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## Book Notice

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du Preez, Ron. *Sabbath Put to Rest: A Scriptural Study of Colossians 2:16*. Weimar, CA: Omega Media, 2007.

Ron du Preez (ThD, DMin) has given us what is surely the most detailed treatment of Col 2:16 by any author. The book is not long (vi, 91), but it is exhaustive in its treatment of the topic. It has appeared in different forms previously and is currently being reworked for use as a dissertation for a PhD program.

The thrust of du Preez' position is that the phrase "feasts, new moons, and sabbaths" in Col 2:16 is not a yearly, monthly, weekly progression based on intuition as we initially read the passage. It is a yearly, monthly, yearly ABA chiasm based on Paul's frequent use of the book of Hosea. In Hos 2:11 "feasts" refers to the joyous yearly pilgrim festivals, "new moons" is self explanatory, and "sabbaths" refers to the solemn days of Trumpets and Atonement late in the year. By "pilgrim festivals" du Preez means the Feast of Unleavened Bread connected with Passover, the Feast of Harvest (Pentecost), and the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles) (see p. 73).

My understanding is that, by referencing annual festivals and annual sabbaths on the one hand, and in between these the monthly observances that connect them, as it were, Paul is offering an overview of major events that characterize the Jewish ceremonial year. He is referring to the Jewish way of life, as seen from a ceremonial point of view. The key word here is "Jewish." Paul's argument is that people don't have to become Jews in order to be Christians. I suggest that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath properly falls outside the scope of such an argument. It is no more Jewish than marriage. Both of these institutions (the seventh-day Sabbath and marriage) come down to us, not from Judaism, but from the Garden of Eden, long before the time when Jews become distinct from other people groups. The annual pilgrim festivals, monthly celebrations, and annual year-end sabbaths, by contrast, are all very clearly and distinctively Jewish. So in this context, what du Preez sees in Col 2:16 is exactly what we would expect to see – annual and monthly observances, but not the weekly seventh-day Sabbath.

The ten chapters of du Preez' book are short. Each chapter begins with a challenge to the author's position followed by detailed reasons why the challenge does not bear scrutiny. At every step the author encourages his readers to take a closer look at what the text actually says. We need more books like this. This is heavy research, but not a heavy read. I had a hard time putting it down. Highly recommended.

*Sabbath Put to Rest* is being sold through Adventist Book Centers, but if it is not available at the one nearest you, contact the publisher directly at P.O. Box 486; Weimar, CA 95736. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find a web address for Omega Media, but you could send e-mail inquiries to the author at [faithethics@yahoo.com](mailto:faithethics@yahoo.com). To locate an Adventist Book Center use [http://www.adventistbookcenter.com/ABC\\_Locator.tpl](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com/ABC_Locator.tpl).