

Great Controversy Series
Law and Character: Image of God or Beast
Chapter 25 - God's Law Immutable
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

“In the issue of the contest all Christendom will be divided into two great classes--those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark.” GC 450

Which class do you belong? Do you know who you worship?

Your character determines who you truly worship God or Satan, truth or error, God's commandments or the commandments of men.

Image of God and His law!

In the beginning we were made in the image of God to reflect the righteous and pure character of God to glorify God.

Since the law of God is a perfect reflection the character of God at the beginning we were also made to be in harmony with the commandments of God.

For example:

Characteristic	God is...	God Law is...
Love	1 John 4:8 - “...God is love.”	Romans 13:10 - “...love is the fulfilling of the law.”
Holy	Psalm 99:9 - “...the LORD our God is holy.”	Romans 7:12 - “...the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”
Perfect	Psalm 18:30 - “As for God, his way is perfect...”	Psalm 19:7 - “The law of the LORD is perfect...”
TRUE	John 3:33 - “...God is true.”	Psalm 119:142 - “...thy law is the truth.”
Righteousness	Psalm 145:17 - “The LORD is righteous in all his ways...”	Psalm 119:172 - “...for all thy commandments are righteousness.”

At the beginning since we were designed to reflect the character of God, He embedded in our hearts the law of God that expressed the will, character, and standard of God.

What destroyed our harmony and unison with the character and law of God?

Disobedience broke our harmony with God. It also broke our happiness and life.

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Summed up in a few words is the essence of our hope.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus Christ is our only hope. He came to restore in us the character of God and write upon our hearts the law of God.

What are three main purposes of the Ten Commandments of God?

1 – Define and reveal sin clearly

Romans 7:7 - “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”

Like a mirror

The Ten Commandments reveal your condition, whether you have the dirt of sin in your life, but it cannot clean it.

2 – Standard of Righteousness in which we are judged

Psalms 119:172 - “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”

James 2:11, 12

11 “For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty

Speed Limit Sign

A speed limit sign reveals the law in order to keep you safe, but the sign cannot make you obey the law. The sign only displays the law. Without the sign you would be unaware of the law or that you have broken the law. Similarly, the Ten Commandments cannot make you righteous or lawful. The commandments are only the standard of righteousness that reveal the law

3 – Conversion Tool that points us to Jesus

Psalms 19:7 - “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”

Galatians 3:24 - “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

Did Jesus come to change or abolish His commandments?

Matthew 5:17, 18

17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Malachi 3:6 - “For I am the LORD, I change not.”

Jesus did not come to change the law but to reveal the law. Remember the law of God is the transcript of the character of God. Jesus came in the flesh to practically demonstrate the law of God. Jesus is the ten commandments in the flesh. And the foundation of God’s law is love, loving God and others.

Law of Sin or Law of God

Since Jesus and the law is Holy it is IMPOSSIBLE for our sinful characters to keep the law of God and truly love Jesus. This is like trying to lift up a thousand ton boulder over your head! IMPOSSIBLE!

Romans 7:14 - “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.”

Romans 8:7 - “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”

But God reveals to the faithful that in order to demonstrate our love toward Jesus our characters MUST be in harmony with the LAW of GOD.

How is it possible to be in harmony with the character Jesus and His law?

Romans 8:1-4

1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 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:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 7:24-25

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

John 15:5, 10

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

When we stay connected to Jesus daily, and allow the spirit of God to work in us, He gives us the power and desire to reflect the character of God and keep ALL of His Ten Commandments.

Philippians 2:13

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

Hebrews 13:20, 21

20 “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Our characters must be in unison with the Jesus and law of God.

REPEAT - In the end of time there are ONLY two classes:

- 1) those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus
- 2) those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark.

This is revealed clearly in the third angel's message

Revelation 14:9, 10, 12

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The mark of the beast crisis is right upon us!

Prophecy facts review

- 1) Leopard-like Beast of Revelation 13 and Little horn of Daniel 7 and 8 = Papal Rome
- 2) Image of the beast = Apostate protestant churches - reflection of the character of the beast
- 3) Lamb-like beast with two horns Revelation 13:11 = United States of America

- 4) The mark of the beast is a “mark” of Papal Rome
 5) The mark of the beast is a unifying doctrine that brings all in Babylon together led by Papal Rome (the beast) and all apostate fallen churches (image of the beast).

Why is the mark of the beast in the forehead or in hand (not both)?

FOREHEAD: What’s behind the forehead? The frontal lobe of the brain. This is the reasoning control center of the brain. This is where we make conscious decisions. **Those who have the mark of the beast in the foreheads, have the character of the beast.** They wholeheartedly believe in the deceptions of the beast as fact.

HAND: The mark of the beast in the hand represents conforming to the demands of the beast because of fear of persecution, hunger, or death. They have a compromising character

The mark of the beast is her official identifying “mark” on ALL those who worship the beast and its image. The mark of the beast crisis is connected to false worship and the rejection of God’s law.

What is the meaning of the “mark”?

“Mark” is “charagma” which means “a scratch or etching, that is, stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (statue): - graven, mark.” (Strong’s Greek dictionary)

The Greek word “charagma” is where we get the English word “character.”

In Greek, a “kharaktēr” spelled as “character” in English “was a stamping tool, used to give something a distinctive mark.” - www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/character. This “engraved mark” reveals who you are.

Character formation

The way your character is formed begins with your thoughts. Your thoughts influence your feelings; happy, sad, excited, or depressed. Your feelings directly influence your behavior or actions. Your behavior develops habits. Your habits, the things you do over and over again, form or “stamps” your character. This is the reason why it is very important to guard your thoughts, feelings, habits, and actions. **Remember, each one is the “etching” or “stamping” tool that forms your character.**

What is the “natural” condition of all our characters?

Psalm 1:5 - “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

Sin, the disobedience of God’s Ten Commandments, is “stamped” in all of our characters naturally. It takes a “supernatural” stamping tool to change our character. That stamping tool of course is our wonderful Savior and Creator, Jesus Christ!

Jesus came to transform “re-stamp” our characters in the likeness of Him.

Romans 12:2 - “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Jesus came to save us from our sin. He came to totally transform our characters. Satan wants our characters to remain in sin. Those who remain in sin, who are stamped with the character of sin, worship the one who is responsible for sin, Satan. Your character will determine who you truly worship. Your character will determine if you will receive the mark of the beast or not. **Who is “stamping” your character? Christ or Satan? The Word or the World?**

If your faith is not solely based on the explicit Word of God your character is being shape according to world. You are still in the bondage of sin, but Jesus wants to set you free!

Where will God “stamp” His character on those who are faithful to Him and saved into His kingdom?

Revelation 14:1 - “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his **Father’s name written in their foreheads.**”

“Name” in Greek is “onoma” which means, authority or character.

God’s faithful will have His character “engraved” within them.

Revelation 14:5 says, “And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.” Those who have the character of God will be found perfect through the blood of Jesus Christ, standing before the throne of God.

What is written in their “hearts”?

Hebrews 8:10

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Again you cannot separate the law of God and the character of God! Those who reject the law of God rejects the character of God and it WILL be impossible to have the Father’s name written in their foreheads.

Ten Commandments in Earthy and Heavenly Sanctuary

Remember the earthly sanctuary was a miniature model of the Heavenly Sanctuary

Where was the Ten Commandments written on two tables of stone by the finger of God placed in the earthly sanctuary in the wilderness? Ark of the covenant underneath the mercy seat in the MOST HOLY PLACE.

The ten commandment placed in the ark of the covenant in the earthly sanctuary was a perfect copy of the original ten commandments that is the MOST HOLY place in the heavenly sanctuary.

The placement of the ten commandments in the Ark of the covenant in the MOST HOLY Place.

Where is the “most holy place” in which Jesus want to stamp His character with in us? Our minds / “hearts”

What is the genuine mark or seal that authenticates that ten commandments of God?

Ezekiel 20:12 - “Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign (Gk: Mark or evidence) between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.”

It’s repeated again in verse 20, but notice a slight difference.

Ezekiel 20:20 - “And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.”

In verse 12, the keeping of the sabbath is a sign between Him and “them”, His faithful followers as a whole. But notice in verse 20 God makes it very personal; the sabbath is a sign between Him and YOU!

Exodus 31:13, 16, 17

13 “Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Remember, keeping the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign or mark that proves your loyalty to God in which you keep ALL of His Commandments as an expression of your love for Him. This sign is the evidence that you rather keep the commandments of God rather than the commandments men. Do you want to please God rather than man? Do you really love Jesus? Faithfully keeping the Sabbath really separates the “sheep” from the “goats”; the faithful from the unfaithful.

4th Commandment:

Exodus 20:8-11

8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 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:

11 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.”

There are three elements of a legal seal: 1. Name; 2. Title; 3. Territory. For example, on the official seal of the president of the United States, it has the name of the president; title, President; and territory, the United States of America. The fourth commandment reveals the seal or mark of the living God. It reveals His name, the Lord which means Jehovah or self existent one; His title, Creator; and His territory, the heaven, earth and sea.

The seal of the living God or official mark of God that authenticates His Ten Commandments is the seventh-day Sabbath. In other words, the seventh-day Sabbath commandment is the signature of God. It not only authenticates the Ten Commandments, but clearly identifies the Author of the commandments.

Now that we know the true mark or seal of God that is the seal of His authority and supremacy, let’s look at the mark of the beast, Satan’s counterfeit.

What is the Mark of the beast?

Remember, the “mark” reveals who you truly worship. If you know that the mark of God is His seventh-day holy Sabbath, the mark of the beast, Satan’s counterfeit, has to do with a day of worship that opposes God’s true day according to the Bible.

Revelation 14:9 “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand.”

It is clear that the “mark of the beast” is connected to false worship. It is a doctrine that unifies both the beast, Papal Rome, and his image, apostate Christian churches. The mark of the beast is a counterfeit compared to the genuine seal of God. Since the genuine seal of the living God is God’s holy seventh-day Sabbath, what do you think is the “mark of the beast?” Let’s hear what the beast has to say about this.

What does the beast, Papal Rome, say is its distinctive “mark” of authority?

“Sunday is our Mark of authority....The church is ABOVE the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.” - Catholic Record, September 1, 1923

This is a direct fulfillment of Bible prophecy:

Daniel 7:25

25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of

time. [Remember Jesus said THINK NOT....Matthew 5:17]

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change [of the Sabbath to Sunday] was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical and religious without her. And THE ACT IS A MARK of ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.” - James Cardinal Gibbons, in a letter to J .F. Snyder of Bloomington, Illinois, dated November II, 1895, and signed by H.F. Thomas, Chancellor for the Cardinal

Papal Rome claims that they have “ecclesiastical” power and authority to change God’s holy seventh-day Sabbath to the first day of the week, Sunday. Sunday, is a counterfeit Sabbath that the beast has set up, not God.

Papal Rome believes that this change of the Sabbath from the seventh day of the week, Saturday, to the first day of the week, Sunday, is their “mark” of authority. This “change” is their distinctive mark that distinguishes them from all other Christian religions. Here are some more quotes from Papal Rome concerning his “mark”:

“Sunday is a Catholic Institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.” - The Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900

“God simply gave His (Catholic) Church the power to set aside whatever day or days, she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days, as holy days.” - Vincent J. Kelly, Forbidden Sunday and Feast-Day Occupations, p. 2

The Sunday “sabbath” and worship is clearly a man-made Papal Roman Catholic institution. It was exclusively established by the papacy as their distinctive “mark” in which no other Christian religious church can claim. Sunday sacredness is the papacy’s “trademark.”

Papal Rome’s current official “Catechism of The Catholic Church” on Vatican’s website says:

“2189 - Observe the sabbath day, to keep it holy (Deut 5:12). The seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord (Ex 31:15). 2190 - The sabbath, which represented the completion of the first creation, has been replaced by Sunday which recalls the new creation inaugurated by the Resurrection of Christ. 2191 - The Church celebrates the day of Christ’s Resurrection on the “eighth day,” Sunday, which is rightly called the Lord’s Day.” - www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c1a3.htm

Again, Papal Rome admits that the Bible says that the seventh day is the Sabbath but they believe they had authority to change it to Sunday

What happens before a church lightly esteems or corrupts the true seventh day Sabbath and unites with the beast false Sunday sabbath?

Ezekiel 20:12-13

12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Rebellion, idol worship, apostasy will lead to the pollution of God’s holy seventh day Sabbath! This the same path the SDA corp church as taken.

Ezekiel chapter 8 path to Sun Worship

- 1) Idol Worship = humanism and worldliness
- 2) Sodomy = homosexuality, LGBT movement
- 3) Sun Worship = accept the mark of the beast

“It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy--the beast. Said Paul: "There" shall "come a falling away, . . . and that man of sin be revealed." 2 Thessalonians 2:3. So apostasy in the church will prepare the way for the image to the beast.” GC 443

“The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord there will exist a state of religious declension similar to that in the first centuries. "In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 2 Timothy 3:1-5. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1. Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." And all that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," will be left to accept "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. When this state of ungodliness shall be reached, the same results will follow as in the first centuries.” GC 444

“When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.” GC 445.1

Common UNION = Communion

What does the image of the beast cause or force?

Revelation 13:15-17

15 “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

America with the approval of the majority of its citizens, gives legislative “life” to the apostate Christian churches, like Papal Rome. With the merging of church and state, they have power to legislate “religious” laws for the “common good” and “liberty.” These legislations with the political influence of the image of the beast “CAUSE” or make people “worship” them. How? It is through ENFORCEMENT. Those who refuse to worship as they have legislated are characterized as a small minority of “trouble-makers”, “extremist”, “terrorist”, and “hateful.”

Sunday – unifying doctrine

Don’t forget that the major unifying religious doctrine that brings both the beast and its image together is the Sunday counterfeit sabbath that was established by Papal Rome. This is the “mark” of Papal Rome’s authority. Sunday Sacredness along with it’s Eucharist is extremely serious to the papacy.

Let’s examine some excerpts from their “Catechism Of The Catholic Church” which is online at their official website, www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c1a3.htm, concerning “ARTICLE 3 -

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT” referring the sabbath commandment:

“2177 The Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church’s life. ‘Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church.’ ”

“2181 The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice... Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.”

“2188 In respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christians should seek recognition of Sundays and the Church’s holy days as legal holidays. They have to give everyone a public example of prayer, respect, and joy and defend their traditions as a precious contribution to the spiritual life of society.”

The Sunday Law is quietly moving forward under the disguise of “climate change,” Paris Agreement and the “common good”.

Catholic “Communion” = common union = common good

ENCYCLICAL LETTER: LAUDATO SI’, FRANCIS, ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

157. Finally, the common good calls for social peace, the stability and security provided by a certain order which cannot be achieved without particular concern for distributive justice; whenever this is violated, violence always ensues. Society as a whole, and the state in particular, are obliged to defend and promote the common good.

169. .. International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. ...

177. Given the real potential for a misuse of human abilities, individual states can no longer ignore their responsibility for planning, coordination, oversight and enforcement within their respective borders. How can a society plan and protect its future amid constantly developing technological innovations? One authoritative source of oversight and coordination is the law, which lays down rules for admissible conduct in the light of the common good. ...

188. ... But I am concerned to encourage an honest and open debate so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good.

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. Sunday is the day of the Resurrection,...Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centred on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.

Remember the Sunday “sabbath” is the rallying cry of Papal Rome and apostate churches that unify them together. They are both promoting legal Sunday “sabbaths”.

The Lord’s Day Alliance of the U.S., a coalition of Christian Protestant, evangelical, and Catholic churches, confirms that the Sunday “sabbath” is what unifies all Christians. On their website and “Sunday” magazine Spring 2015 edition, they published an article entitled, “Sunday as a Mark of Christian Unity” written by Scott Brill. He says, “I also believe that our communal Sunday practices are a sign of unity (something we share as fellow believers) that what unites us is stronger and more profound than what divides us.” - “Sunday as a Mark of Christian Unity.” The Lord’s Day Alliance of the United States, Spring 2015, Vol 102, No. 1: p. 9

“But Christians of past generations observed the Sunday, supposing that in so doing they were keeping the Bible Sabbath; and there are now true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion, who honestly believe that Sunday is the Sabbath of divine appointment. God accepts their sincerity of purpose and their integrity before Him. But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy,

they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome--"the mark of the beast." And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive "the mark of the beast." GC 449

We need to blackout sin and foolishness and not blackout the truth!