

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 . . . . 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."<sup>154</sup>

In their book, Questions On Doctrine, the Seventh-day Adventists also say:

We hold the firm conviction that millions of devout Christians of all faiths throughout all past centuries as well as those today who are sincerely trusting in Christ their Saviour for salvation and are following Him according to their best light, are unquestionably saved. Thousands of such went to the stake as martyrs for Christ and for their faith. Moreover, untold numbers of godly Roman Catholics will surely be included. God reads the heart and deals with the intent and the understanding. These are among His "other sheep" (John 10:16). He makes no mistake. The Biblical principle is clear: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17).<sup>155</sup>

This is definitely incompatible with the Biblical teaching about sin, for the Bible teaches that those who violate the law of God in any way are guilty of sin.

In First John 3:4 we read, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."<sup>156</sup>

In this passage the Greek phrase *πᾶς ὁ ποιοῦν τὴν ἁμαρτίαν* which is translated "Whosoever committeth sin" should be translated "everyone

<sup>154</sup>Ibid., p. 184.

<sup>155</sup>Ibid., pp. 184, 185.

<sup>156</sup>I John 3:4.