

August 16, 2025

The Way

The West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

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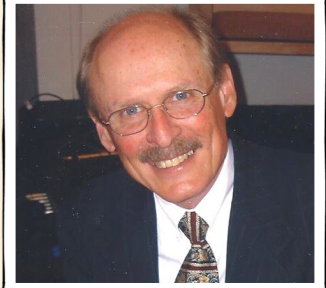
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Honest Questions

August 16, 2025

Honest Question: Why do some Christian groups apply the ordinance of the washing of feet in their Communion Services and other do not? Is this a sacred ordinance that should be observed? If so, how often and on any specific date?

Bible Answer:

“Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, Jesus, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ... So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.’” John 13:1-5, 12-15.

Comments: On the evening before Jesus' death, He gathered His disciples together to celebrate the Passover Feast, or what is often called “the last supper.” During that evening, Jesus washed His disciples' feet and then said to them, “You also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” John 13:14, 15.

All four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell the story of the Last Supper, but John is the only one of the four who tells this part of the story – that of Jesus washing His disciples' feet. However, Luke helps us understand the context of this story by giving us a piece of the story that none of the other gospel writers include. When Jesus said to His disciples, “I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you,” we must take into account what was going on among the disciples at the time. Luke tells us:

“Now there was also a dispute among [the disciples] as to which of them should be considered **the greatest**. And [Jesus] said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called “benefactors.” ‘But not so among you; on the contrary, **he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.** But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’” Luke 22:24-30.

We must insert this part of Luke's account parenthetically in order to understand what Jesus was trying to teach the disciples by washing their feet. The disciples were arguing among themselves as to who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of God, and this isn't the first time this issue had been a point of contention among them. **But on the night before Jesus' crucifixion?! Jesus is about to offer His life for them, and**



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(2 Corinthians 5:21), their “Lord and Teacher,” He became a Servant to “the least” of them, even Judas the betrayer, that they might understand the true meaning of greatness in the Kingdom of God.

John concludes his account of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet with these words spoken to them,

“I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not **greater** than his master; nor is he who is sent **greater** than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” John 13:15-17.

Matthew quotes Jesus as saying to His disciples on a previous occasion,

"A disciple is not above [his] teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 "It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master." Matthew 10:24, 25.

This matter of who was going to be the greatest in the Kingdom of God had been a real issue for the disciples! And on the night before Jesus was to give His life for them, He, with drama, sought to redirect their attention to more eternal matters by being the Servant who cast aside His true rank of “Lord” among them and became their Servant.

This story is not about Jesus establishing a tradition for the Church to precede the celebration of the Communion Service, as is the practice of some Christian groups, it is a story of Jesus addressing an attitude problem among the disciples at a time when He wanted more than anything to get their minds off of themselves that they might grasp, to some degree, what was about to happen! The shock of having Jesus, their Teacher and Master, washing their feet was not only a lesson in the true meaning of greatness, it was also a means of getting their attention as He is about to share with them the emblems of His approaching sacrifice and establish with them, the ones who would become the pillars of the Christian Church, the New Covenant of grace, upon which their message and ministry would be founded.

There is another point that needs to be made to support the premise that when Jesus washed His disciples’ feet it was not to establish a perpetual “ordinance of humility” for the Church but to illustrate to the disciples the meaning of true greatness in the Kingdom of God and prepare them for the monumental events which were to immediately take place – the shedding of blood ratifying a New Covenant, the offering of the sinless Lamb of God as a “propitiation” (or satisfaction) for sin, and an unexpected resurrection of their crucified Savior to consummate His act of securing salvation and eternal life for them – and us!

And finally, there is one more piece to this story. It was customary at the time our story takes place for every host who had invited guests to his home to have a servant wash the feet of his guests when they arrived. People walked everywhere they went, and their feet got dusty and dirty as they traveled. So upon the arrival of guests, a host always had a servant wash their feet when they entered his home.

Just a few days before the evening Jesus washed His disciples’ feet, Jesus attended a feast in His honor hosted by Simon of Bethany. This is the evening Mary Magdalene washed Jesus’ feet with her tears and expensive perfume, drying them with her hair. Her act of love for Jesus brought upon her the criticism of Simon, and the disciples who were also there. Jesus rebuked Simon, the host, with these words,



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“Then [Jesus] said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.”
Luke 7:44.

The night Jesus washed the disciples feet, there was no host or servant present to wash their feet as they entered the upper room to celebrate Passover. Jesus, by washing the disciples’ feet became the Servant when not one of His disciples was willing to lower themselves to become a servant. One of the should have been quick to wash the feet of Jesus as Mary had done just five days before, but they were all too busy trying to be the “greatest!”

Yes, this “ordinance of humility,” as it is called by the church in which I grew up, certainly offers us valuable lessons in true greatness, but when Jesus said to His disciples, “I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you,” He was speaking to them, not to people who come to church on Sabbath in our time to celebrate all that Jesus did for us by taking communion. In truth, I feel that washing one another’s feet at church on Sabbath actually detracts from the sacredness of sharing the emblems of the bread and wine – and, from my own observations, inhibits sincere souls from attending church on those days and participating in the sacred service that commemorates the sacrifice of Christ and the New Covenant of grace established by it!

Thank you for your question!

Doctrines of Demons

“The Lie About the Sabbath” – Part 1

In this first piece of our new series, “Doctrines of Demons,” we will address the doctrine of the False Sabbath. In Part 1, we want to see what **the Bible** says about **the true Sabbath** – the one God created for His creatures to enjoy.

It is my understanding that when bank tellers are trained to recognize counterfeit money, they are first taught how to recognize authentic money printed by the U. S. Treasury. Recognizing the true first makes it easier to recognize the false. And so it is with Christian doctrine. **This week we will learn what the Bible teaches about the Sabbath of the Bible** as expressed in the Ten Commandments, originally written on tables of stone by the finger of God (Exodus 31:18) – obviously something God never wanted His followers to forget! **Next week**, we will examine how agents of the Devil have replaced the true Sabbath with a false one.

The first reference to the Sabbath in the Bible is found in the very **first** verses of the second chapter of the **first** Book of the Bible – Genesis 2:1-3. It says there,

“Thus, the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. **Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy**, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

After God had created the heavens and the earth, and everything in it, **He created holy time**. It’s important to note that God made the 7th day of creation week holy two thousand years before there was Jew. Abraham was the father of the Jewish people to whom the Ten Commandment Law was given on Mt. Sinai by God, and Abraham was born **2,000 years after** creation. The reason this fact is important for us to understand is because many Christians today believe the 7th day Sabbath was only for the Jews to observe. But when God created the Sabbath, He gave it as a gift to **all humanity**, just as He gave His eternal Law of Ten Commandments to all humanity, albeit through the nation of Israel in about 1446 B.C. Paul the Apostle writes to the Christians in Rome (Romans 9:4) of his grief over the rejection of Jesus by the Jews, because it was to them that the Law of God was given – a Law which still defines sin for the Christian and drives the sinner to the cross for deliverance from its condemnation.

The next time we find the Sabbath mentioned in the Bible is in Exodus 16. You will remember the story of God giving Israel manna for food in the desert for 40 years as they journeyed from Egypt to Canaan, the land God had promised them. Following is the biblical account,

“And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said to them, ‘Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’ **Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven**

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for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.” Exodus 16:1-4.

This story of the manna from heaven occurs before the Ten Commandments were given to Moses for Israel from Mt. Sinai. Yet the principles of the Law were already known to them, for God told Moses He would test them, whether they would walk in His Law or not, weeks before the Law was given. The story of the manna is not only a story of God’s provision for Israel, but a story of the Sabbath of Eden to all mankind. In this story, manna came down from heaven every night and would be laying on the ground every morning for their supply of food for that day, but they were not to keep it over until the next day. Everyday God’s supply of food for Israel was fresh, and if the people of Israel kept it overnight, it would be spoiled and full of worms in the morning. But on Friday, the 6th day of the week, they were to collect enough manna for the Sabbath as well, for on the Sabbath, the 7th day of the week, there would be no food on the ground for them to gather.

“Then [Moses] said to [Israel], ‘This is what the LORD has said: “Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today [Friday], and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning [Sabbath].”’” Exodus 16:23.

Then, about two weeks after God began sending manna to the Hebrew travelers each morning (the Sabbath excepted), they arrived at the foot of Mt. Sinai. It was then that God called Moses up onto the mountain to give him the Ten Commandments, all of which Christians today teach and strive to keep, except for the only commandment God told us to “**Remember,**” and the only one that Protestants and Evangelicals have **forgot-ten!** Exodus 20:8-11 says,

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but **the seventh day is the Sabbath** of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days **the LORD** made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and **rested the seventh day**. Therefore the LORD **blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.**”

The next text we want to highlight is in Exodus 31 – a passage which expresses the perpetuity of the Sabbath and the significance our observance of the Sabbath has as **a sign** of our allegiance to God. (*This will also be true for the people of God at the end of time, as indicated in Revelation 14:7*).

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: **Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign** between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. ... Therefore the children of Israel shall **keep the Sabbath**, to **observe the Sabbath** throughout their generations as **a perpetual covenant.**” Exodus 31:12, 13, 16.

This same principle of Sabbath observance is repeated in Ezekiel 20:

“Keep my Sabbaths holy that they may be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.”

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As the wedding ring is to a bride and groom, so is the Sabbath to God and His people! And as Paul likens the union of a man and woman in marriage to the union of Christ and the believer (Ephesians 5:25-32), so the Sabbath becomes a symbol of that relationship. And finally, as wedding anniversaries are celebrated on a specific day of the year (not just any day), so the Sabbath is to be observed by the Church on a specific day of the week – “the seventh day” (not just any day)!

Then there’s the verse in Luke 4 that states that it was the custom of Jesus, our Savior and example, to observe the seventh-day Sabbath:

“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And **as His custom was**, He went into the synagogue on **the Sabbath day**, and stood up to read.” Luke 4:16.

And lest you say, “Oh, that’s because He was a Jew,” Jesus Himself said that, “The Sabbath was made for **man**.” Mark 2:27. Don’t forget, the Sabbath was given to “**man**” in Eden twenty-five hundred years before God **reminded** the Jews of the sacredness of that day at Mt. Sinai!

Then there are those who mistakenly say that when Jesus rose from the dead on that glorious Sunday morning 2,000 years ago, His followers began keeping Sunday in remembrance of His resurrection. Next week we will see that there is nothing in Scripture which indicates that, and in fact, that it was because corruption and apostasy crept into the Church in the early centuries that Sunday ever became a day of worship for Christians. Following are some references to the continued observance of the seventh-day Sabbath by the Apostles and followers of Christ in the years which followed the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

- ♦ Luke 23:53-56 – Then [they took the body of Jesus] down [from the cross], wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb ... where no one had ever lain before. That day was the Preparation Day [Friday], and the Sabbath was about to begin. And **the women who had come with Him from Galilee** followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they **rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment**.
- ♦ Acts 13:14, 16, 42, 44 – When **they [Paul* and his companions]** departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and **went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down**. ... Then Paul stood up [and began preaching]. ... [At the end of Paul’s message] when the **Jews** went out of the synagogue, the **Gentiles** begged that these words might be preached to them **the next Sabbath**. ... On **the next Sabbath** almost the entire city came together to hear the word of God.”
- ♦ Acts 16:13 – And on **the Sabbath day** we [Paul, Silas, and Timothy] went out of the city to the riverside, **where prayer was customarily made**; and we sat down and **spoke to the women who met there**.
- ♦ Acts 17:2 – Then Paul, **as his custom was**, went in to them [the Jews in Thessalonica], and for **three Sabbaths** reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
- ♦ Acts 18:4 – And he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue **every Sabbath**, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

Doctrines of Demons

Finally, there are two verses which show that at the end of time and throughout eternity, the followers of Christ – the Church – will be keeping the seventh-day Sabbath.

- ♦ Jesus saw His people who will be living just before His return keeping the Sabbath as they endure the Great Tribulation. In Matthew 24, He tells His Church to pray that their flight to a refuge of safety is not on the Sabbath day.
 - * "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, then ... flee to the mountains. ... And pray that your flight be not in winter or on **the Sabbath day**. For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be." Matthew 24: 15, 16, 20, 21.
- ♦ And last of all, Isaiah tells us that in the new earth, created for us by God after the destruction of evil and evildoers in the fires of hell, the Sabbath will be a day of worship for the saved throughout eternity!
 - * "'For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the LORD, 'So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that **from ... one Sabbath to another**, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,' says the LORD." Isaiah 66:22, 23.

The Sabbath was given to **all mankind** to enjoy from the time Adam and Eve were created in the Garden of Eden. And it will be a day that will be enjoyed by the redeemed throughout eternity. God gave us the Sabbath as a memorial of Creation, as a gift of Redemption, and as a day to rest from our works, physically and spiritually, as God rested from His works.

"There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest [the spiritual rest of grace] has also rested from his works as God did from his." Hebrews 4:9, 10.

The Sabbath is a memorial of His grace, a rest from our works to save ourselves, and it is just one more gift of God that Satan has sought to steal from us by substituting it with a day of worship which has no meaning and originates in paganism! Don't let him or anyone else rob you of the blessing that God intends for those He has purchased with His precious blood!

Stay tuned!

Prophecy In the News

It's Tuesday morning, August 12 that I'm writing this piece for our August 16 newsletter, and I just finished watching our White House Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt, host a news conference with reporters at the White House. The two most prominent stories addressed this morning were, 1) President Trump's scheduled meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday in Anchorage, Alaska (yesterday by the time you read this) in an attempt to end the three-year war between Russia and Ukraine, and 2) the President's deployment of federal agents and 800 federalized National Guard to the streets of Washington, D.C. this week, using his emergency powers in a decisive effort to clean up crime in our nation's Capital.

As the White House Press Secretary spoke with reporters this morning, there were two words which kept surfacing in the dialogue – “peace” and “safety.” President Trump, in the first six months of this administrative

The U.S. conducted strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities on June 22, 2025, with B-2 bombers dropping bunker-busting bombs. These strikes targeted facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. While the White House declared the facilities “obliterated”,

term, has been a broker for **peace** around the globe. By ordering the obliteration of Iran's nuclear enrichment sites, he has removed one of the greatest threats to peace in the



Middle East, America, and the world. He has been aggressively working with the Israelis to gain control of Gaza and bring resolution to their conflict with Hamas. And he has been making peace treaties and trade agreements with

nations around the world. President Trump has stated that he will bring peace to the world, and he's delivering on his promise.

In addition to bringing peace to a world in chaos and conflict, President Trump has also promised to “make America safe again,” and since his inauguration six months ago, he has closed our southern border to illegal migrants,

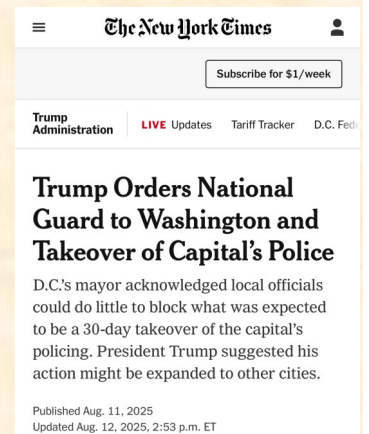


terrorists, gangs, and cartels. He has appointed officers to his cabinet who are enforcing law and order in our nation, bringing integrity back to our congressional and judicial systems, and he has authorized ICE to actively arrest, detain and deport criminals who have invaded our country. Just this past Monday, President Trump deployed federal agents and federalized National Guard troops in our Capital to deal with the crime problem there, and he has other major cities in

view for similar action to “make America safe again.”

It is amazing how the very words of prophecy are literally being used in the news today to describe a movement in our nation and the world to bring “peace and safety” to an unstable and unsafe world. And if there were ever a time when the following prophecy of Scripture is ripe for fulfillment, it is certainly now. Paul says to the followers of Christ,

“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you know perfectly well that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. For when they say, **“Peace and safety!”** then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.





Prophecy In the News

Prophecy is coming to pass on many fronts today – signs of the imminent return of Jesus, and soon we will hear the predicted cry of “peace and safety” as the leaders of our nation succeed in their efforts to bring about the peace and safety promised by our president and team of strong and determined leaders. America is rising to dominance in the world, and America will fulfill its destiny as prophesied in Scripture.

But we must also note the second part of this prophecy, for it tells us what will follow the achievement of peace and safety and the cry that ensues. The text says, “when they say, ‘**Peace and safety,**’ then sudden destruction will come upon them. Revelation chapters 6 and 8 tell of two waves of divine judgments which will come upon the world as a warning to the world that the end is approaching. That which God has told us is just ahead will certainly come to pass, and the news events of today confirm that this is true!
