

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

Faculty Publications

5-1-1972

Insight

C. Mervyn Maxwell
Andrews University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs>



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Practical Theology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Maxwell, C. Mervyn, "Insight" (1972). *Faculty Publications*. 3899.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/3899>

This Popular Press is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.

Q. Tell me more about Catholics going to mass on Saturday. Is it possible that after two thousand years of opposition to the Sabbath, Catholics are now going to start advocating Sabbathkeeping? I can't believe it.

A. Catholics have, when they chose, attended mass on Saturdays for a long time. The difference now is that a mass is being provided on Saturdays which takes the place of the obligatory Sunday mass.

Catholic holy days, much like Bible holy days, officially begin at vespers the night before; hence, for example, we have "Christmas Eve."

The Saturday mass which may now in some dioceses take the place of Sunday mass is celebrated after vespers with the vestments and liturgy of a Sunday mass. Thus it is not a Sabbath mass at all but an extra-early Sunday mass.

Q. Why is our wonderful country in such distress? Not to mention all the crime and violence, when Mr. Nixon announced his wage-and-price freeze, most of us rallied behind him for a while and pulled together, but soon we were pulling apart again even on that issue. It seems we want to cooperate as a single people, but something keeps us from doing it. I've read various analyses, of course, but I'd like to hear your opinion.

A. See if these phrases from Isaiah 24 give you any insight. "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down. . . . It shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; . . . as with the buyer, so with the seller. . . . The earth . . . is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed

the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant" (verses 1-5).

Isaiah of course, as an Old Testament prophet, is discussing the impending defeat and deportation of his own nation in the eighth century B.C., but our national greatness today is also being turned upside down, desolated and defeated by our own violence, insolence, drug addiction, and downright self-seeking.

Our psychologists have urged permissiveness even though God says to teach children, "Honour thy father and thy mother." Many of our theologians have told us that Jesus annulled the Ten Commandments, even though He Himself said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law" (Matthew 5:17).

A nation is no better than its citizens. If our "priests" teach successive generations of our "people" to disregard God's laws, how can we expect to find respect for our national laws? What President can be great enough to lead a nation of individuals determined not to follow anything but their own inclinations?

If we would observe the Bible standard, "Loyalty to God and neighbor based on a relationship of love," how soon apathy would give way to a sense of national mission, and do-your-own-thing attitudes yield to coast-to-coast cooperation and worldwide leadership!

Q. I am a Filipino by birth, but naturalized as an American. I desire to return to the Philippines for a few years, but I have been told that if I do so I will lose my American citizenship. Is this true?

A. It was true until 1964, but it is now true no longer—thanks to a Mrs. Schneider, the U.S.

Supreme Court, and the Fourteenth Amendment.

When Mrs. Schneider, born in Germany and naturalized in the United States, returned to her homeland and stayed there longer than the three-year limit permitted at the time, her U.S. passport was revoked. She appealed to the Supreme Court, and that body ruled (Schneider v. Rusk) that since naturalized citizens are guaranteed the same rights as native citizens, they have equal privileges of living abroad without losing their papers.

Q. LIBERTY, with its references to the Sabbath-Sunday problem, is an irritant—like sand in a hiker's shoe. Your magazine has a number of very good articles, but please do not send it any more. I am sure Sunday is the Christian Sabbath because I believe God changed the day and because of the witness of the Spirit in my heart. Please "preach the Word."

A. Thank you for the dignified tone of your entire letter, only a part of which is reprinted here. Not all the letters I get are so kind!

You are a Bible-believing Protestant. Let me ask you a question. Millions of our Catholic friends believe the Bible teaches that Mary and the saints intercede for them in heaven, and many can testify that the Spirit has given them personal experiences with the saints. Do you believe that this "feeling and believing" makes it so? As a Protestant, wouldn't you say it is better to stay by the Word?

The Sabbath of God's Word is a thing of exquisite beauty—and by God's grace could become such in your life. Remember that God's little oyster makes a pearl out of an irritating grain of sand.