relied on the magnetic north and a needle that would always point to north. A question should now occur to you! Does Mars or any of the other planets in the solar system have magnetic poles!

The unsatisfactory answer is that spacecraft orbiting Mars have found only weak magnetic fields present in various regions of the Red Planet. Further studies have suggested that very large asteroids hitting Mars may have wiped out any planetary magnetic field. One study indicated that when Mars was just 500 million years old, its global magnetic field disappeared. Without such a shield the study said, the atmosphere would be stripped away, vaporizing any water and killing any life.

In short, in spite of Man’s considerable efforts to find life elsewhere, Planet Earth is unique! Only on Earth can you walk around and live life without a space suit! Only on Earth can you grow fruit and vegetables and rear chickens on open ground! Only on this planet that is our home are there defensive shields protecting us from most of the asteroids that would otherwise strike us and destroy us. Only on our planet can Man come to know God, to learn the purpose for life on Earth and to then fulfil that purpose.

Color Blind Justice: Black Criminal Lives Matter – and More? by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Do Black Criminal Lives Matter - more than White Innocent Lives? George Floyd Died of a Drug Overdose. Why does a drugged 46-year-old black man get more **Sympathy** and **attention** by Media, Politicians and Black Leaders than **Cannon Hinnant**, a 5 year old White Boy Recently Killed when a Black Man walked up to the boy and shot him in the head in North Carolina? Answer: White innocent Lives Do Not Matter. Political Advantage Matters. Media, Leftist, NAACP and BCLM: Use Black Criminals as an OPPORTUNITY to Fill Blacks with Hate your white Neighbor to CONTROL their Minds and VOTES. Using black Criminals is great: Justify black crime and accuse white America at the same time. They know White America is essentially Not Racist; and white people do Not criminalize blacks or black neighborhoods. So Black criminals are their only option when Hate your white neighbor, is the objective.

Diabolical Hate Crime: Universities and the NAACP and BCLM: Teach Blacks cannot be Racist. They may as well teach: Killing White People and their Children is Fighting Racism. You Devils Know Racist Hate is in the Heart. The skin is innocent white or black. **America's racism problem is Black Racism**: Driven by Black Leaders, Leftist and Media for political advantage. Leftist and Black Leaders Display Fake love for black criminals, that would Not be welcomed in their homes, to Justify Black Crime and Hate for white America.

The Black Community should have been outraged and demonstrated in Sympathy for the 5-year-old white boy; and against his Black Murderer. Instead, with hearts full of hatred, demonstrating against police - they KNOW did Not intend to kill George Floyd, because they were white. Did the NAACP and BCLM inquire **Why the black man killed Cannon Hinnant?** No. Why Not? Was it because they know he believed the NAACP Hate Crime "blacks cannot be racist" therefor Killing white people is fighting racism and "Social Justice"? Media and State Ignoring blacks' Racism effectively Endorses Black Racism!

The President Should Promote Racial Equality: And Extend Civil Rights to All. By Creating this Executive Order. **Color Blind Justice**: All are to be Considered the - Same Race - in Court by Judges and Juries. No one is to be Rewarded or Condemned Based on Race. Only the Crime will be Considered. Repeal Hate Crime Laws: They give Preferences Based on - Black - and Sexual Perverts and Condemn based on - White and those who believe God. Pandering Devils Endorse: Unequal Targeting of Law.

"**Color Blind Justice**" will Establish Racial Equality. The Special Rights, to Accuse BASED ON RACE attack License Revoked and the Black Money Tree Cut Down. Racial and Social Justice Must include All. The 1964 Black Attack Rights Law **Surrendered "Racial Equality"** to Pander for Black Votes and Appease Leftist Media. White can Never be - Racially offended: But Blacks have a "Civil Right" to be Racially offended and Play Victim? The Bitter fruit of that is an: Endless pursuit of Hate based on Race that can Never be Appeased. If every adult black were Bribed with a million dollars in **Reparations** would that end the Hate? No. Black racists would Shout "my love can't be bought" and call it, an admission of white Guilt.

Blacks Slavery Today: Most Blacks are **Mind Slaves** of the unholy marriage between Leftist Media, Democratic Party, NAACP and BCLM. WHY do White and Black Democrats Call President Trump a Racist? They do it as a **Whip on the Backs of their Black Mind Slaves to harvest their votes**. Most Blacks today are Racist and proud of it: The Evidence for that statement is: They hate blacks who are Not racist and call them: "Uncle Tom" or "Not black Enough." Thank God for Uncle Tom, blacks who are Not Black enough and White People; they are **free to obey God** and "Love your neighbor." **The greatest Fear** of the Democratic Party, Most Black Leaders and Mad Left Media is: "Love Your Neighbor." Prosperous and Safe Integrated mixed Black, and White Neighborhoods - they would Hate. **White people would Never: Riot, Attack blacks or destroy their neighbors property when a black man kills a white person**. Who are the real Racists?

Unless State Leaders Repent: This will be the Future: Blacks Riot and kill a thousand white men, women, and children. Would Media Justify the murders? YES. Would Media, politicians, and Black Leaders **call them Racist?** **No**. Will the STATE protect the Black Murderers from white retaliation? Yes. Why? Black Racism is Ignored and Effectively Legal.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
June 5, 2021 --- Issue No. 18

The Uncivil Civil Rights Law **Rewards and Condemns Based on Race**: Only Blacks can be "Civil Rights" Offended and Only Whites "Civil Rights" Guilty; that is Legal Black Racism. Replace the damned Law with my "Color Blind Justice Law". Can the parents of the 5-year-old white boy sue because his "Civil Rights" to Live was violated by a Black Racist? No. Why Not? "Civil Rights for white people would - God forbid - **Offend Black People**? Color Blind justice is the only Remedy! **Black Leftist Religion of Today is**: Love your Black Criminal Hate your White Neighbor. Innocent or guilty IRRELEVANT Black or White is All that matters. **What are Tasers?** A Black Criminal Protection Device: That Encourages Blacks to Resist Arrest, punch police in the face, without fear of suffering serious injury or death. Save Black Lives, discourage resisting arrest - outlaw Tasers use by police. **Media Disarms Police**: They Present violent black criminals as victims and police as criminals; motivating **Ambush killing of police**.

A Black man attacks a white police officer by punching him in the face is shot and killed. Media reports **unarmed black shot and killed by police**. That report is Deliberate Deception that incites Black Racist Hate against white people. Innocent blood fills both hands of the damned media. Media must be Required to report what initiated a shooting FIRST in any Report. **Example**: Black man punches a white police officer in his face was shot and killed. **That message to criminals is clear!** Democrat Politicians and Governors Condone: Rioters and looters the **vilest of criminals** - using someone's death as an opportunity to destroy property and attack the innocent. Media, **Black Criminal Lives Matter Mob and NAACP's** attacks on Police in defense of their, Beloved Black Criminals, is Racist and Treasonous.

Stop Judicial and Political Madness: In Court all should be considered Male or Female. The fraud of Dr. Frankenstein Changing a man into a woman must be rejected or Diabolic Judicial Tyranny Rules. The "Do Not Discriminate" and embrace Sexual-Perversion: Is from the Devil; and **Discriminates** against God and those who believe God. Why would a man apply for work dressed like a woman? Answer: To Discriminate against them and impose his "Sexual Orientation" on them. "Freedom of Sexual Orientation" Demands: **No employer should be Compelled to hire someone making a display of their "sexual orientation."** "Freedom of Sexual Orientation" Must apply to all. Otherwise, Domination and Subjugation Prevails.

Does "Freedom of Sexual Orientation" include My and most Americans "Sexual Orientation." **Matthew 19:4-5** "The Creator made them male and female and said: For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife." Politicians and Judges Shout **Obviously Not**: That is legally "**Discriminated**" **Against** and Banned from being taught in universities or public schools. **Judges from Hell: You and Congress "Discriminate"**. "Freedom of Sexual Orientation" ONLY applies to Sexual Perverts? That is Not Freedom. Tyrants have made Diabolical Legal Preferences: Based on Race and being a Sexual Pervert. Sexual perverts must be Restricted from forcing their "sexual orientation" on others.

Equality Act From Hell: Senator Tim Scott of SC said "I am against all types of hate" and the damned hypocrite promotes hate for God and all who believe God with his "**Equality Act**." That Criminalizes God's Word and gives Sexual Perverts License to Attack those who believe God. Establishing - **Believe God against the Law. Only Sexual Perverts can be "Equality Act" Victims and only those who believe God "Equality Act" Guilty**. As Our Civil Rights Law Surrendered Racial Equality: Damned Politicians and Judges Surrender Godly Morality to Sexual Perverts. Sexual perverts will be Sexual Perverts without Law. **Why make Law**: That promotes Sexual Perversion? Obviously: **To Discriminate Against and Attack** those who believe God. **Homophobia really is: Fear of being criticized** for Not Approving Sexual Perversion. Politicians and Judges are Diabolically Homophobic. Demon Media and Sexual Perverts Control their Empty Minds! Minds that are Not filled with good from Heaven can easily be infested with evil from Hell.

Today's Politicians, Judges, Media, Educators and Religious Leaders described: **Jeremiah 23:14** "They Strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that No one Turns from his wickedness." Brothers and Sisters **Repent. Whatever you Treasure in your Heart will condemn or acquit you? The Day of your Death is Judgment Day**, you will Not Remember being dead. God paid our Debt of sin and promised Life that is Not subject to death: Jesus Christ Crucified: is Light that Shines Beyond the Grave.

Copies sent to: Judges, Congress, politicians, churches, and the White House.