

A person is lying on their back in a grassy field, looking up at a vibrant sunset. The sky is filled with warm, orange and pink hues. The person's silhouette is visible against the bright light. In the background, there are some trees and a fence. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Sabbath

Annual Council 2024

Félix H. Cortez, Andrews University

Photo by Anton Darius on Unsplash

SHIELD

Protects



GIFT

*Embodies the
gospel*



MARK

Sanctifies

Shield

When I keep the
Sabbath, I affirm that
God is **a God of love.**



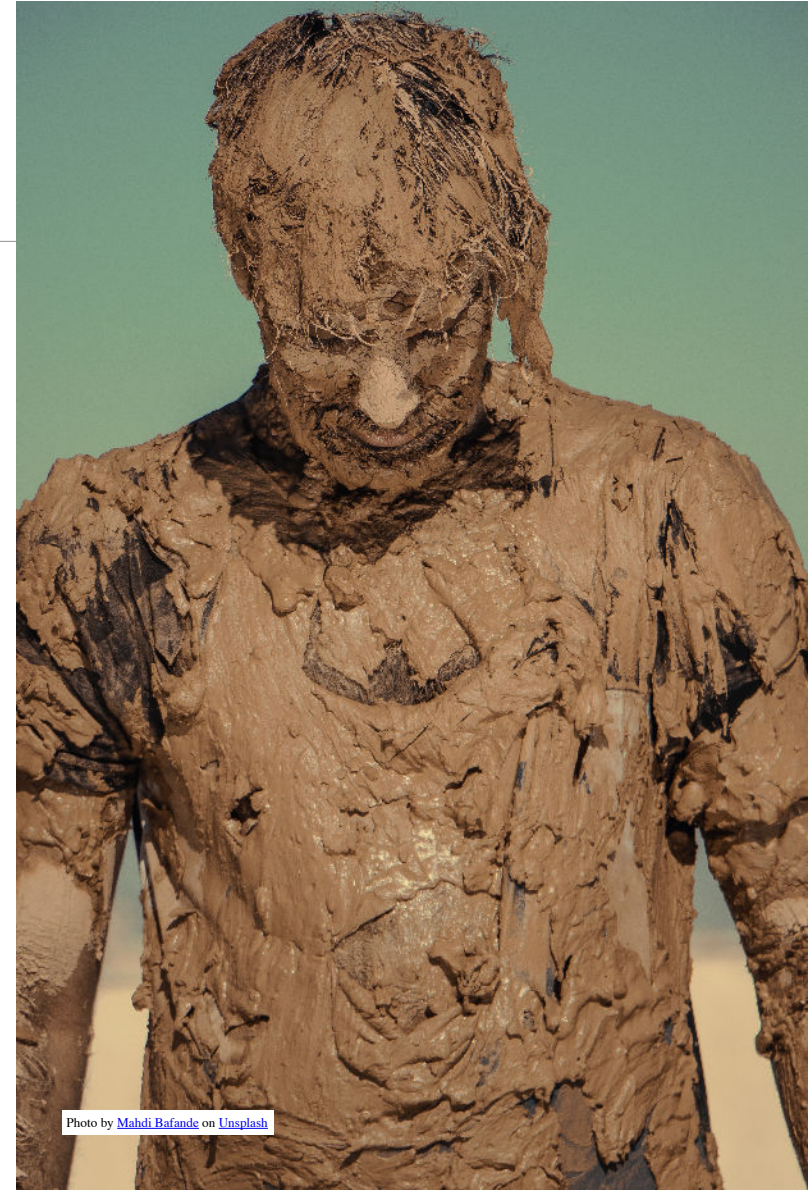
Shield

Sabbath protects me from
a wrong view of God so
that I don't have a wrong
view of myself.



Shield

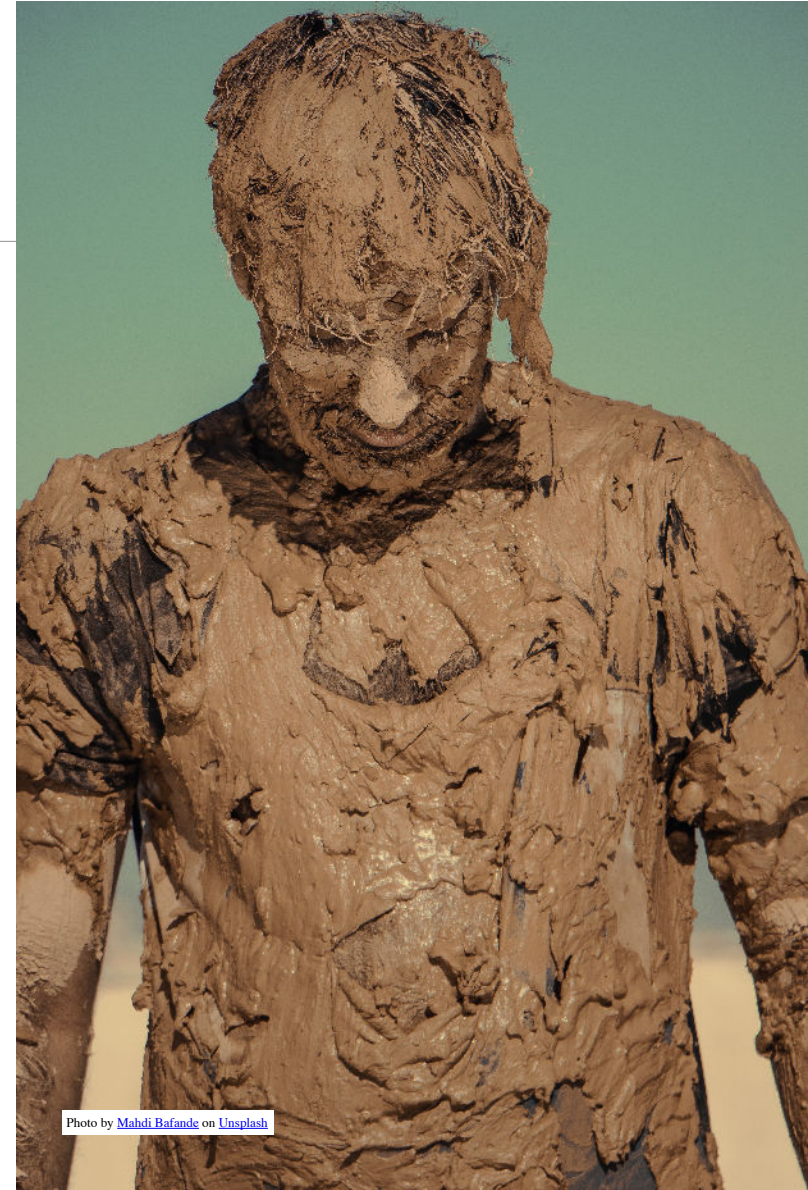
When I keep the
Sabbath, I affirm that
God is **a God of Grace.**



Shield

Sabbath protects me from
Salvation by works

so that I can focus on
blessing others.



Shield

When I keep the
Sabbath, I affirm that
**relationships are more
important than things.**



Shield

Sabbath protects me from
idolatry,
so that being liberated from
the tyranny of materialism, I
may truly live.



Shield

When I keep the Sabbath,
I affirm the **primacy of**
Scripture as a source of
truth.



Photo by [Ben White](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Shield

Sabbath protects me from the
distorting lenses of the theory
of evolution, which, in the final
analysis, suggests the scary
thought that right and wrong
should be defined by the need
for survival.



Photo by [Ben White](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Gift

This gift is not only a memorial of a wonderful past now lost, but also an implicit promise of future restoration.



Gift

The Sabbath concretizes
for us the experience of
salvation and anticipates
the joys of the rest in the
promised Land.



Identification Mark

The Sabbath as an identification mark expresses the essence of who we are as children of God.



Identification Mark

As children of God, we bear
His name, not a mark.



Photo by Senjuti Kundu on Unsplash

Goods are marked, cattle are marked.
Human beings are generally not marked,
but are the bearers of names. A person's
name serves to locate that person in the
context of natural family and community
and also to identify him or her as this one
and no other.

But to bear the beast's mark and name is to be robbed of such identifying traits. In the beast's economy, I can buy and sell only to the extent that I am myself bought and sold (cf. 18:13). I am in principle exchangeable with any other (Mangina, *Revelation*, 165).

Identification Mark

The Sabbath epitomizes the tension between our present condition and our future hope.



Identification Mark

The genuine experience of Sabbath observance confirms the authenticity of the experience of the gospel.





When the people of God experience the Sabbath
as a memorial of what God has already done for
them ...



... and as a foretaste of what He will do for them, ...



...they have experienced the gospel, they know that they have been sanctified.

SHIELD

Protects



GIFT

*Embodies the
gospel*



MARK

Sanctifies