

Probation Closes for Adventism First at the Sunday Law By Roland Temple

*1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that **judgment must begin at the house of God**: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

*Ezekiel 9:6 – 7 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and **begin at my sanctuary** [church]. Then they **began at the ancient men** which were before the house [leadership]. And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.*

The above Bible texts should really be enough evidence to end all debate whether probation closes for Seventh-day Adventists first. There are two decided groups in Adventism; one class believes that all probation remains open until the final death decree when general probation closes, while there is another class that believes probation closes for Adventists at the time of the National Sunday Law.

What does a closed probation mean?

closed, pp: shut; made fast; ended; concluded. *Webster's Dictionary*

probation, n: critical examination and evaluation or subjection to such examination and evaluation. *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

Revelation 22:11 “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”

Daniel 12:10 “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

We know there will come a time when the God will seal His faithful ones whose name are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev. 21:27), and reject those who are not. There will be no more second chances beyond this point. Those that halt between the earthly and heavenly crowns will no longer have the opportunity to come to the throne of mercy; they will be forever shut out.

It is tragic that this is a hotly debated subject in the first place, we seem to overlook that we are weak finite creatures, at any time our probation could close; life is a gift given to us by God, and at any time our life can conclude, **closing our probation forever**.

What is a Seventh-day Adventist believer's call of duty to perform when personally faced with the National Sunday Law? There is a great possibility that at first we will be allowed to continue worshipping on the true Sabbath along with the right to buy and sell as long as we also worship on Sunday. Many today are not prepared to face this test; it is this author's observation, when placing the above test before Adventists, that most see nothing wrong with worshipping on Sunday as long as they still keep the Sabbath. This is a dangerous deception.

“When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. **It is the keeping of Sunday.**” {7BC 980}

“When you obey the decree that commands you to cease from labor on Sunday and worship God, **while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working-day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast,** and refuse the seal of God. If we receive this mark in our foreheads or in our hands, the judgments pronounced against the disobedient must fall upon us. But the seal of the living God is placed upon those who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord.” {RH, July 13, 1897 par. 6}

The question is asked, Shall we not obey the powers that be?--Yes, when they are in harmony with the higher powers that be. God made his law for all the universe. He created man, he gives the bounteous provisions of nature, holds our breath and life in his hand. **He is to be recognized, his law honored, before all the great men and the highest earthly powers.**” {RH, April 15, 1890 par. 13}

“This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, **and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath,** will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. **Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast** (Letter 11, 1890).” {7BC 976.3}

If you fail the Sunday Law test, your probation closes: By their very name, Seventh-day Adventists **have** been informed of the true day of worship, and they are aware that they are not to put any other gods before the one true God. Adventists have had full disclosure of the Three Angels’ Messages, they have had the opportunity to read the Great Controversy, and to know the truth for themselves. If they align themselves with the papacy in any way, they willingly reject God and thereby reject their salvation—probation closed. There is no further light that can be given to Seventh-day Adventists that God has not already provided regarding the Sabbath.

Are there any examples of probation closing for an individual before the final death decree?

“When light comes to the soul through God's appointed agencies, and it is not received and acted upon, there is manifest a contempt of God, and stubborn resistance increases as additional light comes to convince of error, and manifest truth. The case of Pharaoh stands forth in Bible history to warn men off the ground that he took. He set himself in stubborn resistance against the messages and warnings God sent. Every ray of light that comes from heaven to men, when resisted by the ungodly, increases their power of resistance, and finally sets the heart in rebellion against God. He who sows rebellion reaps rebellion.

“After God sends light and evidence, calculated to convince any rational, unprejudiced mind, and it is not received or acted upon, but rather treated with contempt, resisted, and refused, **the Holy Spirit is withdrawn, and men are left in their chosen obstinacy.** The Lord gradually removed from Pharaoh the restraint that his Holy Spirit had exercised over him, and gave him up to his own way. It was more and more evident that the heart of the king was **fixed in desperate rebellion against God.** In word and character he said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go."” {YI, November 30, 1893 par. 4 - 5}

Matthew 12:31 – 32 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

*Hebrews 6:4 – 8 For it is **impossible** for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing **they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh**, and put him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: **But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected**, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.*

“Oh what can we say to awaken the soul's interest to make no compromise with Satan; but make thorough work for repentance before it is everlastingly too late? How can we make them consider that **there are limits to the forbearance of God**, and that **it is possible for them to pass the limit of the forbearance of God, as did Judas and Saul?**” {1888 1201.2}

“Saul knew that in this last act, of consulting the witch of Endor, **he cut the last shred which held him to God**. He knew that if he had not before willfully separated himself from God, **this act sealed that separation, and made it final**. He had made an agreement with death, and a covenant with hell. The cup of his iniquity was full.” {ISP 376.3}

“But Judas was not yet wholly hardened. Even after he had twice pledged himself to betray the Saviour, there was opportunity for repentance. At the Passover supper Jesus proved His divinity by revealing the traitor's purpose. He tenderly included Judas in the ministry to the disciples. **But the last appeal of love was unheeded. Then the case of Judas was decided**, and the feet that Jesus had washed went forth to the betrayer's work.” {DA 720.3}

So far we have established that a person's probation can be closed before death and the final “death decree” and we have also established that if you obey a worldly command to worship on Sunday while you know the seventh-day is the true Sabbath you will receive the mark of the beast and probation's door is closed to you.

Is there an example of probation closing on a group of people or church?

“**Those who rejected and opposed the light of the first angel's message, lost the light of the second, and could not be benefited by the power and glory which attended the message**, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh." **Jesus turned from them with a frown; for they had slighted and rejected Him.**” {EW 249}

“All heaven watched with the deepest interest the reception of the first angel's message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. **They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches. Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. And by rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they can see no light in the third angel's message, which shows the way into the most holy place.** I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so **the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there.** Like the Jews, who offered their useless sacrifices, they offer up their useless prayers to the apartment which Jesus has left; and Satan, pleased with the deception,

assumes a religious character, and leads the minds of these professed Christians to himself, working with his power, his signs and lying wonders, to fasten them in his snare. Some he deceives in one way, and some in another. He has different delusions prepared to affect different minds. Some look with horror upon one deception, while they readily receive another. Satan deceives some with Spiritualism. He also comes as an angel of light and spreads his influence over the land by means of false reformations. The churches are elated, and consider that God is working marvelously for them, when it is the work of another spirit. The excitement will die away and leave the world and the church in a worse condition than before." {EW 260.1}

We have solid evidence above that God has closed the doors on the churches that have rejected the light of Three Angels' Messages. Could God ever close the doors on His church?

"And thou, Capernaum [**Seventh-day Adventists**, who have had great light], which art exalted unto heaven [in point of privilege], shalt be brought down to hell: for If the mighty works which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day."--RH Aug. 1, 1893. [**THE BRACKETED COMMENTS ARE BY ELLEN WHITE.**]" {LDE 48}

"The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in **giving up the doctrines** which stand as the **pillars of our faith**, and engaging in a process of **reorganization**. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the **last fifty years** would be **accounted as error**. A new organization would be established. **Books of a new order** would be written. **A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced**. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath, of course, would be **lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement**. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would **place their dependence on human power**, which, **without God, is worthless**. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would **sweep away the structure**." {SpTB02 54.3}

"The church is in the Laodicean state. **The presence of God is not in her midst**.--1NL 99 (1898)." {LDE 49}

The National Sunday Law will have a catastrophic effect on the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization. All of its assets and liabilities are controlled under world-wide corporate law. The National Sunday Law will attempt to make it impossible to buy or sell unless you bow to the image of the beast which we know is Sunday worship. All corporations will have to bow to the legislative authorities and adopt this false sabbath or be dissolved. Just stop and think about this, all worldly investments are frozen and all debts are called in; that's what not being allowed to buy or sell means. Seventh-day Adventists will be suddenly faced with this reality personally and collectively:

"**Prepare for an Overwhelming Surprise**.-- Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. God's people should be preparing for what is to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise." {CG 555. 2}

"I saw the nominal church **and nominal Adventists**, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. **The saints then will be an obscure people**,

little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, **that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday.**" {SpM 1.5}

How could this happen? What would cause such a turning away and betrayal?

"Then that which I had seen was explained to me as follows: The multitude who were so eagerly striving for the earthly crown, were **those who love this world's treasure**, and are deceived and flattered with its short-lived attractions. Some, I saw, who **profess** to be the followers of Jesus, are so **ambitious to obtain earthly treasures** that **they lose their love for heaven**, act like the world, and are **accounted of God as of the world**. They profess to be seeking an immortal crown, a treasure in the heavens; but their interest and principal study is **to acquire earthly treasures**. Those who have their treasures in this world, and love their riches, **cannot love Jesus**. They may think that they are right, and, although they cling to their possessions with a miser's grasp, **they cannot be made to see it**, or to feel that they love money more than the cause of truth or the heavenly treasure." {IT 350.1}

We are told that it will be fallen Adventists will be the ones that will persecute the faithful remnant the hardest. The cares of this world and the lack of faith in the only Refuge will make the nominal Adventists desperate. They will eagerly conform to the civil and religious authorities out of fear of losing access to the world's commerce, wealth, influence and credit. These nominal Adventists will feel threatened by the true remnant Sabbath keepers because the world will point out that the church is not in control of their flock.

What work will God do during the time between the Sunday Law and the Death Decree?

"Satan is ever seeking to bring about a state of things in which righteousness may be termed unrighteousness, and unrighteousness righteousness. What are we to do?--We are to keep in living connection with the God of heaven, ranking in his army and under his banner, and we cannot afford to be in such gross blindness that we cannot discern truth from error. We want to know what is truth. Many say, "The whole world is keeping the first day of the week, and do you think that all the great and good men are in error?" God is going to bring around a condition of things where the good men and the men in authority will have an opportunity to know what is truth indeed. And because a people will not bow the knee to the image, and receive the mark of the beast in the hand or the forehead, but will stand to the truth because it is truth, there will be oppression, and an attempt to compel the conscience; but those who have known the truth will be afraid to yield to the powers of darkness. God has a people who will not receive the mark of the beast in their right hand or in their forehead. God has a place for his people to fill in this world, to reflect light. You are God's sentinels. Christ says of his people, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." **We are to stand the trial and test of persecution because of allegiance to the truth. Not a move has been made in exalting the idol sabbath**, in bringing around Sunday observance through legislation, **but Satan has been behind it**, and has been the chief worker; but the conscience should not be compelled even for the observance of the genuine Sabbath, for God will accept only willing service. The question is asked, Shall we not obey the powers that be?--Yes, when they are in harmony with the higher powers that be. God made his law for all the universe. He created man, he gives the bounteous provisions of nature, holds our breath and life in his hand. **He is to be recognized, his law honored, before all the great men and the highest earthly powers.**" {RH, April 15, 1890 par. 13}

“The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for **those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth**. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, **while the door is closed to those who would not enter.**” {9T 97}

This will not be the time for Adventists to obtain the Holy Oil because **they had opportunity to learn what is truth**; it will be the time when those who have **not had** the opportunity to know the Sabbath truth, to make their eternal decision. Those faithful Sabbath keepers will be the ones who, by the power of the full outpouring of the Latter Rain, will go throughout the world proclaiming the Three Angels' Sabbath Message.

Perhaps by now you are saying “Ok, I understand and agree that by failing the Sunday Law test I receive the Mark of the Beast and probation closes for me, but that doesn't mean that I won't have any more time to perfect my character after the Sunday Law is passed, all I need do is wait for the outpouring of the latter rain that happens after the Sunday Law.”

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. **They are making a terrible mistake.** The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving his light and knowledge, must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. **The heart must be emptied of every defilement**, and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and he will finish his work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. **Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light.** Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. **It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.**” {RH, March 2, 1897 par. 4}

Remember this from earlier: “they would **place their dependence on human power**”? When we take the stand that we have until the death decree to be ready and on the right side of the controversy, we are saying “I can go through the Sunday Law testing time on my own, I won't need to be fully consecrated to the Lord.” This is a lie! We will not make it through the Sunday Law crisis without the full strength of the Holy Spirit, just as we cannot change our faulty character in our own strength.

“The prince of this world cometh,” said Jesus, “and **hath nothing in Me.**” John 14:30. There was in Him **nothing that responded to Satan's sophistry.** He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. **So it may be with us.** Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict **by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.** And He came to **make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us.** God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, **that we may attain to perfection of character.**” {DA 123.3}

Zechariah 4:6 “Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

*1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned.**"*

"But let no one think that in his own strength he can leave off sinful practices and accustomed indulgences; and then, after he has made himself good, come to Jesus. Christ says, "**Without me ye can do nothing.**" No man can, in his own strength, repent of and forsake his sin. It is God who leads him to repentance. All outward manifestations of repentance are vain unless God first works within. Then it is that man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. God and Christ work unitedly for the restoration of the divine image in man, furnishing him with power to distinguish between right and wrong." {*YI, October 25, 1900 par. 8*}

"The **Spirit of God**, with its vivifying power, must be in every human agent, that every spiritual muscle and sinew may be in exercise. **Without the Holy Spirit**, without the breath of God, **there is torpidity of conscience, loss of spiritual life.** Many who are without spiritual life have their names on the church records, but they are not written in the Lamb's book of life. They may be joined to the church, but they are not united to the Lord. They may be diligent in the performance of a certain set of duties, and may be regarded as living men; but many are among those who have "a name that thou livest, and art dead." {*4BC 1166.1*}

"As I said before, we live in a corrupt age. It is a time when Satan seems to have almost **perfect control over minds that are not fully consecrated to God.**" {*2T 359.2*}

If you are holding fast to the idea that an Adventist's probation closes at the death decree and not the Sunday Law I ask you "**why?**" Are there sins in your life that you do not want to give up yet? If you continue to allow sin into your life, you also allow Satan to reign over you, he is your god—your master by your own choice. We all will need to be one hundred percent for God in order to gain the victory; we cannot afford the separation that sin causes when faced with possible starvation and our worldly possessions taken from us when we don't bow to Sunday worship. We have already seen that God's work, after the Sunday Law has been passed, will no longer be directed towards those who have had the light, but towards those who didn't; so Seventh-day Adventists must be fully consecrated and ready to be sealed before the Sunday Law test hits.

The following will give you an idea of what we as Adventists will experience:

"They will deliver you up to councils, . . . yea and before governors and kings shall ye be brought for My sake, for a testimony to them and to the Gentiles." Matthew 10:17, 18, R. V. Persecution will spread the light. The **servants of Christ** will be brought before the great men of the world, who, but for this, might never hear the gospel. The truth has been misrepresented to these men. They have listened to false charges concerning the faith of Christ's disciples. Often **their only means of learning its real character is the testimony of those who are brought to trial for their faith.** Under examination these are required to answer, and their judges to listen to the testimony borne. **God's grace will be dispensed to His servants to meet the emergency.** "It shall be given you," says Jesus, "in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the **Spirit of your Father** which speaketh in you." As the **Spirit of God illuminates** the minds of His servants, the truth will be presented in its divine power and preciousness. Those who reject the truth will stand to accuse and oppress the disciples. But under loss and suffering, even unto death, the Lord's children are to reveal the meekness of their divine Example. **Thus will be seen the contrast between Satan's agents and the representatives of Christ.** The Saviour will be lifted up before the rulers and the people." {*DA 354.2*}

“The disciples were not endowed with the courage and fortitude of the martyrs until such grace was needed. Then the Saviour's promise was fulfilled. When Peter and John testified before the Sanhedrin council, men "marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13. Of Stephen it is written that "all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." Men "**were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.**" Acts 6:15, 10. And Paul, writing of his own trial at the court of the Caesars, says, "At my first defense no one took my part, but all forsook me. . . . But the Lord stood by me, and strengthened me; that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." 2 Timothy 4:16, 17, R. V." {DA 354.3}

With all these great things that the Lord will work through us, is there going to be room in our lives for sin to still have dominion?

*Matthew 12:25 – 26 “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: **And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?**”*

Satan will not allow his slaves to sin to spread the truth to those he kept in darkness. This is another reason it will be too late for those Adventists who have not gained the victory over sin, “the door is closed to those who would not enter.”

How can the Spirit of God be in you and speak in you to accomplish such a wonderful work?

*1John 3:4 – 10 “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. **Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.** Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. **He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.**”*

*Romans 8:1 – 16 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **hath made me free from the law of sin and death.** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; **but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, **if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.** Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

*“And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”*

We live in a time when we rely on human wisdom and strength, we explain everything that happens in our life as something scientific and self-sufficiency is at an all-time high. We worship ourselves and we have a small god who needs us. Our prayers are lists and our miracles are God assisting man. It is time that we place ourselves in the small category where we belong and place God in our big category. We have no hope at all without Him in our heart—none. So when you see quotes like this from His inspired messenger we need to take heed:

“But I speak not my own words when I say that **God's Spirit will pass by those who have had their day of test and opportunity**, but who have not distinguished the voice of God or appreciated the movings of His Spirit. Then thousands in the eleventh hour will see and acknowledge the truth.” {2SM 16.1}

“The time is upon us when the miracle-working power of the archdeceiver will be more decidedly revealed. And his deceptions will increase in their delusive attraction, so that **they will perplex, and if possible, deceive, the very elect**. The prince of darkness with his evil angels is working upon the Christian world, inducing those who profess the name of Christ to stand under the banner of darkness, **to make war with those who keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus.** {Mar 204.2}

“An apostate church will unite with the powers of earth and hell to place upon the forehead or in the hand, **the mark of the beast**, and prevail upon the children of God to **worship the beast and his image** [the Sunday Law]. They will seek to compel them to renounce their allegiance to God's law, and yield homage to the papacy. Then will come the times which will try men's souls; for the confederacy of apostasy will demand that the loyal subjects of God shall renounce the law of Jehovah, and repudiate the truth of His word. Then will the gold be separated from the dross, and it will be made apparent who are the godly, who are the loyal and true, and who are the disloyal, the dross and the tinsel. What clouds of chaff will then be borne away by the fan of God! Where now our eyes can discover only rich floors of wheat, will be chaff blown away with the fan of God. **Every one who is not centered in Christ will fail to stand the test and ordeal of that day.** While those who are clothed with Christ's righteousness will stand firm to truth and duty, **those who have trusted in their own righteousness will be ranged under the black banner of the prince of darkness.** Then it will be seen whether the choice is for Christ or Belial.” {Mar 204.3}

*Matthew 24:24 “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the **very elect.**”*

How can you be called the “very elect” with sin in your life? There is still time my friend but not much, tomorrow could be your last day, is it worth the risk?