



SAVED TO SERVE

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**POPE: SUNDAY LAW BENEFITS POOR, HELP POOR OR GO TO HELL.
BEN CARSON SCOFFS AT MARK OF THE BEAST & DEMOTES ELLEN WHITE**

1. Let us read 2 Peter 1:1-12 and consider the plan of salvation. Consider the fact that verses one through four show us God's part in the plan of salvation, while verses five through twelve show us man's part.

2a. The following words are applicable to us.

"Man can accomplish nothing without God, and **God has arranged His plans so as to accomplish nothing in the restoration of the human race without the cooperation of the human with the divine.** The part man is required to sustain is immeasurably small, yet in the plan of God **it is just that part that is needed to make the work a success.**" {AG 319.3}

2b. Note: Read again 2 Peter 1:1-8.

"**These words are full of instruction, and strike the keynote of victory. The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God,** and in the climbing of which **there is to be no standstill.** Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder. **We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ's ideal for us.** Thus He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." {AA 530.1}

3a. What does the Lord say to us? 2 Peter 1:7 _____

3b. Note: Let us focus on the seventh step on the ladder of salvation, namely, "add to godliness brotherly kindness."

3c. Note: Brotherly kindness is the seventh step on the ladder of salvation. If we want to be saved, we must demonstrate kindness to others.

4. Since the first six steps on the ladder of salvation are gifts from God, then brotherly kindness is also a gift. Kindness is an attribute of God's character. See Nehemiah 9:17. We are not born with kindness, we are born with a sinful nature, we are selfish naturally. See 2 Timothy 3:1-5. So we must see our need of this attribute of God's character, namely kindness. Without it, we will be lost.

5. Since kindness is a gift from God, then we must sincerely ask for it, so that we can ascend this seventh step on the ladder of salvation.

6. Note: The first six steps on the ladder of salvation connect us with Jesus. Then we must manifest that godly character in the manner in which we treat each other. See Matthew 22:36-39 and John 13:35.

7. Who alone can demonstrate God's kindness to others? Colossians 3:7-12 _____

8. What does this kindness lead us to do? Colossians 3:13 _____

9. Note: Brotherly kindness is primarily demonstrated by us forgiving those who have wronged us and hurt us.

10. What is one of the ways that I should demonstrate brotherly kindness? Ephesians 4:31,32 _____

11. What will happen to those who demonstrate brotherly kindness? Ephesians 4:30 _____

12a. What prayer must we pray daily, which is akin to brotherly kindness? Matthew 6:12 _____

12b. Note: Brotherly kindness is the seventh step on the ladder of salvation. Seven represents completion and perfectness in the Bible. When we are connected to Jesus, by ascending the first six steps on the ladder of salvation, when we manifest brotherly kindness to others, then our characters are perfected.

13a. Note: Let us focus on the seventh step on the ladder of salvation, namely, "add to godliness brotherly kindness."

13b. The original word translated "kindness" is Philadelphia. See *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, numbers 5360 and 5361.

14a. Note: The message the Lord gives to the church of Philadelphia, we must give to others, if we profess to be Christlike.

14b. What forms a part of the message to the church of Philadelphia? Revelation 3:7,8 _____

14c. Note: This "open door" is in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. It points to the work of Investigative Judgment which began October 22, 1844.

15. Note: The phrase, "add to godliness brotherly kindness" also means that we must go and tell the world about the open door of salvation, the open door in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. We must present to the world the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12. If we do not present these messages then we lack brotherly kindness, we are not on the seventh step on the ladder.

16. Note: The following events show that the "open door" of salvation is soon to close forever, the work of the Investigative Judgment in heaven is almost over, the mark of the beast is near, Jesus is soon to return, and we must find ourselves ascending the ladder of salvation.

17. What does Revelation 13:3,12 say regarding the Papacy, the leopard-like beast (the first beast)? _____

"**He appealed for forgiveness for 'the sin of our divisions, an open wound in the Body of Christ.'** He added that 'when together the Christians of different churches listen to the word of God and try to put it in practice, **they achieve important steps toward unity.**'" http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/26/world/europe/pope-francis-catholics-and-lutherans-will-recall-reformation.html?_r=1

18a. Fulfilling the words of *The Great Controversy*, Catholics and Lutherans are laying aside their theological differences, in order to unite.

"**The wide diversity of belief in the Protestant churches is regarded by many as decisive proof that no effort to secure a forced uniformity can ever be made. But there has been for years, in churches of the Protestant faith, a strong and growing sentiment in favor of a union based upon common points of doctrine. To secure such a union, the discussion of subjects upon which all were not agreed--however important they might be from a Bible standpoint--must necessarily be waived.**" {GC 444.2}

18b. "The service includes five commitments for Catholics and Lutherans together. **Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common.**" <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2016/01/15/catholics-asked-to-thank-god-for-the-insights-of-the-reformation/>

19. The eighth commandment is not "thou shalt not bear false witness." It is "thou shalt not steal." The Papacy has brought confusion regarding God's Ten Commandments. In the midst of the union between the Papacy and Lutherans, Lutherans have accepted the "Ten Commandments" as given by the Papacy and not the way the Lord gives it.

"The service has readings from the report **From Conflict to Communion**, including: "In the 16th century, Catholics and Lutherans frequently not only misunderstood but also exaggerated and caricatured their opponents in order to make them look ridiculous. **They repeatedly violated the eighth commandment, which prohibits bearing false witness against one's neighbour.**" <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2016/01/15/catholics-asked-to-thank-god-for-the-insights-of-the-reformation/>

20a. "Why Pope Francis Just Asked Protestants for Forgiveness" <http://www.newsweek.com/pope-francis-protestants-forgiveness-persecution-419512>

20b. What does the Lord's messenger say regarding the Papacy apologizing for past sins of persecution upon Christians? _____

"The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity." {GC 571.1}

20c. See Revelation 13:1-5 and Jeremiah 13:23.

21a. Note: The mere fact that the Papacy is apologizing and asking Protestant churches to forgive them is a deception. The Papacy states that it cannot err and will never err.

21b. "Have these persons forgotten the claim of infallibility put forth for eight hundred years by this haughty power? So far from being relinquished, **this claim was affirmed in the nineteenth century with greater positiveness than ever before. As Rome asserts that the "church never erred; nor will it, according to the Scriptures, ever err"** how can she renounce the principles which governed her course in past ages? The papal church will never relinquish her claim to infallibility. **All that she has done in her persecution of those who reject her dogmas she holds to be right; and would she not repeat the same acts, should the opportunity be presented? Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed and Rome be reinstated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution.**" {GC 564.2}

22a. "Why Pope Francis' push for unity is going into over-drive" <http://www.cruxnow.com/church/2016/01/19/why-pope-francis-push-for-unity-is-going-into-over-drive/>

22b. **'Simple, not silly': Children's questions become book by Pope Francis** <http://cnstopstories.com/2016/01/28/simple-not-silly-childrens-questions-become-book-by-pope-francis/>

22c. "Ask Mary's help if illness makes it hard to trust God's mercy, Pope Francis advises" <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/ask-marys-help-if-illness-makes-it-hard-to-trust-gods-mercy-pope-francis-advises-57655/>

22d. "In his annual Lenten message, Pope Francis warned the 'proud, rich, and powerful' that if they ignore the poor at their door — who represent Christ himself — **they'll end up in the solitude of hell. It's only through works of mercy that the powerful and wealthy can be embraced and loved by Jesus**, who was crucified and rose for them, the pope said." <http://www.cruxnow.com/church/2016/01/26/pope-to-the-proud-and-powerful-help-the-poor-or-youll-go-to-hell/>

22e. What does Pope Francis say is the primary thing to be enforced in the nations, in order to preserve the environment and care for the poor? _____

237. **On Sunday, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world...The law of weekly rest forbade work on the seventh day...(Ex 23:12). Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest [Sunday], centred on the Eucharist, sheds it light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.**

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

23. Note: While we see that the mark of the beast is soon to be enforced, it is sad that Ben Carson is departing from the faith of Seventh-day Adventism and is afraid of proclaiming it. Read carefully the following interview that was conducted on January 26 and 27, 2016. There is a large class of professed Seventh-day Adventists that believe similarly to Ben Carson.

ES: One more question related to Seventh Day Adventists theology. **Some would call Sunday keeping the Mark of the Beast.** I've seen you, in your history, go back and forth, between different churches.

Dr. Carson: I preached at a church yesterday [River of Life Church, Cedar Rapids].

ES: **So what do you think about Sunday keepers?**

Dr. Carson: **I would say most of my best friends are Sunday keepers. I don't see any mark on them! They're good people.**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/january/faith-of-candidates-interview-with-ben-carson-part-2.html>

ES: **So was she [Ellen White] a unique prophet for our day** or was she one of many who wrote good, helpful things under the inspiration of God?

Dr. Carson: **I would seriously doubt that she would be the only person who would be inspired by God.**

ES: **Did she [Ellen White] have a unique prophetic role** or one of many who might have a similar prophetic role?

Dr. Carson: **I can't believe that there would only be one prophet.**

ES: Is there anyone you look to today **who you might say there's a similar "spirit of prophecy" on that person?**

Dr. Carson: **I think there are a lot of people out there today in the spiritual world that I respect tremendously who have provided extraordinarily wise counsel.** <http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/january/faith-of-candidates-interview-with-ben-carson.html>

24. Since human probation is almost over, Jesus is soon to return, we must be found demonstrating brotherly kindness by forgiving others.

25. Additionally, we will be severely persecuted because we stand and proclaim God's present truth, the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12; therefore, we must have God's attribute of kindness.

26. What did Jesus say on the cross, while being persecuted? Luke 23:34 _____

27. Note: Jesus manifested kindness throughout his life but especially on the cross, by forgiving his persecutor's ignorance and cruel actions. We must behold this daily, in order to do likewise.

22. In order to develop God's attribute of brotherly kindness, and to manifest forgiveness, the Lord has to put us through trials and tests.

23. What does Jesus do that we should imitate? Luke 6:35,37 _____

24. What should we daily contemplate, in order to be kind and forgiving to others? Ephesians 2:4-7 _____

25. What is in the mouth of the virtuous woman, who is a symbol of God's true church? Proverbs 31:26 _____

26. How should God's people proclaim the present truth, the three angels' messages? Psalm 141:5 _____

"Duty, stern duty, has a twin sister, which is kindness. If duty and kindness are blended, decided advantage will be gained; but if duty is separated from kindness, if tender love is not mingled with duty, there will be a failure, and much harm will be the result. Men and women will not be driven, but many can be won by kindness and love. Brother S has held aloft the gospel whip, and his own words have frequently been the snap to that whip. This has not had an influence to spur others to greater zeal and to provoke them to good works, but it has aroused their combativeness to repel his severity." {3T 108.2}

27. In many cases, what will make the difference in the work of soul-winning? Jude 21,22 _____

28. Meditate upon the account of Simon's lack of kindness and forgiveness toward Mary and the manner in which Jesus dealt with the situation. Luke 7:36-48. Write your thoughts. _____
