

August 23, 2025

The Way

The West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

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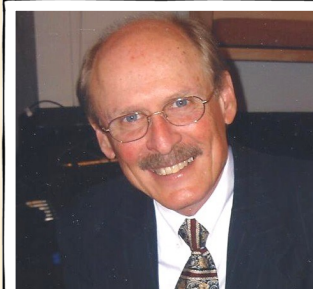
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Bible Study

Acts 20

Through Macedonia and Greece

1 When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. **2** He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, **3** where he stayed three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. **4** He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. **5** These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. **6** But we sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

Eutychus Raised from the Dead at Troas

7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. **8** There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. **9** Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. **10** Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" **11** Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. **12** The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders

13 We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. **14** When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. **15** The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. **16** Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. **18** When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. **19** I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. **20** You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. **21** I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.



Bible Study

22 “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.

23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. **24** However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

25 “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. **26** Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. **27** For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. **28** Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. **29** I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. **30** Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. **31** So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

32 “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **33** I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. **34** You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. **35** In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

36 When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. **37** They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. **38** What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

Honest Questions

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Honest Question: Did the Ten Commandments exist before Moses existed?

Bible Answer:

- ⇒ **"On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt [about 1446 B.C.] – on that very day – they came to the Desert of Sinai ... and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. **The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain.** So Moses went up. **And God spoke all these words:** 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.'" Exodus 19:1, 2, 20; 20:1, 2.**
- ⇒ **Exodus 20:3-17 – The Ten Commandments are recorded in the verses which follow.**
- ⇒ **"And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: 'Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. The LORD talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. He said: 'I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.'"** Deuteronomy 5:1-6. (The Ten Commandments are repeated in the verses which follow this passage).

Comments: It was more than 2,500 years after Creation, or about 1,446 B.C., that God gave us the Ten Commandments when He called Moses up onto the mountain, Mt. Sinai, and gave them to him, written with His own finger on two tables of stone. He had hewn them out of rock Himself! Though the Ten Commandments did not exist in written form prior to Mt. Sinai, the seventh day Sabbath, the holy day God reminded Israel to "Remember" in the commandments, was a creation and gift of God to mankind from Eden. Further, the principles of right and wrong, though we have no record of them today, were known and observed by the "righteous," and violated by the "unrighteous" from the beginning of time. Cain murdered his brother Abel and was marked as a killer at the beginning of life on this earth. Enoch, one of the patriarchs of the early centuries, "walked with God" and "pleased God", according to Scripture, and was taken to heaven without seeing death. Because of the wickedness of the world of Noah, God is said to have been sorry He created man, and He destroyed the earth with a flood, about 2,370 B.C.

Paul tells us that the Law was given to us so we would know right from wrong. He says,

- ⇒ **"Until the law, sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law." Romans 5:13.**
- ⇒ **"I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.'" Romans 7:7.**

Honest Questions

⇒ “By the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:20.

The Ten Commandment Law of God is a written expression of God’s will for mankind. It always has been, and it always will be until we are changed into His likeness at His coming, given back our original perfect, sinless nature, and live in a perfect and sinless environment for eternity.

Honest Question: Does Paul's covenants in Galatians 4 conclusively support that we have nothing to do with the law in our current dispensation?

Bible Passage Under Question:

“Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the **two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage**, which is Hagar – for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, **and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children** – but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ... **Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.** But, **as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.** Nevertheless, what does the Scripture say? ‘Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.’” So then, brethren, **we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.**” Galatians 4:21-31.

Comments: This passage of Scripture is an important part of Paul’s larger message of the Gospel of Christ – the One who came to **fulfill** on our behalf, **as us**, the perfect Law of God – a Law which we as sinners can **never** keep perfectly enough to be saved, yet a Law which demands our perfect obedience in order to be saved from eternal death!

In the above verses, Paul is using the story of Hagar as an illustration of how Abraham, after waiting **14 years!** from the time God promised him a son to be born of Sarah, and who herself was now 76 years old and barren, decided to **do it himself** by having relations with Sarah’s servant, Hagar. God had promised Abraham a son when Abraham was 75 years old, but Isaac wasn’t born until Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah 90 years old! **But Isaac was the son of promise!** – a son that neither Abraham nor Sarah could take any credit for parenting. Ishmael was born as a result of Abraham’s **own efforts** to obtain the son God had **promised** – a fitting illustration of the Jews who thought they could achieve an obedience to God’s Law that would result in their eternal life!

The Gospel is a story of the redemption of a human race, lost in Adam from conception because of our sinful nature. It is the story of a broken Law, the demands of which we can never perfectly meet and **merit**



Honest Questions

eternal life in a sinless heaven! Paul says, “There is none righteous, no, not one; ... there is none who does good, no, not one.” Romans 3:10, 12. In fact, he says, “Whatever the law says, it says to those under the law**, **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God!**” Only by faith, he says, can we satisfy the Law’s demands — and only by claiming the perfect righteousness of a sinless Substitute, who becomes our “propitiation”, our satisfaction to the demands of the Law of God! Romans 3:21-26. Paul then continues to answer the question submitted above —

“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore, **we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law**. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since **there is one God who will justify the circumcised [the Jew] by faith and the uncircumcised [the Gentile] through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.**” Romans 3:27-31.

We do not dispense with the Law that God wrote with His own finger on tables of stone! Instead, we establish the Law as the authoritative standard of right, then satisfy it’s demands by claiming, by faith, **the obedience of the One who did keep it perfectly and then offered to give us credit for His obedience in exchange for our faith in Him!** Faith grasps the gift, and **His** righteousness is enough. The Law still stands, and in Christ, it is satisfied, giving the believer eternal life because of Jesus’ “doing and dying”!

The two covenants are: the first, based on the promise of Israel, “All that the Lord has said, we will do” — and didn’t! — and the second covenant, the one ratified by the blood of Jesus at Calvary under which the believer now lives. It isn’t the Law that was done away with at Calvary, it was the first covenant, based upon a religion of works **in order to be saved!** Paul also says, “The new covenant is based upon better promises” — not the **promises** and efforts of weak, sinful human beings to keep a Law they can’t (perfectly enough to be saved), but the **promises** of a Savior who has kept every requirement of that Law and promises His righteousness to the one who places his faith in Him. Thus Galatians 4 contrasts these two covenants, using Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael and Isaac as examples, and concluding that we, as followers of Christ, are the children of promise, not works!

“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.” Hebrews 8:6.

Please see also: 2 Cor 3:5-15 for greater understanding of the relationship of the Law of God and the glory of the Gospel!

**[Those “under the law” are those who place themselves under the authority and judgment of a perfect and demanding law which requires perfect sinlessness of the one who hopes to satisfy its demands].



Honest Questions

Honest Question: Luke 16:16 and Matthew 11:13 teach today that Christians should not follow the law, right?

These are the texts in question:

"**The law and the prophets were until John**. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it." Luke 16:16.

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For **all the prophets and the law prophesied until John**." Matthew 11:12, 13.

Bible Answer: Two Stories

"Now behold, two of them [two men going home from Jerusalem on the afternoon of Jesus resurrection] were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, 'What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?' Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, 'Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?' And He said to them, 'What things?' So they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.' Then Jesus said to them, '**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**'" Luke 24:13-27.

"Then Jesus said to them [the Disciples the evening of His resurrection], 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, **that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.'" Luke 24:44-48.

Comments: Luke 16:16 and Matthew 11:13 **do not** teach that Christians should not follow the law today, but rather that all that is written in the Old Testament, "the law and the prophets" [the writings of Moses



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and those of the prophets of the Old Testament], written to point a waiting Old Testament Church to the day when the Savior promised in Eden, to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15), would come. The Old Testament Scriptures describe how He would come, when He would come, why He would come, and how He would be recognized by His people when He came. Yet almost everyone missed it! – even the disciples didn’t get the whole story until after Jesus’ resurrection, on that Sunday night He explained it to them, as written in the last text above.

John the Baptist was the one to announce the coming of Jesus to Israel, and the Kingdom He would establish. But John’s mission didn’t bring an end to the importance of all that had been written before Jesus came. The “law and the prophets” accomplished their intended purpose for a few in Jesus’ day (like Simeon, Anna, the Wise Men, the Shepherds, and others), but the “law and the prophets” have also inspired Christians today with the details of the prophecies of Jesus given in those writings which shout the Bethlehem/Calvary story and confirm the authority and inspiration of the Scriptures like nothing else but fulfilled prophecy could!

Doctrines of Demons

“The Lie About the Sabbath” — Part 2

Soon after Sammy and I moved from Northern California to Arizona in 2019, we visited a church on the northeast side of Phoenix called Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church. The church had been organized by two friends who had been Phoenix cops and who shared a passion for Christ and the Gospel. During our visit that Sunday morning, we met some wonderful Christian people. They welcomed us with a warm spirit, spoke with sincerity and grace about their faith, and during their afternoon meeting, they spent considerable time in prayer. Their prayers were beautiful and inspiring, and we were drawn to them by their expressions of faith in Christ. One of the phrases that was used repeatedly in their services was, “**the Lord’s Day**,” and it was evident that they were honoring that Sunday as a holy Sabbath day.

There are so many sincere Christians in today’s churches, just like those Sammy and I met at the Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church that day six years ago, who believe that Sunday is the Sabbath of the Bible and who attend church, worship with honest hearts, and honor in ignorance a day which has been substituted for the Sabbath of the Bible by sinister forces of evil. But very soon, many of the precious followers of Christ, who today honor in ignorance the false Sabbath spoken of in prophecy, will learn what I’m about to tell you in the paragraphs which follow. And they will respond to the powerful call of God’s special messengers to “come out of Babylon” (Revelation 18:4) and “worship Him who made the heaven and the earth, the sea and the fountains of water” Revelation (14:7), then “rested on the seventh day and made that day a holy day” (Genesis 2:2, 3) as His final act of creation! This change in the church’s accepted day of worship is foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation – prophecies we have studied in previous newsletters.

Use of the Term “The Lord’s Day”

So where did the idea of Sunday being “the Lord’s Day” originate? Does the Bible mention the Lord’s day? And is there anywhere in the Bible where the Lord’s day is called a “holy day”? The answer is a resounding “yes”, but the Bible identifies that day as the seventh day Sabbath, not Sunday, the first day of the week! Please observe. There is only one text in the entire New Testament which uses the term “the Lord’s Day”, and that text is the text that all of Christendom uses to identify the Sabbath as Sunday, “in honor of Jesus’ resurrection,” **(they say)**. That solitary text is:

“I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. **I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day**, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet” Revelation 1:9, 10.

When John was in Roman captivity for his testimony of the story of Christ, the Gospel, Jesus came to him “on the Lord’s Day” and revealed Himself to him in vision. This wasn’t Sunday, the first day of the week, it

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was the Sabbath day, the day on which John and all the early Church worshipped “in obedience to the commandment” (Luke 23:56). However, there is one other text in the Bible that identifies **the seventh day Sabbath** as “the Lord’s day” and that is Isaiah 58:13 –

“If you keep your feet from breaking **the Sabbath** and from doing as you please on **my holy day**, if you call **the Sabbath** a delight and **the LORD's holy day** honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD....’ The mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 58:13, 14.

So, check this out!

- ♦ “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” in six days (Genesis 1:1). And when “God had ended His work” of creation, “He rested on **the seventh day**.... Then God **blessed the seventh day and made it holy**” (Genesis 2:2, 3).
- ♦ When He called His chosen people Israel, the heirs of the promises given to their father Abraham 500 years before, He gave them the Ten Commandments and said to them, “**Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy – the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.**” Exodus 20:8, 10.
- ♦ Then God told Isaiah, “**The Sabbath is My Holy Day**” – the seventh day of the week, not the first, is “the Lord’s Day”!
- ♦ So, when John says in Revelation 1:10 that he “was in the Spirit [in vision] on the Lord’s Day,” which day was he speaking of?! **The only day the Bible calls “the Lord’s Day” is the seventh day Sabbath!**

Thus, the devil and his agents have stolen the name God gave His holy day and have called it “Sunday”! The term used in the Bible for God’s Sabbath day, **created as holy time at creation**, has been **hijacked** by sinister forces and called “Sunday, the Lord’s Day”! It’s evil, it’s deceptive, but the Bible said it would happen!** And at the end of time, the Bible also says that the special messengers of God – the “Two Witnesses” of Revelation 11, the “Three Angels” of Revelation 14, the “144,000” of Revelation 7 and 14, all different names for those who will proclaim God’s final warning message to the world before Jesus comes – these special messengers will call the world back to the worship of God on His holy day!

“Then I saw another angel [one of the special messengers of God mentioned above] flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people — saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water [a reference to and the language of the fourth commandment].” Revelation 14:6, 7.

Note the language of the 4th Commandment: “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.” Exodus 20:11.

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“And the dragon [the devil] was enraged with the woman [the Church], and he went to make war with the last of her offspring, who **keep the commandments of God [all of them!]** and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17.

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who **keep the commandments of God** and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12.

The Use of “Sunday” in the New Testament

The names of the days of the week we use today were not used in the days of the Bible. Instead of “Sunday”, the Bible used the term “the first day of the week”. Instead of “Saturday”, the Bible used the word “Sabbath”. Instead of “Friday” the Bible used the term “Preparation Day”. For most other days of the year, they were called by the specific feast day (Passover, Day of Atonement, etc.) or by the number of the day of the month (14th day of first month, or Abib). So the word “Sunday” is never used in the Bible. Instead, Sunday is called “the first day of the week.” So to determine whether or not the early Christians ever kept Sunday as a holy day or day of worship, we must search for every time the term “the first day of the week” is found in the New Testament. And how many times is the term “the first day of the week” found in the New Testament? Answer: Eight times, and here they are:

- ◆ “Now **after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.” Matthew 28:1.
- ◆ “Very early in the morning, on **the first day of the week**, they [“the women”] came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ... Now when He [Jesus] rose early on **the first day of the week**, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.” Mark 16:2, 9.
- ◆ “Now on **the first day of the week**, very early in the morning, they [the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee], and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.” Luke 24:1.
- ◆ “Now on **the first day of the week** Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ... Then, the same day at evening, being **the first day of the week**, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” John 20:1, 19.
- ◆ “Now on **the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.” Acts 20:7.
- ◆ “On **the first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” 1 Corinthians 16:2.

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In all of the above texts, not a single verse mentions a change of the sacredness of the Sabbath of the Bible to a sacredness of Sunday, the first day of the week. Nor is there anything in those verses that suggests a change of the day for worship by the Church of the first Century! In the first six verses above, all the events spoken of are all about things that happened on the day Jesus rose from the dead. But some, looking for at least some vague mention of a worship service on Sunday, suggest that the last two verses above imply a gathering for worship on Sunday by the followers of Christ, so let's look at each of those verses again and see if we can find any remote evidence that the early Church ever kept Sunday holy:

- ♦ In Acts 20:7, Paul has been traveling all over Greece teaching the Gospel and comes to Troas, where he meets with some of the believers on the evening before he resumes his journeys. Verse 13 says that the next day, he sailed for Miletus. The setting is a Sabbath evening gathering where the church in Troas ate together and listened to Paul before he left the next day to continue his missionary journey. It's important at this point to remember that the Sabbath day, since creation, has begun at sundown on Friday and ended at sundown on Saturday, and this verse says that Paul "spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." Sunday, "the first day of the week," had begun that Sabbath evening after sundown and Paul spoke to those present "until midnight", after the Sabbath and before daybreak on Sunday morning. Another example of this principle is found at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. Remember, Jesus was crucified on Friday, and after Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and buried in Joseph's tomb, "That day was the Preparation Day, and the Sabbath drew near" Luke 23:54. On that evening, the women "returned" to their homes and "rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment" (Luke 32:56) – the commandment which says, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."! So, this verse in Acts in no way establishes the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday! The event took place after the Sabbath, in the evening "until midnight." Don't fall for the lie that says this was a Sunday evening worship service!
- ♦ In 1 Corinthians 16:2, Paul is calling on the Christians in Corinth to prepare an offering for him to send to the saints in Jerusalem to help them in their time of famine and poverty. He had called on the churches in Galatia to do the same. And he says to the Corinthians, when you do your accounting after the Sabbath, or on Sunday morning, and when you do your financial preparations for the new week, set aside an offering for the Church in Jerusalem. Neither Christians or Jews did business on the Sabbath, so at the end of the week as the Sabbath approached on Friday evening, they would close their shops and businesses and do their books after the Sabbath – "on the first day of the week." There was no church service on the first day of the week, in this verse, there was simply the church (**plural**) setting aside an offering, in their homes or businesses, out of their previous week's revenues for Paul's visit, so there wouldn't have to be a collection when he came! Don't fall for the lie that says this was an offering taken on a Sunday morning in a church service!

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“In Honor of the Resurrection of Jesus”

The argument of Christendom today is that Sunday is being kept by Christians now in honor of the resurrection of Jesus. Have you heard that? But God never told the Church to do that – that’s entirely a fabricated excuse of man to justify the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, in honor of the “authority” of the Church of Rome which claimed the authority to do that in the fourth Century! The Church Jesus established never stopped observing the Sabbath He declared to be holy time! When God gave us the Ten Commandments, and every Christian church today says we should follow the Ten Commandments – **except the fourth!** – God wrote those commandments, **including the fourth, with His finger in stone!** God hasn’t changed anything! In truth, Christian baptism **by immersion** is the Christian rite that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, not Sunday sacredness!

****The History of the Change of the Sabbath to Sunday**

In Daniel 7:25, God prophesied through Daniel that “the little horn” (Daniel 7:8) – literally the Church of Rome, as per our studies in previous newsletters, would attempt to change the Law of God, including the Sabbath, and it actually gloats that it did that, and so fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel 7:25. The Catholic Church claims to have the authority to do that, and, in fact, claims to have done that very thing – mocking Protestants, who rose up against the Church of Rome as the Antichrist during the Reformation, and at great cost to the lives of millions of Christians – these very Protestant churches have accepted the authority of Rome to change the Sabbath to Sunday and now observe the day as the Sabbath! This Church’s blasphemous claims to the prerogatives of God – to change the Law of God, change His enduring Sabbath, forgive sin, and be the door through which people obtain eternal life – this Church, the Papacy, has completely fulfilled the description of Daniel and John who call it “blasphemous, pompous, a harlot, and drunk with the blood of the saints.” Through the centuries, the Church of Rome has murdered the faithful followers of Christ who have refused to surrender to its authority, and Revelation 13:5, 7 says it will do it again before Jesus comes!

So that’s the story in brief of how the Lord’s Day, as seen by Christians today, came to be. The history of the entire sordid story of the Church of Rome is much too lengthy to address in this setting, but we have done that in much greater detail in previous issues, and for anyone who might question the conclusions of this study, they owe it to themselves to investigate further in the scores of books, articles and video sources available to the serious student.

Conclusion

The matter of **which** day a person keeps as sacred, in obedience to the God who has saved us by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone, may seem trivial. Some may ask, “What difference does it

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make which day Christians keep?" My answer is that if God is God, we'd better pay attention to what's important to Him. In the end, the Sabbath will be the "sign," or "mark," that sets the people of God apart from those who will receive "the mark of the beast" and partake of the plagues which will be poured upon those who have that mark.

The good news is that "the Lord is not slack concerning His promise [to return], but **He is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9. Before Jesus returns, every person on earth must see clearly the true nature of evil and see that God must bring it to an end before His followers can experience their eternal inheritance, free of evil and its curse. That is happening now, and the day is upon us when **God will make His will dramatically clear to the world**. For those refuse to bow to the authority of the living God, there will only be judgment and destruction. But for those sincere followers of Christ who are currently ignorant of the deception of false doctrines, inspired by Satan and his Antichrist, within the Christian Church, God's grace will be upon them, and He will make certain they don't miss the turns and waymarks along the way to their promised destination. Jesus said of those who are His,

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd." John 10:27, 28, 16.

The Sabbath is soon to become the sign of our allegiance to God, as Sunday observance, the sign of Rome's authority, will soon become a mark of allegiance to a power which will sweep much of the world into the net of rebellion against God and ultimately into destruction. This reality is imbedded in the prophecies of Revelation 12-14. Today God's truth is sure and His grace is sufficient for those ignorant of His truth, but **not without** much warning, and an abundance of an awakening of the world of its approaching doom, will God finally declare, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. We live on the brink of eternity, and it's high time for the people of God to be grounded in faith and faithful in our allegiance to the One who has so graciously claimed us as His own!

"Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. 'On the day when I act,' says the LORD Almighty, 'they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.'" Malachi 3:16-18.
