

THE LORD'S DAY

Why was the Lord's Day changed from Saturday to Sunday? How did Sunday worship evolve? Did God declare such a change?

I would like to encourage and exhort you today to search the scriptures for yourself on this issue and not just believe what has been taught for so many years. Search the scriptures and find out what God has to say.

Many people, and I was the same way at one time, do not even know what it means to "*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.*" I was always taught that Sunday was the Sabbath of the Lord. I was to remember it and keep it holy. Many people today have not been taught any differently. However, as I studied the word of God, I saw that it clearly shows the Sabbath to be the seventh day, beginning Friday at dusk and ending on Saturday dusk.

I have found absolutely no scriptural evidence to support a change from the seventh day (or Sabbath) worship to a first day (Sunday) worship.

Three Reasons

There are basically three reasons that have been given in the past for such a change. One of these reasons was opposition to and separation from the Jewish faith. We find this to be inconsistent with the word of God in that all of us as God's people are now spiritual Jews. According to the word of God we have become children of Abraham through the blood of Jesus Christ and heirs to the promises which belong to God's chosen people, the Jews. Opposing the Jewish faith is to go against God.

The second reason that was given for the change from Saturday to Sunday worship, and this is the one most commonly cited today, is that Sunday (or the first day) is the day of Jesus' resurrection. As such, we are now to celebrate and worship on the day Jesus was resurrected. According to God's word, there is no evidence to support this. We find that none of the apostles (in their epistles) dealt with changing to a first day or Sunday worship.

Another argument often used today for worshipping on Sunday instead of Saturday is that we are not under the law anymore. The Scripture used many times to support that we are not under the law is Acts 15, which deals with what the apostles told the Gentiles to do: *"That they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood."* (Acts 15:20) The Gentiles did not need to be observing all the ceremonial laws.

Note here that we are not under the law; we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone, apart from the works of the law. However, we see an inconsistency in using this argument, *"We are not under the law now."* If the Gentiles were only to *"abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood,"* then why did Paul exhort the believers at Corinth not to commit adultery, not to be involved in fornication or drunkenness, and not to be involved in other things such as gossip? In Ephesians 4 believers were warned about lying and stealing. Through Paul and other teachers of the day, God is explicitly exhorting the people to keep His commandments. They have faith in Jesus, and now they are saved, but as James puts it, *"Faith without works is dead."* What are the works? The works are the keeping of God's law. God is explicitly exhorting the people to keep His commandments.

The argument goes on to say that there are only two commandments now -- one is to love God and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. It is true that Jesus said that, and it is fine to point it out. However, we see that Jesus was quoting two Old Testament scriptures -- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18. In Matthew 5:19 Jesus clearly says that the commandments of God have not been done away with; they still stand.

Established by God

The seventh day Sabbath is specifically the one that still stands; all the ceremonial Sabbaths have been done away with. The seventh day (Saturday) is to be observed (unknowingly observed by most Christians on the first day [Sunday]). At creation the seventh day Sabbath was established before the law was given. The Lord, by His own finger, also included it in the Ten Commandments. **Exodus 20** No scripture supports

a change from Saturday to Sunday worship. If so, how did the change come about? You will find this very interesting!

Flying was not considered possible 200 years ago. People would have thought it ridiculous, but it is a common thing today. In a similar way, if marriage was done away with, in 200 years it would not even be considered. In such a society, people would do whatever they wanted because their granddad did it that way, their dad did it that way, and now they are doing it that way. They don't know any differently.

People don't know how the change from Sabbath worship to Sunday worship happened. I think it is important for the body of Christ to study the history of how the change came about. How did it come to be that we now worship God on Sunday?

We have noted that there is absolutely no evidence in the Old or New Testament for the change from Saturday to Sunday. In fact, we see the apostles and everyone else observing the Sabbath. If God did not change it, who did? If we were to go back through history, we would find the answer simply and clearly. We are not condemning any people today who are involved in any particular fellowship. However, we want to get to the truth about how this change came about. The change from the Sabbath (Saturday) was not made by God but by the Roman Catholic Church.

Observations by Socrates, Sosaman and Webster

Socrates, a Greek church historian of the fifth century, wrote, "Almost all churches throughout the world celebrate the sacred mysteries on the Sabbath of every week. Yet the Christians of Alexandria and at Rome on account of the same ancient tradition have ceased to do this."

In other words, this change was not made by the apostles. In fact, the early church was observing the Sabbath (Saturday) up and through the fifth century. The Christians of Alexandria and Rome had ceased to do it. This is found in *Ecclesiastical History*, verse 21 and 22 in a select library of Nicene and post-Nicene fathers, the second series, volume 22, page 132.

Sosaman was another church historian of the fifth century. He wrote, "The people of Constantinople (or the Eastern Catholic Church)

almost everywhere assemble together on the Sabbath as well as on the first day of the week, which custom is never observed at Rome or at Alexandria." We see a division even within the early church at that point. The Eastern Catholic Church observed worship on the Sabbath as well as the first day of the week through the fifth century. In other words, they observed a Sabbath worship on Saturday as well as a worship on Sunday. "Which custom (writes Sosaman) is never observed at Rome or Alexandria." The Western Church had divided, stopped what they had been doing, and made a change. This is found in *Ecclesiastical History*, in a select library of Nicene and post-Nicene fathers, second series, volume 2, page 390.

How did this change come about? The early Christians had at first adopted the Jewish seven day week with its numbered weekdays. "By the close of the third century A.D., this began to give way to the planetary week. This is what we now know as -- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. In the fourth and fifth centuries the pagan designation became generally accepted in the western half of Christendom. The use of the planetary names by Christians attest to the growing influence of astrological speculations which were introduced by converts from paganism. During these same centuries, the spread of the oriental solar worship (especially that of Mythra, the Persian sun worship) in the Roman world had already lead to the substitution by pagans of the day of solas for day of saturny as the first day of the planetary week. Thus gradually a pagan institution was engrafted into Christianity." We find this on page 220 and 221 of *Rest Days*, by Hutton Webster. Apparently up through the fifth and sixth centuries, Sabbath was still being observed in the eastern part of Christianity. However, in the western part (centered around Rome and Alexandria) the change had come. They had already dropped the Sabbath and were worshipping solely on Sunday.

What was the motivation for such a change?

Confusion Produced

It was a compromise of God's word in order not to disturb the practice of pagan people. Sunday was the day of pagan worship. In addition, it was hoped that they would simply change from worshipping

false gods to worshipping Jesus. Did it work? No. In fact, it created confusion about whether the Christians were now worshipping the sun god.

Another early historian, Tertullian, wrote, "Others with greater regard to good manners, it must be confessed, suppose that the sun is the god of the Christian because it is a well known fact that we pray toward the east and because we make Sunday a day of festivity. What then, do you do less than this? Do not many among you with an affection of sometimes worshipping the heavenly bodies likewise move your lips in the direction of the sunrise? It is you, at all events, who have even admitted the sun into the calendar of the week and you have selected its day, Sunday, in preference to the preceding day (which we know is the Sabbath) as the most suitable day of the week. Now by resorting to these customs you deliberately deviate from your own religious rites to those of strangers [or the pagans]." This is found in *Ad Nations*, i-13, in the Ante-Nicene fathers, volume 3, page 123.

We see that the Christian practices were confusing the pagans. The pagans thought the Christians had now become pagans because they had taken Sunday as the day of festivity and worship, and they had changed the calendar so that instead of going with God's order of the first day, second day, third day, fourth day, etc., they had now changed to the pagan designations of Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, etc., all in benefit of pagan gods. The tactic of changing the day made the pagans think that the Christians had become pagans.

Decrees by Constantine and the Catholic Church

If it created confusion, why did the change to Sunday continue? It was put into civil law by Constantine in 321 A.D. and into church law by the popes of Rome. "On the venerable day of the sun, let the magistrates and the people residing in cities rest." This is the civil law that was set up by Constantine in 321 A.D. "Let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits because it often happens that another day is not suitable for grain sowing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost. (Given the

seventh day of March, Crispus, and Constantine being consuls each of them for the second time.)" This is found in the *Codex Justinianus*, library 3, Title 12-3, translated by Philip Schaff, D.D. It is found in *The History of the Christian Church* (the 7-vol. edition), 1902, Volume 3, page 380.

Constantine was the emperor of Rome from 306-337 A.D. He himself was a sun worshipper in the first years of his reign and later professed a conversion to Christianity. However, it is noted that in his practices it was apparent he was still an admirer of the sun god, Apollo. He made into civil law, or public law, that Sunday was declared to be a day set aside for rest.

Who gave the Catholic Church authority to change God's Sabbath to Sunday? God did not. They did it themselves! On this subject *The Converts' Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, which received the Apostolic Blessing of Pope Pius X, on January 25, 1910, stated -- "Questions: Which is the Sabbath day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea 336 A.D. transferred the solemnity or the holiness from Saturday to Sunday." Second edition, page 50.

A Doctrinal Catechism, by Rev. Kennan, approved by Most Rev. John Hughes, D.D., Archbishop of New York, states, "Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept or commandment? Answer: Had she not such a power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her. She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no scriptural authority."

In their own writings, the Catholic Church says it had the power to change the worship on Sabbath to Sunday by papal decree. It is substantiated here. They even said that there was no scriptural authority to do so. The only way they could do it was because they (the church) had the right to change the authority of scriptures.

In An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine, by Reverend Henry Tuberville of Douay College, France, the following, "Question: How prove you that the church has power to command feasts and holy days, or

establish new laws and regulations? Answer: By the very act of changing the Sabbath to Sunday which Protestants allow us. And therefore, they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church. Question: How do you prove that? Answer: Because by keeping Sunday, the (Protestants) acknowledge the Catholic Church's power to ordain feasts and to command them under sin. And by not keeping the rest of the feast days, by her commanded, they again deny in fact the same power." Page 58.

We see that all of the reformers recognized that the commandments of God still stood. Yet when it came to the issue of the Sabbath, the fourth commandment, to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, there was a change.

Compromise Revealed

Even the Catholic Church, who made the change by the pope's decree, say they hold the Protestants in account on this very issue. Here is a quotation from a document entitled, "Why Don't You Keep the Sabbath Day?" from the *Library of Christian Doctrine*, pages 3 and 4. This was written by the Catholic Church in response to the Protestants breaking away from the Catholic Church, as to what was going on in the Protestant movement. "If the Catholic Church, and not an ordinance of God, made the change from Saturday to Sunday, why did the Protestant movement not change it back to the seventh-day Sabbath in accordance with God's law which all Protestant reformers stand by as not being done away with?"

(That is the question. Why didn't the Protestants change it back to the way it was supposed to be?) Answer: They did not want to change the people's way of thinking and pattern of life even though God's word called that change to take place. They compromised in the Sabbath area what they fought so hard for in other areas -- to get back to doing what the bible says. The Catholic Church noted the fallacy of the Protestant thought in this area concerning the Sabbath.

"You tell me that Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, but the Christian Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed, but by whom? Who has the authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, 'Ye shall keep holy the seventh day,' who

shall dare to say, 'no, you may work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day, but you shall keep holy the first day instead'? This is a most important question." (This quotation was from the Catholic Church, who had changed the Sabbath to Sunday, speaking to the Protestants. They were showing their disregard for the Protestant movement because the Protestants said they professed "Bible, bible, nothing but bible" and yet in practice they did not go back to establish the Sabbath the way God had set it up originally. Instead they went with papal decree.)

Back to the quotation: "This is a most important question which I know not how you can answer. You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the bible and the bible only, yet in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day, you go against the plain letter of the bible and put another day in the place of that day which the bible has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the Ten Commandments. You believe that nine are still binding. Who gave you the authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your principles, if you really follow the bible and the bible only, you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered." This is from the article, "Why Don't You Keep the Sabbath," from the *Library of Christian Doctrine*, pages 3 and 4.

The Catholic Church wrote to the Protestants holding them accountable for what they were doing concerning the Sabbath. The Catholic Church viewed themselves as being the only ones with the authority to change a command of God. The Protestants had no right. If the Protestants were going to go on with this change from God's clear commandment, then the Catholic Church figured that they should go with all of the other papal decrees, instead of casting them aside.

General Observations and Conclusions

The seventh day Sabbath is God's holy day by God's command, and He has not changed it. No man or church body has the right to change God's commands. Any alteration by man is an abomination before God.

Even today's Sunday worship is not pleasing to God when people are not setting aside the entire day for God's word, worship and rest. Instead they are using the day for their own pleasure as soon as they get out of church. For us, as God's people, to be obedient to His call to holiness and to receive the fullness of His plan for us, we need to honor the Lord of the Sabbath on His Sabbath.

Our salvation is not dependent on keeping the Sabbath, but our salvation is depended on Jesus alone. However, Jesus said, *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."* We can worship God every day, but God has established the seventh day and declared it holy. A Saturday or Sabbath rest to Him is God's command to us. In Matthew 15, Jesus said, *"In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."* Teaching for doctrine that Sunday is the Sabbath day on which to worship instead of going back to the way God intended it to be is vain worship.

We believe that the Sabbath is going to be a point of contention in these last days. It will be a point of contention among God's true people, the world, and carnal believers.

The question always comes, "Why is no one in the Christian Church really acting upon this yet?" This question is answered in Revelations 14:6-12, where the Lord tells us that this will be a message just before the coming of the beast and the mark of the beast. We are in the last days, and the message concerning worship and holiness has already begun in the body of Christ. Even now this message will play a part in the move of the Holy Spirit of God, drawing God's people into that which God considers to be true worship before His return, at which time we will worship God forever.

Should We Keep the Sabbath Today?

"These people draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:8-9).

"For to obey is better than sacrifice," (I Samuel 15:22). Obedience is the key to true life and worship of God. Obedience to what? The commandments of the bible which is how God's people are to obey Him

in what He wants accomplished. God always sets down the directions. Man has no right to determine or alter God's commands.

Concerning worship and God's holy Sabbath, it is important that we realize that the Sabbath (seventh-day) is an eternal creation principle of God. Like the tithe, the Sabbath was established long before the law was given to Moses. In fact, the seventh-day was established by God before Adam fell away from Him. The Sabbath is also established by the law which is eternal and holy. (Exodus 20:8-11; Romans 7:12-14). It will be observed in the new heaven and new earth. (Isaiah 66:22-24)

God established the Sabbath immediately after He had made His creation. In Genesis 2:1-3, we find that God Himself observed, blessed, and declared holy to Himself the *seventh* day. We note: God declared holy and blessed the seventh day (Friday dusk to Saturday dusk). God did not bless and declare holy the first day (Saturday dusk to Sunday dusk), nor the second, third, or other days. The seventh day He blessed. Who is man to change what God has blessed?

Only one entire day a week, according to God's word, was set aside by God Himself and declared holy to Himself. Man, before falling away from God, observed the seventh-day Sabbath. Why is it that the Spirit-filled Church in these last days is not observing it to the Lord? The Holy Spirit of God certainly will not violate His own principles!

True, we can and should worship God every day. However, it must be made clear, that when God is talking about His holy Sabbath being kept holy, He is not merely talking about remembering to go to church! The Lord has definitely set down in His word that there be a twenty-four hour period, set aside for man to rest from his own work, pleasure, buying and selling, and to worship and delight in the Lord. (Isaiah 58:13-14) The Sabbath involves a total separation of God's people from the world, a foreshadowing of the new heaven and new earth to come.

When the Lord was teaching me about worship and His holy Sabbath, He said, "My son, My people are profaning My Sabbath whether they observe it on Saturday or Sunday." At the time, I did not understand what "profane" meant, until the Lord showed me Isaiah 56:1-8. It used the same words about His people profaning, violating, desecrating, and not keeping holy His Sabbath. They were not observing it in the way He

declared it to be observed as being holy. To keep it holy means to observe it God's way! *"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."* (Exodus 20:8)

The Law Was Not Abolished

Let me give you more information for your consideration.

The major reformers and men of God throughout history and today acknowledge that the commandments of God are not done away with by faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:30-31, Revelations 12:17; Revelations 14:12; I Timothy 1:7-11; Romans 7:10-14; I John 5:3; Romans 7:22; James 2:17-26, John 14:15, 21-24.) Jesus Himself stated that He did not come to do away with the law, and that the law stands until the new age. (Matthew 5:17-20)

Sin is the transgression of the law. (I John 3:4 and Romans 5:13). It is willfully expressed rebellion against the holy law of God; as such, rebellion against God Himself. To deny God's law is to deny God's right of authority over one's self. To a person walking in the Spirit, the commandments of God are not grievous and burdensome, but rather a delight. Jesus is truly their Lord. (I John 5:3, Romans 7:22, and Romans 8:4).

The commandments of God are only a problem to those who are carnally minded and who do not want to obey God, rather desiring to serve their own flesh. (See Romans 8:1-14). For the person who is led of the Spirit of God, keeping the commandments of God is a delight and comes naturally in the spirit. The people led of the Holy Spirit are truly sons of God because they are obediently displaying the righteousness of the law being fulfilled in them through God's Spirit that lives and works in them in Jesus. (Romans 8:3; John 14:15, and 21-24)

The person who is led of the Holy Spirit is not under the law. Why? Because the law is for transgressors (to turn them to Jesus and to fulfill the law). (I Timothy 1:7-11) The person who is walking in the Spirit does not violate the commandments of God. He obeys God's commandments, and because he fulfills the law, he is not under the law, nor does condemnation come by not doing the law. (Galatians 5:16-18; Romans 8:1-4; and I John 5:1-3).

If the law of God is done away with, then why do John, Paul, James, and Peter spend so much time discussing the concern for sin and the need for holiness in peoples' lives? Sin is the transgression of the law of God (I John 3:4). If the law of God is done away with, then there would be no more sin to talk about. (Romans 5:13) Apparently, in the letters included in God's word, since sin and the need for holiness are discussed so much, the law of God must still stand to drive commandment-breakers to Jesus for life; and to provide God's standard for true holiness. (Romans 7:12; and Galatians 3:19-26).

One of the early Church heresies or false teachings, which even Paul was dealing with, was called "Anti-Nomianism." This was the teaching that in Jesus we are no longer under the law, but under grace; so we can now go and sin, living however we want in violation of the commandments of God. Paul in response to this type of thinking stated, "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue to sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*" (Romans 6:1-2).

Our salvation comes by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by works lest any man should boast. Our salvation is God's free gift. (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, if we are truly sons of God, we will obey His commandments. We will live holy by keeping His commandments because of the life of God in us. (James 2:17-26; Hebrews 10:26; I John 3:1-10; I Peter 1:13-25; and Philippians 2:13-14).

Jesus said, "*Not everyone who calls to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father which is in heaven.*" (Read Matthew 7:15-17). You will know the true sons of God by the fruit of obedience to God in their lives. God's true children love to know and obey their Father's commandments. It is a lie of the devil to say that we do not have to keep the commands of God.

The True Commandments

If the commandments of God have not been done away with and those who walk after the Spirit are to be observing God's commandments, then it is vital that we know in truth what God has set down to be His commandments so we can obey them! Is this not true?

From a little child, I was taught the commandments of God. In my catechism, and in all major catechisms (teaching materials of the church), you will find that the commandment about the Sabbath is listed as the third commandment and reads, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”

Are you aware that the devil has violated and counterfeited the commandments of God through the ignorance of men and the doctrines of devils? If this is not the case, why is the fourth commandment, “*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,*” called the third commandment in most religious circles’ teaching materials?

Take a look at Exodus 20:1-17. Here we find the Ten Commandments of God which were written *with God’s own finger*. You will quickly discover that the true commandments of God, as recorded in Exodus 20, have been altered by the religious world.

This is the order in which they were written in Exodus 20:

- (1) v.3 no other gods;
- (2) v.4-6 no graven images;
- (3) v.7 no taking the Lord’s name in vain;
- (4) v.8-11 remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy;
- (5) v.12 honor father and mother;
- (6) v.13 no killing [murdering];
- (7) v.14 no committing adultery;
- (8) v.15 no stealing;
- (9) v.16 no bearing false witness; and
- (10)v.17 no coveting neighbor’s house, wife, etc.

Let me show you what the devil, working through religious leaders, has done to the commandments. Check this information with any catechism or teaching guide of any religious organization. You will find these changes:

First, they have omitted the second commandment. This was done so the church could sell, for great financial gain, little images of various saints for people to pray to, in direct violation of the second commandment of God -- “*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images...*”

Secondly, they have completely omitted verses 9-11 concerning the fourth commandment and shortened it to read, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy (v.8)." The purpose of this omission is so that they could change the day and purpose of God's true seventh-day Sabbath to any day they wanted, and no one over the centuries would know the difference. The emperor and the pope decided to make the Sabbath on Sunday, which was the pagan day of worship to the sun god.

God specifically spent four verses discussing the Sabbath commandment and how to observe it. What did the Church omit in verses 9-11? If you search the word of God, you will find they omitted which Sabbath day is still to be observed. It is not done away with as were the ceremonial Sabbaths. Verses 9-10 reads, "*Six days shall you labor, and do all your work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God...*"

Now you can understand why they had to change God's holy commandment. They could not deceive and change God's holy seventh-day Sabbath to any day they wanted unless they first altered the commandment itself as they taught it to people. They could get away with this because many people, to their shame, do not take the time to know what God really says in His word.

The Lord showed me one time that the teachers of His word are held accountable with a greater responsibility. (Matthew 18:6; James 3:1). However, people who do not search the word of God themselves, to find out and check out what the teachers are saying, are not going to be able to say when they stand before God, "He taught me wrong!" God will also hold the people responsible for believing and acting upon a lie.

The third change that the "church" made was to add a commandment. Since they had dropped the second commandment, they had to add another one in order to have ten. They split up Exodus 20:17 into two commandments -- "*Thou shalt not covet they neighbor's house,*" and "*Thou shalt not covet they neighbor's wife, manservant, etc.*"

Are you able to see clearly and hear the empty counterfeit that Satan has presented to God's people? This happened through spiritually ignorant and unholy people, who had a form of godliness but denied the power of God. When you change the day of the Sabbath, the blessing of

God is removed. The seventh day is blessed, not the first day, because there is no first day Sabbath in God's eyes. He did not command a first day Sabbath; man did.

"In vain you do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9) You might say, "But I can worship any day." Friend, you have missed the point! One, the seventh day Sabbath is a command of God. (Exodus 20:8-11) Two, if you are truly going to *"Remember to keep the Sabbath holy,"* there is more to it than going to church an hour or two on a certain day. (See chapter on "How to observe the Sabbath God's way," in our *Everlasting Gospel* book.) God wants the entire day to be kept holy as a delight to the Lord.

True Believers Can Keep the Commandment

When the Lord taught me about this, line upon line, precept upon precept, He revealed that the Sabbath was going to be an issue of great importance in the last days. The Lord said that great persecution would arise over this issue against God's true believers. The persecution would come from unbelievers and from carnal religious people.

Most of the time, unbelievers couldn't care less what believers are doing, and in many cases they cannot tell the difference between believers and themselves. This is often why they do not want Jesus. However, people who have kept true religion, as the bible says, *"...keep themselves unspotted from the world."* (James 1:27) People who observe God's holy Sabbath are keeping themselves unspotted from the world, interestingly, on the world's busiest day. Unbelievers will persecute you for this because you are different from them.

Carnal believers, the Lord showed me, have one foot in heaven and one foot in the world. They want the best of both worlds. Jesus said, *"Would that you were hot or cold, but since you are lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth."* (Read Revelation 3:15-19) If we are believers, we cannot just do what we feel like doing; we belong to God. (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

The Lord told me to tell the people who are carnal that they had better repent and get both feet planted in heaven, because only the true believers, who have the faith of Jesus and keep the commandments of

God, are going to enter into life with Him. (Revelation 14:12; Rev. 12:17; Rev. 3:15-19) We have to have both feet planted in heaven. We are in the world, but not of it. (John 17:15-16, Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1-6)

The Lord said that carnal people would not be able to observe His holy Sabbath because they love the world and because it involves total separation from the world and one's own desires for a twenty-four hour period. The Sabbath is to be a taste of the "heavenly" on this earth now. (Hebrews. 4:9) Carnal believers love the world and their own pleasures and affairs too much to let go of it and obey God's commandments. They do God's commandments only when it is convenient. The Sabbath is not convenient to a carnal believer.

Permit me to show you what God's word says concerning carnal people who live after their own flesh rather than the commandments and Spirit of God. In Romans 8:1-14, we find this information. First, carnal believers who walk after their own flesh rather than by the Holy Spirit, and do not keep God's commandments, are under condemnation (v.1). Second, through Jesus, the righteousness of the law or commandments of God are fulfilled in those who are not carnal but spiritual (v. 3-4). Third, carnal people spend their time thinking about and doing the things of the flesh. Spiritual people do the things of the Holy Spirit. They obey the commandments of God (v.5). Fourth, carnally-minded people are going to die. Spiritually minded people are going to have life and peace (v.6). Fifth, carnally-minded people are at war against God. (James 4:4) Those people are rebellious against God by being disobedient to His law and commandment. They deny God or His law to have any authority over them because they have set themselves up as gods (v.7). Sixth, carnal or fleshy people cannot please God. God's wrath will be shown to them (v.8).

However, those who are true believers walk in the Spirit, obeying the commandments of God and not fulfilling their own fleshly desires. If the Spirit of God lives in us, and we are true sons of God, then we will daily put to death our own desires and do what His commandments say. We are led by His Spirit (v.9-14).

True worship is a matter of simple obedience to God in all areas of our lives. Jesus has given us new life and the ability to live as God's sons

and daughters, fulfilling the law of God in our lives. (Romans. 8:3-4) We as God's true people delight in our God and in His word and commands. (Psalm 119)

In the Christian church today, nine commandments are recognized and followed to the letter. However, the fourth commandment also needs to be recognized and observed. We need to *“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou shalt not do any work...”* (Exodus 20:8-11)

Are people saved who do not observe God's Sabbath? The issue is not that of salvation, but a loving and thankful obedience to our God and His commandments. We know from His word that a true child of God will not willfully, knowingly, continue to sin or violate God's commandments. (Read I John 3:2-11)

“Everyone who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness; for [that is what] sin is, lawlessness (the breaking, violation of God's law by transgression or neglect – being unrestrained and unregulated by His commands and His will). No one who abides in Him (Jesus) [who lives and remains in communion with and in obedience to Him – deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] commits (practices) sin. No one who [habitually] sins has either seen or known Him [recognized, perceived, or understood Him, or has had an experimental acquaintance with Him] (Jesus). Boys (lads), let no one deceive and lead you astray. He who practices righteousness [who is upright, conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action, living a consistently conscientious life] is righteous, even as He is righteous.” (I John 3:4, 6-7 Amplified Bible)

It is quite clear from God's word, especially if you would continue to read further in I John 3:8-11, that a person who is truly a child of God will keep God's commandments. Ignorance is no excuse. We cannot even claim that the twenty-four hour seventh-day Sabbath is not required by God for us to observe in the manner He has instituted as one of His commandments.

A true child of God, according to God's word, will not continue to willfully, deliberately, knowingly, and continually practice sin. (I John 3:9) When a person willfully and deliberately continues to sin, after

having knowledge of the truth, will bring God's judgment upon himself. (Read Hebrews 10:26-31)

The body of Christ in these last days is coming into an understanding concerning worship and holiness. Loving God and holiness, in God's understanding, involves obedience to His commandments. (I Peter 1:14-16; I John 5:1-3) *"If you love me, keep my commands."* (Read John 14:15, 21-24.)

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy..." is one of God's commandments. To keep it holy means that we are obedient to observe God's day in the way in which He has said to observe it.

As stated before, the Lord told me, "My son, My people are profaning (not keeping holy) My Sabbath, whether they observe it on Saturday or Sunday." The Lord proceeded to show me that not only were we observing His Holy Sabbath on the wrong day, but we were not keeping it holy because we were not observing the twenty-four hour day completely to the Lord. (Isaiah 58:13-14)

A true, loving heart worships in obedience to God's commandments. *"In vain they do worship me teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."* (Read Matthew 15:8-9) The Lord Jesus said, *"Think not that I am come to destroy (do away with or undo) the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For truly I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle [punctuation points in Hebrew] shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break (does away with or relaxes – Amplified Bible) one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: BUT WHOSOEVER SHALL DO AND TEACH THEM, THE SAME SHALL BE CALLED GREAT IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."* (Matthew 5:17-19)

The Choice Is Yours

The time of the end of this age is rapidly approaching. God is seeking for His true people to worship Him in spirit and truth. (John. 4:23-24) Truth means in obedience to His ways.

What will you do with God's Holy Sabbath now?

- *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give glory to him: for the hour of His judgment is come: And worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea and the fountains of waters.’ And there followed another angel, saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.’ HERE IS THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS: HERE ARE THEY THAT KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, AND THE FAITH OF JESUS.”* (Revelation 14:6-12)
- *“Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints, who shall not fear (reverence) thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only are holy: For all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”* (Revelation 15:3-4)
- *“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and name remain. 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. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: For their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.”* (Isaiah 66:22-24)

- *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear (reverence) God, and keep his commandments: For this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14) (II Corinthians 5:10)

As the Spirit of God ministered to me from His word concerning what He considered to be true worship and His holy Sabbath, my heart and mind were convicted by the truth. I realized that for all those years the body of Christ, myself included, had been teaching and living contrary to God’s word.

I felt like Josiah when Hilkiah the priest discovered the book of the law which had been lost in the temple archives. When they read God’s word, Josiah wept and tore his clothing in repentance. He knew that they were not teaching and living according to God’s standards. Josiah repented and initiated a major reform for godliness in his nation based on God’s standards. (Read II Kings 22-23.)

The truth of God’s word concerning true worship and His holy Sabbath has been lost and buried for centuries by religious traditions, commandments of men, and doctrines of devils. However, in these last days, the Spirit of God has again restored the truth. The truth of God demands a decision. What will be your decision?

Josiah acted on the word of God and began a reform to restore God’s principles. I believe that God’s true people, who have faith in Jesus and desire to keep His commandments, are rising up in response to the Spirit of God’s reform in the body of Christ today.

After honestly examining God’s word in the area of worship and His holy Sabbath, I believe that those of us who are genuinely committed to Jesus as Lord are going to respond in obedience to God’s word. I believe that you and I desire to have all that God has for us because we love and trust our heavenly Father.

I believe that because of your love for God and His people, you who are teachers of His Word are going to seek to continue to lead His people in the truth of God’s standards. I know that it is our delight to be faithful to His word and to his people in communicating His word.

“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: But whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:19)

True worship involves obedience to God. God has said, *“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: In it thou shalt not do any work...For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day: Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.” (Exodus 20:8-11) (also Isaiah 58:13-14)*

God has drawn the line and said to us, “Which will it be? Will you worship me in the way I have declared, in spirit and in truth, or will you continue to worship me in vain by following the traditions and commandments of men?”

“The choice is yours!” saith the Lord. *“If you love me you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:15) Do you love me?! (Read John. 14:23-26)*