

September 26, 2026



NEWSLETTER



MIDDLETOWN SDA CHURCH

BACK TO THE BASICS: REMEMBER THE SABBATH



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Remember the Sabbath

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Children's Corner

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September 2026

REMEMBER



THE SABBATH



By: Reneé Russell

“Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.” Exodus 20:8

Welcome back to the Middletown SDA Church Newsletter. I hope you enjoyed our Origin of Sin series and that it helped you become more aware of how sin continues to impact our lives today. More importantly, I pray that through each newsletter you will find hope in Jesus Christ, because He desires not only to reveal sin but to save us from it and restore us to oneness with Him.

In this newsletter and the upcoming issues, we will be going back to the basics by examining some of the foundational beliefs that have shaped our identity as Seventh-day Adventists. In a world where biblical teachings are increasingly questioned, reinterpreted, or set aside, it is important that we know what we believe, why we believe it, and where those beliefs are found in Scripture. Among the subjects we will explore are the seventh-day Sabbath, the health message, the Spirit of Prophecy, the investigative judgment, and other teachings that have been important to the Adventist message.

Today, we begin with a commandment that starts with a very important word: “Remember.”

The Sabbath: Does It Still Matter?

One of the arguments frequently made concerning the Sabbath is that the seventh-day Sabbath is no longer binding upon Christians after the death of Christ. Others argue that because salvation comes through Christ and not through keeping the law, the particular day on which we worship is no longer important.

It is certainly true that we are not saved by keeping the Sabbath. Salvation is a gift of God's grace received through faith in Jesus Christ. But does salvation by grace mean that obedience to God's commandments is no longer important?

Did the death of Jesus abolish the fourth commandment, or does the Sabbath continue to reveal something important about our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer?

To answer these questions, we must go back to the Bible, but before we do so, let's explore the illustration of —a smartphone reset.

Electronic devices sometimes need to be restarted. A restart temporarily stops the normal processes of the device, clears temporary data, refreshes system resources, and can resolve problems that have accumulated during continued use.

In a much greater and more meaningful way, the Sabbath gives us an opportunity to stop. For six days, our lives can become consumed with work, school, appointments, responsibilities, bills, errands, technology, and the constant demands of everyday life. Then comes the seventh day.

God says, Remember. Stop. Rest.

The Sabbath turns our attention away from our accomplishments and back toward our Creator. It reminds us that our lives do not depend entirely upon our own strength.

Just as restarting a device allows its processes to begin afresh, Sabbath rest provides sacred time to step away from ordinary labor and enter a new week spiritually refreshed. It points us back to God's creative power and reminds us that the One who created humanity also desires to restore His image within us.

And there is another lesson.

A reset can close processes and connections that should no longer be running. Likewise, when we spend sacred time in communion with Christ, He can reveal the connections, habits, distractions, and sins that need to be closed in our lives. The Sabbath is therefore much more than simply not working. It is an invitation to rest in the One who created us.

The Sabbath Was Instituted at Creation

To understand the Sabbath, we must begin where the Bible begins—with Creation.

Genesis tells the beautiful story of God's creative work. Day after day, God spoke and creation responded. Light appeared. The heavens were formed. Dry land emerged. Vegetation sprang forth. The sun, moon, and stars appeared. Animals filled the earth, sea, and sky. Then God created humanity.

After six days of creation, Scripture tells us:

“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.” — Genesis 2:2

Notice something important: God worked, and God rested.

The following verse tells us:

“And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.” — Genesis 2:3

Three things therefore distinguish the seventh day in the Creation account:

God rested on it. God blessed it. God sanctified it.

The Sabbath did not first appear at Mount Sinai. Its foundation reaches all the way back to Creation.

This is significant because Adam and Eve were not Israelites. The nation of Israel did not yet exist. The seventh day was blessed and sanctified at the beginning of human history.

Later, when God wrote His commandments upon stone, the fourth commandment pointed humanity back to Creation:

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” — Exodus 20:8

Why remember it?

Because the Sabbath already had a history.

Before Mount Sinai

Another fascinating example appears in Exodus 16.

The Israelites were traveling through the wilderness when God miraculously provided manna for them. They were instructed to gather it for six days. On the sixth day, they were to gather twice as much because there would be no manna on the seventh day.

Ellen White describes the weekly miracle:

“Every week during their long sojourn in the wilderness the Israelites witnessed a threefold miracle, designed to impress their minds with the sacredness of the Sabbath....” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 296

A double portion appeared on the sixth day, none fell on the seventh, and the portion preserved for the Sabbath remained suitable to eat.

Yet some still went out on the seventh day looking for manna.

God responded:

“How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?” — Exodus 16:28

Notice when this happened. (Exodus 16 comes before Exodus 20.)

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REMEMBER



THE SABBATH



By: Reneé Russell

Continued...

The Ten Commandments had not yet been proclaimed from Mount Sinai and written upon the tables of stone. Yet God was already speaking of His "commandments" and "laws" in connection with Sabbath observance.

The Sabbath was not created by the giving of the stone tablets. Rather, the command at Sinai called God's people to remember something that already existed.

The Sabbath Was a Sign

God later told Israel: "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." — Exodus 31:13

What a beautiful passage.

The Hebrew word translated "sign" is 'oth, carrying the idea of a sign, token, or distinguishing mark. But notice what the Sabbath points toward:

"I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." The Sabbath therefore points beyond the day itself to the God of the Sabbath.

Ellen White beautifully explains: "The Sabbath is a sign of creative and redeeming power; it points to God as the source of life and knowledge; it recalls man's primeval glory, and thus witnesses to God's purpose to re-create us in His own image ..." Education, p. 250

The God who created us is also the God who can re-create us.

We cannot sanctify ourselves. We cannot transform our own hearts. We cannot overcome sin through human strength alone.

The Sabbath points us to the One who can.

What About the Disciples?

One argument sometimes presented for first-day observance is that the disciples gathered together on the first day of the week.

Acts 20:7 records such a gathering: "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them..."

But Christians gathering to worship on a particular day does not, establish that the sacredness of the seventh-day Sabbath was transferred to that day.

Shouldn't Christians worship God every day? 'Sunday night prayer meeting' does not replace the Sabbath.

The relevant question is not whether Christians may worship on Sunday. The question is whether Scripture transfers the blessing and sanctification placed upon the seventh day to the first day. The answer is no.

Acts also records Paul's activity on the Sabbath. Acts 18:4 says:

"And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." The text explicitly says every Sabbath (Sabbaton), and importantly, Paul's audience included both Jews and Greeks.

The New Testament therefore records gatherings on the first day while also recording Paul's repeated Sabbath ministry.

What Does History Tell Us?

Even after the death of Christ, Scripture shows us that the Sabbath continued to be recognized and observed. History also reveals that the Sabbath was observed centuries after the death of Christ, with a gradual shift toward Sunday observance within Christianity occurring in A.D. 321. (March 7, 321 AD-Constantine's Sunday Law, 2023.) The Roman Emperor Constantine issued a civil decree directing many people in the empire to rest on the "venerable day of the Sun." Years later, the Council of Laodicea, in Canon 29, instructed Christians not to rest on the Sabbath but to work on that day and to honor the Lord's Day instead. (Council of Laodicea-364 AD. 2016)

These historical developments are important because they occurred centuries after the ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ. This raises an important question for every Bible student: Where in Scripture did God transfer the sanctity and blessing of the seventh-day Sabbath to the first day of the week? As we examine the Bible, our beliefs should ultimately rest not upon human tradition or ecclesiastical decrees, but upon the Word of God.

Today, many Christians believe that the Sabbath was done away with at the cross and that Sunday became the designated day of worship in honor of Christ's resurrection. However, as we examine Scripture and history, we are invited to consider whether the Bible actually records such a change. Interestingly, the Sabbath appears not only at Creation but also in Isaiah's description of future worship: "And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 66:23). From Creation to the promise of restoration, the Sabbath continues to point us toward the One who created, redeemed, and desires to restore us.

As we conclude, the Sabbath is far more than simply a day of rest—it is a memorial of Creation, a sign of God's sanctifying power, and an invitation to enter into deeper fellowship with our Creator. From the very beginning, God blessed and sanctified the seventh day. Before the law was written on tables of stone, God's people were instructed to recognize its sacredness, and throughout Scripture we continue to see the significance of the Sabbath.

I encourage you not merely to accept what someone else says about the Sabbath—even what is written in this newsletter. Open your Bible. Study the subject for yourself. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Compare Scripture with Scripture.

Our goal should never simply be to defend our denomination or win an argument.

Our desire should be to know Jesus, understand His Word, and willingly follow wherever He leads.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." — John 14:15

*"Sabbath: Pause.
Rest. Remember"*

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDDLETOWN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
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HOPE FOR TODAY. PROMISE FOR TOMORROW.
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...
Matthew 28:19

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Jesus CHANGES EVERYTHING!

In a world filled with uncertainty, God has not left us without answers. Join us for a life-changing Evangelistic Series as we explore the timeless truths of the Bible and discover God's plan for your life. Each evening, you'll gain a deeper understanding of Bible prophecy, salvation through Jesus Christ, the hope of His soon return, and practical principles for living with peace and purpose today.

"God's Word is plain. Its teachings cannot be mistaken. Shall we obey it, just as He has given it to us, or shall we seek to find how far we can digress and yet be saved? Would that all connected with our institutions would receive and follow the divine light, and thus be enabled to transmit light to those who walk in darkness." —Evangelism, p. 271.

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." — Matthew 11:28

Everyone is welcome! Come with an open heart and leave with renewed hope in Jesus Christ. We look forward to worshipping with you and studying God's Word together.

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NATURE FEATURE



MORE ABOUT THE FALCON

Falcons are remarkable birds of prey known for their incredible speed, sharp vision, focus, and powerful flight. The peregrine falcon, for example, can reach tremendous speeds when diving for its prey, while its keen eyesight allows it to spot its target from great distances. These amazing abilities remind us of important lessons in our Christian walk. Just as the falcon rises high above the ground, we can rise above life's challenges when we depend upon God for strength. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles." The falcon's sharp vision also reminds us to keep our spiritual eyes focused on God, while its determined pursuit teaches us to be diligent in the work He has given us to do. Finally, every feature of the falcon—from its strong wings to its sharp talons—has a purpose. In the same way, God has given each of us unique gifts and abilities to be used for His glory and the service of others. The next time you see a falcon soaring through the sky, remember to look to God for strength, keep your spiritual vision clear, remain focused on your purpose, and use the gifts He has given you to serve Him.

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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



MIDDLETOWN SDA CHURCH

**The Lineage Illusion &
The Danger of Silence**
- Claudia Douglas

MESSAGE FROM RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LEADER

"In a highly polarized political season, the temptation within the church pew is often to retreat into silence. We easily convince ourselves that ignoring current events, avoiding civic developments, and refusing to acknowledge the political debate constitutes a form of holy neutrality—a "higher ground" that keeps the church untainted by worldly debate."

Read more on the next page...



THUS SAITH THE LORD...

While those who have yielding temperaments, who have not courage to condemn wrong, but keep silent when their influence is needed to stand in defense of the right against any pressure, may avoid many heartaches and escape many perplexities, they will also lose a very rich reward, if not their own souls. Those who are in harmony with God, and who through faith in Him receive strength to resist wrong and stand in defense of the right, will always have severe conflicts, and will frequently have to stand almost alone. But precious victories will be theirs while they make God their dependence. His grace will be their strength. Their moral sensibility will be keen and clear, and their moral powers will be able to withstand wrong influences. Their integrity, like that of Moses, will be of the purest character.—Testimonies for the Church 3:302.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday

Children's Bible Study: 6:00 PM

Prayer Meeting- 7:00 PM

Apologetics Bible Class- Thur. 7 PM



September 2026



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



By: Claudia Douglas

The Lineage Illusion & The Danger of Silence

I. The Dangers of Silence: Rebutting the "False Higher Ground"

In a highly polarized political season, the temptation within the church pew is often to retreat into silence. We easily convince ourselves that ignoring current events, avoiding civic developments, and refusing to acknowledge the political debate constitutes a form of holy neutrality—a "higher ground" that keeps the church untainted by worldly debate.

Prophetic history, however, reveals this mindset to be a dangerous deception. Remaining silent when the foundational pillars of religious liberty are systematically repositioned is not attaining a higher spiritual plane; it is a direct failure of our scriptural duty as watchmen. God leaves no room for passive neutrality, declaring in Ezekiel 3:17, "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me." This mandate requires a continuous, unyielding presence on the front lines of advocacy, a reality echoed in Isaiah 62:6: "I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent."

Therefore, true preparation means sounding the alarm, planning, and remaining vigilant. The true "higher ground" is never found in spiritual sleep or passive compliance, but in actively standing for truth while resolutely refusing to adopt the world's hostile, competitive, and vindictive methods. Therefore, true preparation means sounding the alarm, planning, and remaining vigilant. The true "higher ground" is never found in spiritual sleep or passive compliance, but in actively standing for truth while resolutely refusing to adopt the world's hostile, competitive, and vindictive methods.

II. The National Pulse: The Erosion of the Wall

To understand why the watchmen must speak now, we only need to look at the national pulse documented in the 2026 issues of Liberty Magazine. This year, the national religious liberty landscape has shifted in unprecedented ways. The Presidential Religious Liberty Commission released a massive 224-page report attempting to fundamentally redefine the First Amendment. Instead of upholding Thomas Jefferson's historic "wall of separation between church and state," the commission officially introduced a new framework: replacing the wall with a "bridge" designed to allow the state to fund and promote majority-religious initiatives.

At the same time, pressure has mounted through proposals like the Heritage Foundation's Saving America by Saving the Family brief, which openly advocates a national Sunday rest law. These are not mere abstract legal theories; they are concrete efforts to use state power to enforce what they deem religious practice. When the state begins defining religious practices and mandating when and how to worship God, individual consciences are always the first casualties. As Ed Guthero (Guthero, 2026) recently warned in his Liberty feature, "A Tale of Two Symbols," weaponizing the cross of Christ by binding it to nationalistic agendas strips the gospel of its meaning, transforming a symbol of grace into an instrument of earthly coercion.

III. The Ancient Deception: Lineage Over Character

This modern drive to enforce religious compliance through civil law reflects the same ancient spirit Ellen G. White describes in Chapter 51 of *The Desire of Ages*, "The Light of Life."

Standing in the temple courtyard under the morning sun, the Pharisees aggressively confronted Christ, building their entire defense on institutional legacy: "*We are Abraham's descendants and were never in bondage to any man.*" They believed their historical heritage, their denominational name, and their theological lineage granted them automatic spiritual immunity. Christ completely dismantled their pride by declaring, "I am the light of the world." He showed them that true connection with God is never inherited through lineage, nor can it be legislated by state decree. As the Spirit of Prophecy sharply reminds us, descent from Abraham is proved not by name or lineage, but by likeness of character. The Pharisees were slaves to malice and revenge, even as they boasted of their freedom.

IV. The True Remedy: How to Prepare

How then are we to prepare for the gathering crisis in this political season? Liberty Magazine and the Spirit of Prophecy offer a combined remedy that stands in stark contrast to the world's strategies.

First, we must reject political entanglements. Christ's method of engagement was entirely non-coercive. As *The Desire of Ages* points out, "In the work of redemption there is no compulsion. No external force is employed." The Great Commission is a call to invite the individual human heart, not a mandate to seize political dominion or cultural control. As Ellen White writes in *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 475: "The Lord would have His people bury political questions... Let political questions alone."

Second, we must become "Ambassadors of Peace." True preparation means moving out of the arena of partisan shouting matches and into the arena of Christlike service. We cannot deliver the Three Angels' Messages with a spirit of division. As we are warned in *Testimonies*, Vol. 5: "A spirit of division and contention is of the devil... When the workers are unified, when they possess the love of Christ, the truth will have power to convert souls."

Third, we must defend the "Soul Liberty" of all people. If our religious freedom is rooted in Christ's character, we must mimic His character by protecting the conscience of our neighbors, our workplace colleagues, and religious minorities—even those with whom we fundamentally disagree doctrinally.

V. Conclusion: Walking in the Light

True freedom will never be secured by a legislative bill, a supreme court ruling, or a political party. A forced conscience is an insult to the Creator. To walk in the "Light of Life" this September, the Middletown church family must step away from partisan strife, refuse the false security of spiritual silence, and seek the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. When our personal character reflects the self-sacrificing love of Jesus, we provide the ultimate defense for religious liberty—a living testimony that true freedom can only be found in Him.



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



By: Claudia Douglas



SIDEBAR FEATURE: THE WATCHMAN'S CALL

The Scriptural Mandate:

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me." — Ezekiel 3:17

"I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent." — Isaiah 62:6

The Prophetic Echo:

"Let the watchmen now lift up their voice, and give the message which is present truth for this time. Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history." — Ellen G. White (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5)

The Editorial Reminder:

True "higher ground" during a high-stakes political season is never found in spiritual sleep or passive silence. It is found in actively standing for liberty while refusing to adopt the hostile, vindictive methods of the world.

Further Reading List

Further Reading List

I. Biblical Foundations

The Watchman's Mandate: Ezekiel 3:17 ("Son of man, I have made you a watchman...")

The Continual Vigilance: Isaiah 62:6 ("I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem...")

The Ambassador's Commission: 2 Corinthians 5:20 ("Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ...")

The Peacemaker's Blessing: Matthew 5:9 ("Blessed are the peacemakers...")

II. Spirit of Prophecy (Ellen G. White)

The Desire of Ages, Chapter 51, "The Light of Life" (Pages 463–475).

Core thematic focus: Connection with God is shown by likeness of character, not name or lineage. True redemption utilizes no force or compulsion.

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, "The Approaching Conflict" (Pages 711–718).

Core thematic focus: The danger of keeping silent while God's commandments are trodden underfoot; the call for watchmen to lift their voices; the warning that a spirit of division is from the enemy.

Fundamentals of Christian Education, Chapter 65, "To Teachers and Students" (Page 475).

Core thematic focus: The directive to bury political questions and let political platforms alone during seasons of public agitation.

The Great Controversy, Chapter 16, "The Pilgrim Fathers" (Page 293).

Core thematic focus: Defining soul liberty and the principle that the dictates of conscience are entirely independent of human laws

III. Contemporary National & Regional Publications (2026)

Liberty Magazine (March/April 2026 Issue) — "Breaking the Chains of Sunday Laws" by Michael W. Campbell / "Should America 'Stop in the Name of God'?" by Jonathon Cherne. Analysis of local and national Sunday blue law revivals and the Heritage Foundation family policy briefs.

Liberty Magazine (May/June 2026 Issue) — "The Wall vs. The Bridge: Redefining the First Amendment" by Bettina Krause.

Review of the Presidential Religious Liberty Commission's 224-page report proposing state funding changes.

Liberty Magazine (July/August 2026 Issue) — "A Tale of Two Symbols: The Cross, the Flag, and Coercion" by Ed Guthero. Critique of Christian Nationalism and the spiritual dangers of weaponizing faith symbols for cultural dominance.

Middletown SDA Church Newsletter (May 2026 Edition) — "The National Jubilee of Prayer and the Church-State Grid" by Claudia Douglas. **Middletown SDA Church Newsletter (July 2026 Edition)** — "Civil Discourse in a Divided Culture: Wisdom for Today's Crisis" by Claudia Douglas.

The Special Gift of the Sabbath

Memory Verse:

"Remember the sabbath day,
to keep it holy."
Exodus 20:8

The Day Noah Almost Missed



Noah loved Saturdays, but lately he had started thinking of Sabbath as a list of things he couldn't do. One Friday evening, Noah remembered a new game he had been waiting all week to play. "Why can't I play it tomorrow?" he asked his dad. "Does keeping the Sabbath just mean I can't have fun?"

Dad smiled. "Noah, imagine I bought you a special gift, but you were so busy with other things that you never opened it. How would you know what was inside?" "I wouldn't," Noah replied.

"The Sabbath is one of God's gifts to us," Dad explained. "For six days we have school, work, chores, shopping, games and many other things. But God set apart the seventh day and said, 'Remember.' He wants us to put ordinary things aside and enjoy special time with Him."



Noah went to church and learned a new Bible verse.



After lunch, his family took a nature walk and talked about Creation.



Later, they delivered a meal to an elderly neighbor who was sick.



As the sun began to set, Noah smiled. "I think I understand. Sabbath isn't just about what I don't do. It's about remembering Who the day belongs to!"

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words. Then use the numbered letters to discover the words.

1. HTBASAB

God's special seventh day

1

2. TSER

What God did on the seventh day

2

3. ROTCREA

God made the heavens and earth

3

4. HSWORIP

Something we do to honor God

4

5. YLOH

God made the Sabbath this

5

6. BEMREMRE

The first word of the fourth commandment

6

7. HTNESEV

Which day is the Sabbath?

7

Sabbath Word Search

Find the 10 hidden words.

S	A	B	B	A	T	H	M	P	C
F	J	K	L	N	Q	W	D	R	R
S	E	V	E	N	T	H	B	A	E
M	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	Y	A
W	U	B	I	B	L	E	N	E	T
O	S	T	P	Q	M	D	F	R	O
R	L	H	O	L	Y	G	J	K	R
S	O	N	M	V	C	X	Z	B	P
H	V	R	E	S	T	L	Q	W	D
I	E	J	E	S	U	S	F	G	H
P	T	Y	U	I	O	P	A	S	D

Word List:

- SABBATH
- JESUS
- REST
- HOLY
- CREATOR
- WORSHIP
- SEVENTH
- PRAYER
- LOVE
- BIBLE

Think About It

- Why do you think God tells us to "remember" the Sabbath?

- What is one special thing you can do next Sabbath to spend time with Jesus?

My Sabbath Plan

Draw or write three things you would like to do with Jesus next Sabbath.



Sabbath Truth

The Sabbath isn't simply about stopping our work. It is God's special invitation to stop, remember our Creator, worship Him, serve others, and enjoy time with Jesus.

"And God blessed the seventh day,
and sanctified it."
Genesis 2:3



TESTIMONY



FRANZ HASEL: FAITHFUL IN THE MIDST OF WAR



Franz Hasel was a 40-year-old Seventh-day Adventist, husband, and father of three when he was drafted into the German army in 1939 and assigned to Pioneer Company 699, a unit responsible for constructing roads, bridges, and fortifications near the front lines. Although he wore the German uniform, Hasel opposed the Nazi ideology and faced an enormous conflict between military expectations and his commitment to God's commandments (Mundy, 2001). As a conscientious objector, he desired to preserve life rather than take it. Before being sent deep into Russia, he secretly discarded his firearm, fearing that circumstances might lead him to kill, and carried a wooden replica in his holster instead.

His convictions also extended to the seventh-day Sabbath. Accounts of his life describe Hasel openly identifying himself as a Sabbath-keeping Christian and requesting that the sacred hours of Saturday be respected—an extraordinary request in an army preparing for war. His beliefs initially brought ridicule from his superiors and fellow soldiers, who called him names such as “Bible reader,” yet over time his conduct earned respect. His faith was not limited to what he refused to do: while advancing into Russia, Hasel reportedly risked his own life to warn people that SS death squads were approaching (Mundy, 2001).

Franz Hasel's testimony beautifully illustrates that keeping God's commandments is most meaningful when obedience becomes difficult. In an environment where taking life, working without regard for Sabbath, and unquestioning obedience to human authority were expected, he sought to remain faithful to a higher authority. His experience reminds us that honoring the Sabbath is more than attending church when it is convenient; it is choosing to recognize God's sacred time even when doing so carries a cost. Likewise, his determination not to kill demonstrated his conviction that every human life has value before God. His story challenges us to ask ourselves: If remaining faithful to God's commandments became difficult or unpopular, would we still choose obedience?

His remarkable story is recorded by his daughter Susi Hasel Mundy in *A Thousand Shall Fall*, which describes the Hasel family's determination to practice their Adventist faith under Nazi rule.

Citations

Mundy, S. H. (2001). *A thousand shall fall: The electrifying story of a soldier and his family who dared to practice their faith in Hitler's Germany*. Review and Herald Publishing Association. [Google Books record](#)
Scriptures Illustrator. (2025, October 24). *The soldier who kept the Sabbath in WW2* [Video]. YouTube.

Thank you for reading!

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