

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY

...To Keep It Holy

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Magazine of

THE CANADIAN

Lord's Day

ASSOCIATION

"FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING THE SANCTITY OF THE LORD'S DAY."

THE CANADIAN
Lord's Day
ASSOCIATION

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it".
Exodus 20:8-11

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OUR BASIS

- Belief in the triune God whose grace is manifested in the love and righteousness of God the Father, the redeeming work of God the Son, and the quickening power of God the Holy Ghost.
- Belief in the essential Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His Incarnation and Virgin Birth, the truthfulness of all His words, His all sufficient atoning vicarious death upon Calvary for sin, His bodily Resurrection, Ascension, and Coming Again.
- Belief in the whole Bible consisting of the 39 Books of the Old Testament and the 27 Books of the New Testament as the inspired Word of God, and therefore true and Divinely authoritative and as God's sufficient revelation in all matters of doctrine and practice. The Authorized or King James Version is to be employed for all work and activities of the CLDA.
- Belief that all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God: and in the necessity of the New Birth by the Holy Spirit in those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Belief in the Divine Authority and perpetual obligation of the Christian Sabbath or Lord's Day and conviction of the necessity that all effectual assertion, observance and defence of the Lord's Day rest, must be on this basis.
- Belief that in asserting the obligation of the Lord's Day the Gospel of the grace of God through Jesus Christ should be proclaimed.



2022 Annual CLDA Meeting

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the CLDA is planned for Friday, April 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm in the Ebenezer Free Reformed Church (243 Weir's Lane Dundas, Ontario) D.V. Speaker will be Rev. Ian Macleod and all are welcome. Those wishing to join remotely can listen on sermonaudio.com

A Ray of Grace Before the Night of Judgment

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.... But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:5, 8).

The sinfulness of man uncovered

People say sometimes: “deep down, he is really a good-natured and good-hearted person.” But when God looks, He sees something different. We are told about what He saw in the days of Noah, and it gives us a description of man's sinfulness and wickedness. They were wicked **outwardly**. God saw their wrong behavior and sinful activity. After all, there was violence (Gen. 6:11), and immorality (Gen. 6:2). He sees what we do. But more, they were wicked **inwardly**. He looked beyond the outward actions to the thoughts and affections of the heart. He saw the root was corrupt. Everything flowed from a corrupt spring. All the violence and lust flowed from the heart. The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). They had wicked thoughts and wicked affections. They loved what God hated and hated what God loved. God saw that. They were wicked **deliberately**. Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was evil. It is possible to hurt someone carelessly. But it is also possible to hurt someone intentionally. That is meant here. They were thinking of how to do evil and how to sin (Ps. 36:4). They were wicked **comprehensively**. “Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil.” Every thought was wicked. Every desire was wicked. They were wicked *continually*. They were wicked all the time; morning, noon and night; seven days a week, every month, every year. And they were **only** wicked. Never did they have a good thought, never a good desire, never a good action. Matthew Henry says: “the stream of sin was full and strong and constant... and God saw it.”

As a result, God is grieved that He made man and would destroy man from the face of the earth. Some may say this referred to the generation before the flood. But after the flood has taken place, and then it is only Noah's family who has survived the flood, then God makes the same assessment (Gen. 8:21). In Psalm 14 David says the same thing: “The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filth: there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Ps. 14:2-3). Paul says the same thing in Romans 3:9-19.

Have you seen your own picture? By nature, we are only evil continually. I do not say that the natural man cannot do kind, noble and even sacrificial things in our world. There are nurses who care for the sick. There are firemen who risk their lives to save others. People are wanting to make this world a better place. But by nature, everyone's motives and goals are all wrong. We can do something to impress others, or to pat ourselves on the back, not seeking God's glory, but our own. Augustine said: "The virtues of the unconverted are splendid sins." Have you seen something of this? The wickedness of your imagination, the thoughts that have gone through your mind, the desires that you've had, that no one else knows? Does this not lead us to despair? It is meant to lead us to despair of ourselves, but not of God and of Christ. We will not look for salvation till we are hopeless. We need to be delivered from thinking that we can help ourselves, and please God, if only we try a little harder. But we can never please God of ourselves. All we can do is commit splendid sins. Even our best works are as filthy rags, no matter how hard we try (Is. 64:6). Only when you see that you cannot help yourself, will we cry to God for life and mercy, and for Christ to save us and His Spirit to renew us. Who would not want that? People in Noah's day did not want that, and the time came when God said, "enough is enough."

The grace in Christ discovered "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Gen. 6:8). We might say of Noah: "thankfully, he was a little better compared to others living in his day." But he was no better than the others. Of him it had to be said too: "that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). Even though he had a God-fearing father who took him to the altar where they worshipped God, he was no better and no different than his contemporaries, and his cousins who went lost.

True, there came a difference in his life, but that was not something Noah brought about, but something God brought about. God made a difference where there was no difference by nature. We are not told all that much of when and how it happened, but he came to seek for grace from the Lord, the undeserved favour of God for unworthy sinners. That is what you seek for when you see something of your sin and misery before God, and you realize you cannot live and die the way you are born. Maybe Noah tried to improve his life. That is often what people do when they discover something of their sin; they try to be better, do better, and change their life. But when you do that, you find that instead of becoming better

you become worse. The corruption is not on the outside, but on the inside, and it is so deep that you need the Lord and His grace. And if the Lord



won't receive you in His grace, then you are lost.

Noah needed grace. It would be the secret of his life. It was grace that renewed him. It was grace that converted him. It was grace whereby he received, by faith, the word from the Lord to build an ark. It was grace strengthening him for his challenges and his duties. It was grace enabling him to endure the mocking of his neighbours. It was grace for daily work, grace to cover new sins and iniquities, grace to raise his family, grace to enter the ark, grace to persevere in the ark, grace to come out of the ark, grace to live and grace to die.

Noah began to seek it, and he came to find grace. That is what the Lord promised: "seek and ye shall find" (Matt. 7:7). Maybe you will seek for a long time, but like Noah, those who seek shall find. If you say, "but I have been seeking for grace already so long, and I wish I could I have found grace." Where have you been looking for it? Do you know where Noah found grace? "In the eyes of the LORD." Have you been looking for grace in yourself? Have you been looking for grace in those who have received grace? Have you been looking for grace in the means of grace, rather than in the God of grace? Have you been looking for grace in your duties and ceremonies? You will not find grace in the law of Moses. There is only one place where you will find it: in the eyes of the Lord, through the gospel of Christ. Like Zaccheus whose eyes Christ met in the sycamore tree (Lk. 19:5). Like Peter who had denied Jesus, yet caught a sight of the love in the eyes of Jesus (Lk. 22:61). Have you ever looked into His eyes through the gospel? What have you found in God's eyes? Is it the pain of having offended Him, but also grace whereby you are forgiven and accepted in the beloved? (Eph. 1:6). It is what sinners like Noah found in Christ. He came in the fullness of time. The imaginations of the thoughts of His heart were not evil, but good. But when He hung on the cross, and looked for the eyes of love from His Father, He felt the glare of the wrath and judgment of God, so that you may find grace in His eyes. Now there is grace for the chief of sinners, grace for the vilest. Is it not a miracle? It was a miracle for Noah. He was no better than his cousins, but he found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Shall we not say: "Turn to me, thy grace impart?" (Psalter 66:2).





This is the 78th time the "To Keep it Holy" magazine has been published since the Canadian Lord's Day Association was founded 35 years ago. Much has changed during those years, yet our purpose of "preserving the sanctity of the Lord's Day" remains vital for our families, churches, and nation. The council by renewal sends out an appeal for prayerful and financial support. As we seek to continue on with the work, we pause in this issue to mark our 35th CLDA anniversary and 25 years of Daily Diaries. "Ebenezer, hitherto has the Lord helped us." Please pray that the Lord of the Harvest would grant His blessing upon our humble endeavours.

Shortly after the Lord's Day Act was over-turned by the Canadian Supreme Court in 1985, this non-denominational organization, named the Canadian Lord's Day Association, was organized. Its purpose was to promote the Lord's Day and the extension of His kingdom. The Reverends D.M. Campbell, J. Spaans, C. Vogelaar and A. Baars were among the founding Council members and encouraged their congregations to support this worthy cause. It is to be noted that our current President, Mr. John Stubbe, is the only founding member that has continued to serve on the council during the entire 35 years. We kindly acknowledge him and all others who have upheld the work through the years. Pray that the Lord may provide the council with grace and wisdom to seek the honour of the Lord and the sanctity of His day into the future.

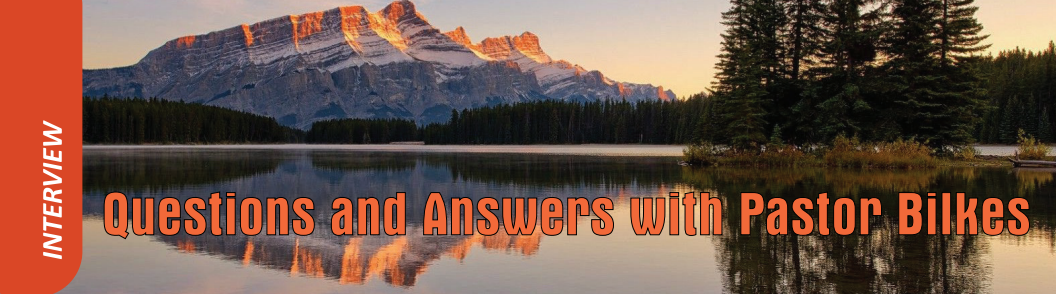
In 1996 the Lord opened the way to reach inmates in our prisons with a small diary. Each day has a verse of Scripture, and each week begins by drawing special attention to the Lord's Day. It is humbling to consider that the Lord has chosen to use the CLDA as a simple means in His hand to reach hundreds of thousands of prisoners over the past 25 years. Please continue to pray for a blessing on the 148,000 diaries distributed this year alone. We may plead the Lord's promise in Isaiah 55:11: that His Word will be like the rain that waters the earth and shall not return unto Him void of effect. Has He not promised that it will accomplish what He pleases and prosper in the thing to which He has sent it?

In this issue of “To Keep It Holy...” our past-President of Council, Rev L. Bilkes, after faithfully serving council since 2004, has generously provided us with both the magazine meditation and answers to our interview questions. We wish him the Lord's blessing together with his family and his new congregation, The Free Reformed Church of Oxford County.

At the September meeting of the CLDA general council, several members spoke with concern about how the Lord's Day continues to be further undermined – not only in society, but also in the churches and families of our support base. The need for practical instruction in our families and the continued ethical challenges posed by changes in technology encouraged us to put our hand once again to the work we have had laid on us in His providence.

An effort is being made to return to a more regular publication of this magazine. We are thankful to GA Printing for their support in providing us with layout and design. Furthermore, we invite any of our readers who have practical suggestions for promoting the keeping of the Sabbath day in our families with younger or older children or with other aspects of the work to reach out to us at contact@clda.ca or by calling the CLDA at 1-888-573-2878





Questions and Answers with Pastor Bilkes

When and how did you get involved with the CLDA?

I was approached in 2004, by the chairman of the CLDA at the time, Mr. John Heikoop. He introduced me to the work of the CLDA, explaining the vision and goals of the CLDA and asked if I was willing to become a member of the council of the CLDA. At the time they were looking for help and guidance with the prison ministry. Since I had worked in the Correctional Service of Canada, I was eager to hear of opportunities to promote the Word of the Lord and the Day of the Lord to prisoners.

What memories relating to the CLDA stand out in your mind?

There are many, but here are a few. One is the increased demand for and publication of the Daily Diary. Another is the completion of the first prison correspondence course by Rev. G. Hamstra, which has been well received. I was also privileged to go to the Philippines at the request of interested persons desirous to begin a Lord's Day Association in that country with the same aims and goals as the CLDA. God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform, to bring people in other lands and nations to know Him by His grace and come to treasure His day.

What opportunities do you see for the CLDA going forward?

Much instruction is needed in the churches. It is sad that the world ignores the Lord's Day, but it is more distressing that the professing Christian church pushes it to the side. Yes, much teaching is needed. The Lord poured out His fury upon His people because they profaned the Sabbath (Ez. 20:13). Also simple but practical instruction is needed for our upcoming generations about the blessings of and the importance of keeping the Sabbath holy. Besides that, I also think we have the task of engaging with the political leaders, business owners about the blessing of the Sabbath, and the moral law that God has given us is for our good.

Why is the Lord's Day so important?

It is the Lord's gift of a day to consider Him and the needs of our souls. People are overtired, overworked, want some time off. Besides that, people have guilty consciences and lives and need to hear of the Saviour. Well, the Lord in His infinite mercy has given a Sabbath day. It was one of the first gifts God gave to us, and He has not removed it even after the fall. It is an undeserved gift. Plus, He has blessed this day (Gen. 2:3). He has

appointed it to be a blessing to human beings, to pour out His love and grace into the hearts and lives of sinners. When a married couple has an anniversary, how special it can be to remember it and treasure each other. Each week, the Lord has given us a special anniversary, not only a gift in creation, but in redemption to remind us that the Lord is risen and hands out the blessings of His grace.

What would you say to young people and young families about the Lord's Day?

We should thank the Lord for this oasis, this day of rest and refreshment, as it reminds us of the important things in life. By grace, let us also bring our hearts and troubled consciences to rest in the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 11:28). We need help from the Lord to help us against our carnality and earthly mindedness to be taken up with Him. We should ask Him to keep us from neglecting the opportunities of the Lord's Day and pray the Lord to bless it so that His people may down in green pastures and have their souls restored. Let us above all seek mercy in Christ for our Sabbath-breaking heart, mind and life.

Sometimes people want a detailed list of what we may or may not do. The Lord is willing to guide our conscience by His word, and we might work it out somewhat differently from other conscientious Christians. But the main guiding questions that we should ask are: "Does it glorify God? Does it refresh our bodies? Does it build us up spiritually, does it promote love for Him? Will it help us serve Him? Is it preparing us for eternity?" It is a day for rest, worship and fellowship with Him and others. True, we may family responsibilities, and we have to care for others. We should also be mindful of the needs of our children, but let us seek grace to show also to them the privilege and purpose of that day. I think these words sum it up well:

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy God
Abide in Him always, and feed on His word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone,
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.
(William D. Longstaff)





Chick-fil-A continues to draw media attention as they enter the Canadian restaurant market while their owners remain unashamed of their Christian values and their commitment to stay closed on the Lord's Day. Chick-fil-A has begun opening there first phase of at least 20 Canadian outlets in cities such as Toronto, Kitchener and Windsor. While protests from those opposed to the Christian values of the Cathy family who owned the franchise have been given frequent media coverage, a steady stream of customers have supported each store after opening.

For many years now Chick-fil-A have stood apart from most of their competition, who in the restaurant and fast-food sector are typically open 7 days a week. While industry analysts have estimated that the chain loses more than a Billion dollars in sales per year for staying closed on Sunday, the ongoing growth and success of Chick-fil-A has left many speculating how this can be possible. For example, the *Business Insider* reported in June 2, 2019, that while Chick-fil-A's decision to close

A graphic with a blue background and white text. At the top left is a red hamburger menu icon. At the top center is the Chick-fil-A logo. At the top right is the text "Order Now" in red. The main title is "Why we're closed on Sundays" in large white font. Below it, in smaller white font, is a paragraph: "Our founder, Truett Cathy, made the decision to close on Sundays in 1946 when he opened his first restaurant in Hapeville, Georgia. Having worked seven days a week in restaurants open 24 hours, Truett saw the importance of closing on Sundays so that he and his employees could set aside one day to rest and worship if they choose — a practice we uphold today."

on Sundays is driven by religious values, analysts say that it is also a brilliant business strategy that gives “employees a chance to recharge”, and “creates a sense of community and scarcity among customers.”

Fast food competitors often record Sunday as one of their busiest days and would not think that closing 14% of the days each year would provide a competitive advantage.

Nevertheless, the double-digit growth in revenue experienced by Chick-fil-A has resulted in their 2700 outlets currently being more profitable on average than any of their competitors. The family restaurant franchise has continued to grow across the US and is now the third largest restaurant chain in the US. Despite the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Atlanta-based restaurant chain reported record revenues in 2020 amounting to 4.3 billion U.S. dollars, an increase of 0.5 billion U.S. dollars from the previous year.

Chick-fil-A's founder, Truett Cathy, was faithful instructing his children about his Christian convictions and before his death in 2014 had them commit to uphold them. In his book entitled "Eat Mor Chikin: Inspire More People: Doing Business the Chick-fil-A Way" he wrote: "Closing our business on Sunday, the Lord's Day, is our way of honoring God and showing our loyalty to Him. My brother Ben and I closed our first restaurant on the first Sunday after we opened in 1946, and my children have committed to closing our restaurants on Sundays long after I'm gone. I believe God honors our decision and sets before us unexpected opportunities to do greater work for Him because of our loyalty."



Reaching those in Prison with the Gift of Scripture

In God's providence the Canadian Day Association has been privileged to oversee the publication and distribution to prisoners of scripture diaries and correspondence courses to those behind bars for more than 25 years. Since 1996 your donations and support have enabled us to distribute more than 1.5 million copies. Even under the difficulties of the pandemic we were able to distribute 145,000 English and 3,000 French 2021 Diaries. May the Lord continue to incline churches and the hearts of individuals to support this simple ministry. Let us pray that seed of His word may be made fruitful, *"some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold."*

While most any prisons will allow few other types of mission work, remarkably they welcome the CLDA scripture diary. Certainly, we must be humbled by how in God's providence there remains an open door for providing His word. One reason for the diaries' popularity is that it is one of the few possessions a prisoner is allowed to have. Another reason is that it gives the prisoner a sense of hope for the future as they tick off the days toward their release date. For others the diary is the one link to the outside world as they record family birthdays and anniversaries and, more importantly to them, visiting day.

However, the greatest value of the diary is in the daily scripture verses and the special opportunity to remind inmates that each week begins with the Lord's Day. One prisoner who wrote to us requesting the diary explained that he has between eight and ten hours a day to study, read and meditate. He told us that he has taken up the practice of memorizing the daily scripture verse provided in the diary. For many inmates, the diary is one of the only Christian reading materials accepted by them. Often our diary is a gateway to inmates requesting our Bible Correspondence course or complete Authorized Version Bibles which are kindly sent out by the Trinitarian Bible Society.



While our nation and churches seem to be increasingly unreachable, who knows but that our prisoners will receive instruction? Were not the servants of the king sent into the highways? And we read that they

"gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests." Matt. 22

This past month we received many notes of appreciation from prison chaplains across Canada ordering prison courses and 2022 Daily Diaries for their institutions. The following is a sample:

"As these diaries are very popular with offenders, and because we have three security levels (Maximum, Medium, Minimum), these quantities will provide for our December institution-wide distribution as well as providing needed supply availability for each security level to have for new arrivals and transfers throughout the year. Thank you for serving our population in this way! God bless,"

"I am always thankful for your ministry of the diaries and the Bible studies over the years. Blessings,"

"I thank you for ALL your work within the Ministry of the "The Canadian Lord's Day Association". May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless all of you and those whom you care for, love and serve. "

"It is good to hear from you. I am the chaplain at our Correctional Centre. I should, first, acknowledge the importance of your work in this ministry. Thank you for being ready out there to supply very useful materials to us, to the chaplains. I really appreciate the good work you are doing. May God reward you accordingly."

"Thank you again for blessing Central East with the diaries. They are such an amazing thing for the inmates and they are in demand all year."

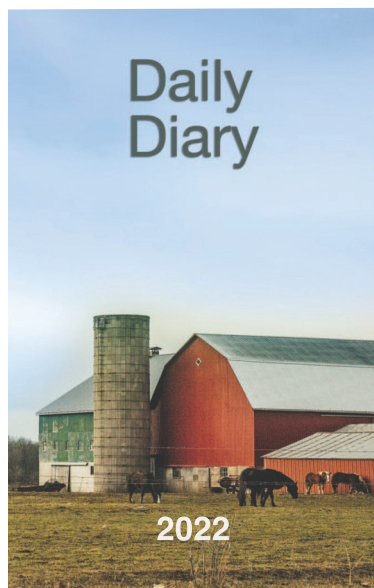
"Thank you for all you do for the guys and girls that are incarcerated. I know they enjoy the material you send us."

"Thank you so much for your continued ministry with us. The Daily Diaries are a hit here."

"Thank you very much and we pray that the CLDA will continue to be richly blessed and continue to flourish. The work that you do encouraging those who have lost their way and experience darkness continually, is highly favoured and greatly valuable in the eyes of our Lord!"

"Thank you very much for your message. I am very thankful once more this year to pursue my ministry at ----- in Québec. I thank you very much for your Ministry and I can guarantee that your diaries make a big difference in our community. May you have a peaceful and joyful week."

The diaries are popular with the inmates. I ran out almost 2 months ago and still have requests for them. Thank you for your ministry and mission work."



THE THREE MOCKERS & Other Pieces



In a little seaport town, a preacher from a different region was to preach the Word of God on a certain Sunday evening. Every seat in the church was occupied. When the preacher was ready to commence his sermon, he suddenly stopped speaking and for some time stood silently on the pulpit. The congregation thought that the minister had become ill, but suddenly he spoke, and said: "It is now precisely fifteen years ago since I have been in this same church. Among the hearers at that time were three young men who had planned to ridicule the minister who was then preaching here. They had stones in their pockets with which they were going to disturb the service. "Let's throw now," said one of the three. "No," said one of the others, "let's wait a few minutes yet to hear what he will say." After a few minutes had passed the other said again, "I know it all now... let's throw!" However the third, said, "We'd better not carry out our plan this evening." The other two then left, being very angry, but the third young man remained to listen. The fate of each of these three young men proved to be as follows: the first one was put to death at Thyburn for forgery; the second one became a murderer. He was captured and locked up in prison, where he is still suffering for his crime. By the grace of God, the third one came to conversion and is now standing here before you, having received the unmerited privilege of proclaiming the Gospel." The preacher then began his sermon. God's grace makes enemies become servants, Sabbath-breakers become Sabbath-keepers, and mockers become messengers of the gospel. To work this change, he uses the foolishness of preaching especially on His day.



The Sabbath a Friend

1. To Education. Compare countries with and Without the Sabbath. Its ministrations powerfully quicken and invigorate the human intellect while a vast amount of knowledge is communicated.
2. To Government. Where are the honoured Sabbath and despotism co-existent? It shows the nature of human rights — adapts laws to actual wants and circumstances of men — creates a conscience that sustains laws and qualifies men to make, as well as obey, laws.
3. To Health. By promoting cleanliness, by furnishing needful rest for body and mind — by promoting cheerfulness and elasticity of spirits through its power to produce a peaceful conscience — by its subduing influence over the hateful passions of men.
4. To Good Morals. By keeping in sight the character of God — by unfolding the claims of her holy law, by creating a distaste for unlawful pleasures — by creating a public sentiment that frowns upon immorality — and, through that sentiment, causing wise and effectual laws for the suppression of vice and crime.
5. To Piety. By causing a right view of God to prevail — by constantly pouring on men's minds those great elements of piety, the divine truths of revelation, by this generating all right affection toward God and man — by shadowing forth and pointing men to the Sabbath of heaven, the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Therefore, the Sabbath is the friend of the nation — the family — every man's friend, and never fails to repay true and devoted friendship for it with the most precious blessing for time and eternity.

taken from a "Free Presbyterian Magazine"

WISE WORDS

I love the Sabbath most of all because one day by God's grace I shall enjoy an eternal Sabbath in glory. My Heavenly Father does not compare the blessedness and peace of heaven with a workday Monday or a pleasure saturated Saturday, but He likens it to the Sabbath day.
Rev. Professor Adam Loughridge



“Ye Shall Keep My Sabbaths and Reverence My Sanctuary.”

**Safely through another week
God hath brought us on our way;
Let us now a blessing seek,
Waiting in His courts to-day:
Day of all the week the best,
Emblem of eternal rest.**

**While we seek supplies of grace,
Through the dear Redeemer's name,
Show Thy reconciling face,
Take away our sin and shame;
From our worldly cares set free,
May we rest this day in Thee.**

**Here we come Thy name to praise;
Let us feel Thy presence near;
May Thy glory meet our eyes,
While we in Thy house appear:
Here afford us Lord, a taste
Of our everlasting rest.**

**May the gospel's joyful sound
Wake our minds to raptures new;
Let Thy victories abound,
Unrepenting souls subdue:
Thus let all our Sabbaths prove,
Till we rest in Thee above.**

Rev. John Newton