

**COME
TO THE
MARRIAGE**

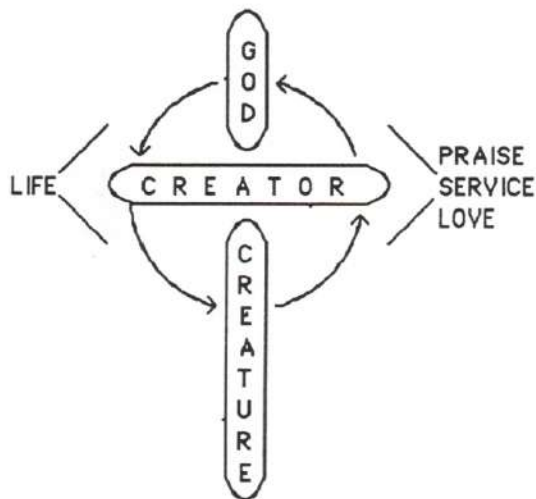
*The observance of Sunday is in keeping
with the character that has the desire for
self-exaltation. That character is
demonstration by the fact that man sets
his day of worship over the day of
worship that God has set up to observe.*

Chapter 18

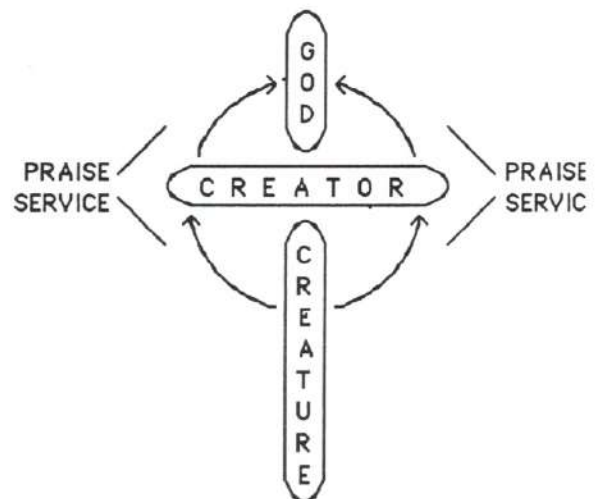
THE SABBATH

"In heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men." DA 21,22 (emphasis supplied)

In the above quotation it states that Satan wanted to be worshipped. (homage) Therefore he misrepresented God. The method that Satan used in order to receive worship was to misrepresent God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. Let us review the character of God and the character of God as Satan misrepresented it.



DESIRE FOR UNSELFISHNESS



DESIRE FOR SELF-EXALTATION

The character of God is a character with the desire for unselfishness. To be unselfish, one must take and give. Selfishness implies always receiving and not giving unless it benefits you. It is easy to see that the angels in heaven were praising God. It is not obvious from what source that they were receiving life. Praise and service are an outward act. Life comes unseen and not with outward show. For Satan to receive worship (praise and love) he would have to hide the fact that God gives life. Why would anyone worship a creature? Creatures can't give life. Only God can give life and therefore is worthy of praise. So for Satan to receive worship he must obscure the fact that God gives life.

Therefore he misrepresented the Creator attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. How does that misrepresentation hide the fact that God gives life? The very term 'unselfishness' means that you give. If we study and believe that the character of God is a character with the desire for unselfishness, then the obvious question would be: What

does God give? Thus we will be constantly reminded that God is the Creator and He gives us life. Therefore we would be led to praise and love Him. We would worship God. Satan, in order to be worshipped, needed to obscure the fact that God was the giver of life.

Therefore he said that God had a desire for self-exaltation. This pictures God as the man on top who always receives. He is selfish. When we think of God as selfish we lose the concept that He gives life. We dwell upon the fact that man is always serving God and we forget that God is the life giver. The concept of the natural immortality of the soul goes hand in hand with the picture of God as having a desire for self-exaltation. Both concepts hide the fact that God is the life giver.

Another doctrine that Satan needs to push in the background is the Sabbath. Notice in the following quotation that there never would have been an idolater if the Sabbath had been universally kept. An idolater is a devil worshipper.

"Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel." GC 438

The reason the Sabbath doctrine needs to be hid is the fact that it calls attention to the Creator, the life giver. Let us review some quotations on the Sabbath and notice that the importance placed on the Sabbath is to keep in mind that God is the life-giver. The fact that God is the life-giver calls attention to His character. Remember that God's character has a desire for unselfishness. God gives life and takes praise and service. The Sabbath truth calls attention to this concept.

"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

The Sabbath commandment points out the fact that God is the Creator.

"The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God-'because He is the Creator, and we are His creatures.' The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can

never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten.” It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that he is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man’s thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, “him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” It follows that the message which commands men to worship God and keep his commandments, will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment.” GC 437