

## TESTIMONY OF KEN KREIDER

**“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” [Matthew 11:28](#)**

### INTRODUCTION

This morning I am going to share with you my personal testimony of how I came to know the truth about the Sabbath, and how I came to be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

I know you are not used to hearing me speak, and so you're probably wondering how long I will take. I heard about a pastor once who used to take a lemon drop at the beginning of his sermon. When he finished the lemon drop, he knew it was time to end his sermon. That worked out pretty good, until one time he got a button. That was a long sermon!

### MY EARLY YEARS

Ever since I was about 5 years old, I have been seeking God. It was my mother who taught me about God. I never went through those rebellious teenage years that I hear in many people's testimonies, or like my older brother who experimented with smoking and drinking and occasionally sneaking off to be with girls. My parents were both heavy drinkers and my father smoked heavily. So why was I so different? I believe I was different because I suffered terribly with asthma. I asked my mother if there was anything I could do to get over asthma, and she told me that God could heal me. At that time, I would ride a church bus to a Pentacostal Church every Sunday and I began to pray diligently. I thank God that I had a mother who taught me where I needed to focus my attention.

**[Proverbs 22:6](#) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

When we suffer, we are faced with two choices:

- 1) We can blame God for our suffering and turn away from Him and die in our affliction.
- Or:
- 2) We can recognize God as our only source of deliverance and turn to Him. He is the One who heals us. He is the one who keeps our heart beating. He allows us to suffer because He wants us to turn to Him.

**[Lamentations 3:31,32](#) “For the Lord will not reject forever, <sup>32</sup>For if He causes grief, Then He will have compassion**

**According to His abundant lovingkindness. <sup>33</sup>For He does not afflict willingly or grieve the sons of men.”**

**Job 36:15 But those who suffer he delivers in their suffering; he speaks to them in their affliction.**

### **WONDERING ABOUT THE SABBATH**

When I was about 6 years old, I used to wonder why we keep Sunday instead of Saturday when the commandment clearly states that the seventh day is the Sabbath. I thought that perhaps the calendar was wrong, that Sunday was on the wrong end of the calendar and that it was really the seventh day of the week. I did not know the answer, but I figured that one day, I would go to a big library and find the answer.

### **HEARING THE VOICE OF PROPHECY**

When I was 14, my father used to get up early every morning and turn on the radio to a country station. I could hear it from my room and on Sunday mornings, very early, the station would play the Voice of Prophecy. I really liked the VOP because they seemed to go by the Bible very well. So on Sunday mornings, I started to get up early so I could hear the VOP. They offered a free Bible study course called New Life Bible Guides. (The New Life Course has since been replaced by the Discover Course.) I went to ask my mother if I could get the Bible guides. She hesitated, so I told her that they were free. Then she said OK. I need to point out that up to this point, I had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists.

### **FACING THE SABBATH ISSUE**

In studying the Bible Guides, I eventually came to the one on the Sabbath. I was easily convinced of the truth about the Sabbath.

### **CATHOLIC CATECHISM**

One interesting fact that was pointed out in the Bible Guide on the Sabbath was some information from the Catholic Catechism on how they claimed to change the Sabbath. It reads like this:

**Question:** Which is the Sabbath day?

**Answer:** Saturday is the Sabbath day.

**Question:** Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

**Answer:** We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” -Rev. Peter Geiermann C.S.S.R., The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, p. 50

The history of how the change was made is a very interesting study. I do not have time to cover that here today, but you can read more on [sabbathtruth.com](http://sabbathtruth.com).

Here is another interesting fact pointed out in the Bible Guides:

### **Was the Calendar Changed?**

Yes. In order to keep up with the solar cycle the calendar was changed once in October 1582, but it did not alter the weekly cycle. Ten dates were omitted from the calendar following October 4, 1582. What would have been Friday, October 5, became Friday, October 15. The diagram below will help you to visualize the change. You will see that it did not change the order of the days of the week.

#### **October 1582**

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

\*An official U.S. Naval Observatory [Document](#) sent in 1932 that verifies that there has been no change in the weekly cycle.

(Here are links to the [U.S. Naval Observatory](#) and the [Royal Observatory](#) in Greenwich England. )

But I wanted to make very sure that what I was reading was true, so I went to my mother. She looked it over and didn't know what to say about it. So she decided to ask her Methodist Pastor about it. You see, my parents were attending a Methodist Church, while by this time I was attending a Baptist Church. My mother used to say that she didn't care which church I attended, as long as it was a Christian Church. Anyway, she borrowed my Bible Study Guide and took it to show her minister. When she came back, she had a Thompson Chain Reference Bible in her hands. She said that the pastor wasn't able to answer her question, but he had given her that Bible to help her find the answer. The question was, "Had the Sabbath been changed to Sunday, and if not, then why were the majority of Christians keeping Sunday as the Sabbath?" So my mother sat down with that Thompson Chain Reference Bible and began searching for the verse that tells all about how the sanctity of the Sabbath was changed to Sunday. I already knew what she was going to find. There are only four verses in the Bible that mention the first day of the week, and none of them talk about the Sabbath being changed. My mother became very frustrated and began to cry. But I didn't know what to say to her. The subject was new to me too.

Then she suggested that I ask the Baptist Minister. I thought that was a good idea. So I arranged to meet with him. Before I left, my father asked me, "If he can't answer your questions, are you going to become a Seventh-day Adventist?" I thought for a minute, and said, "Yes, I guess I am." "Well, if I ask you to work on Sunday then, you better work!", he said. I said, "OK, I will." In my meeting with the pastor, he quietly read over

the Bible Study Guides that I brought, and he was quiet for a long time. I just waited patiently. Finally he spoke. "Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore, it doesn't matter which day we keep."

**Mark 2:27** Then he said to them, "The **Sabbath** was made for **man**, not **man** for the **Sabbath**."

I was actually satisfied with that answer and decided that I would continue to keep Sunday. And I also reasoned in my mind that the commandment does not say "the seventh day *of the week*". It only says "the seventh day".

### **MOVING TO COLORADO AND RESUMING MY STUDY**

Well, a few months later, we moved from Kansas to Colorado in order to take over the ranch that belonged to my grandparents. They were getting along in years, and were having a hard time doing the work. I began attending a Baptist Church and I had almost given up on the Bible Study Guides, although inwardly, I still wondered about the Sabbath, especially because of Hebrews chapter 4, which I will now read. (I will be reading from the New International Version.)

## **Hebrews 4**

### **A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God**

**<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.**

<sup>2</sup>For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup>Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

"So I declared on oath in my anger,

'They shall never enter my rest.'<sup>[b]</sup> And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. <sup>4</sup>For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work."<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>5</sup>And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

<sup>6</sup>It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>8</sup>For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

**<sup>9</sup>There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; <sup>10</sup>for anyone who enters God's rest also rests**

from his own work, just as God did from his. <sup>11</sup>Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

It was obvious to me that the Sabbath was very important. Then one day, I was reading the Bible, and I stumbled upon this verse:

**Matthew 28:1** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

And I said to myself, "Wait a minute. If the first day of the week is after the Sabbath, then the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week." I also realized that the verse that says that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath did not mean that we could pick the day. It only meant that the Sabbath was not meant to be a burden to us.

#### **PITKIN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**

I then decided to take my Bible Guides to my new pastor to see what he had to say about it. After our first meeting, he asked to borrow my study guides and we met again a week later. He came up with different reasons for not keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, none of which were the same as what my previous Baptist minister had said. That to me was even more evidence in favor of the seventh-day Sabbath. If there was a reason, it was one main reason, and not maybe this or maybe that. He tried to tell me that the Sabbath was for the Jews. But did not God create the Sabbath in the beginning? Were Adam and Eve Jews? And what about the verse that says that the Sabbath was made for man, meaning all mankind? He tried to tell me that the Sabbath was nailed to the cross. But I knew that it was the ceremonial Sabbaths which were nailed to the cross. But the weekly Sabbath was written by the finger of God on tables of stone, and the Bible says that not one jot or tittle shall pass from the law till all be fulfilled.

Soon afterward, I decided to keep Saturday as the Sabbath and to become a Seventh-day Adventist. So I looked in the Yellow Pages for the nearest Seventh-day Adventist Church and found one about 45 miles away.

## **ATTENDING THE SWINK SDA CHURCH**

On Sabbath morning, I borrowed my father's pickup and went to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Swink, Colorado, a small church of less than 100 members. My first Sabbath there was Pastor Lee Venden's first Sabbath there. Lee Venden is the son of Morris Venden, a popular author and speaker in our church. I also met an elderly lady who lived out where I lived and she began to kindly stop to give me a ride to and from church each Sabbath. Her name was Francis.

## **MEETING ELLEN WHITE**

I learned a lot from Pastor Lee Venden. He used to quote once in awhile from the writings of some lady by the name of Ellen White. Of course, I didn't know who Ellen White was, but I remember thinking to myself, "Wow! What a profound statement! I've got to get that book." Then one Sabbath, Francis told me, "We believe that Ellen White was a Prophetess of God." I just said, "Oh really?", while inside I was thinking, "We'll see about that." I started reading her writings along with many other books that Francis had given me. I was very thankful for Francis taking me under her wing and sharing with me so much literature. She will surely receive her reward in heaven. I still did not know what to make of Ellen White. In reading her writings, I found them to be very profound, and I felt drawn to God when I read them. I did not find them to contradict the Bible. But it was the book ***Early Writings*** that thoroughly convinced me of Ellen White. You read about her miraculous visions and how even she doubted at one point and was struck dumb just like Zechariah in the Bible at the birth of John the Baptist. You read how there were so many witnesses when she held up that large heavy Family Bible that strong men could not hold up for a few minutes. She held it up over her head for a long time and quoted the verses while turning to the correct pages. I believe in the Gift of Prophecy.

Pastor Venden knew that I was interested in studying a math field such as engineering, and he tried to persuade me to attend Walla Walla College, a school renowned for its engineering program. Well, I had just earned three scholarships and two of them had to be used in Colorado State. In addition, I was not very familiar with Adventist Schools. So for my first year, I went to the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. While I was there, I read in ***Messages to Young People*** that bad company corrupts good morals.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** Do not be deceived: "**Bad company corrupts good morals.**"

So I decided to transfer to Walla Walla College for my second year. I eventually graduated from there.

## **IN CLOSING**

I could tell you about how God led me to find my beautiful wife, Persy, and about my adventures since college, but that is another story. My main purpose today was to share with you my personal testimony of how I came into the church and came to know the truth.

I wanted to close with this verse:

**“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” [Matthew 11:28](#)**

If you seek the peace and rest of God, you will surely find it.

Shall we sing about it? Hymn #466 ***Wonderful Peace***