

Why Not Ask God About the Sabbath?

Q. Tell me, Lord, Do you have a special day of rest for Your followers?

A. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." Rev. 1:10

Q. But which day is the Lord's Day? Which day are You Lord of?

A. "The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day." Matt. 12:8

Q. There are seven days in the week. Which day is the Sabbath day?

A. "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." (Fourth Commandment) Ex. 20:8

Q. Which day, according to our reckoning, is the seventh day, Saturday or Sunday?

A. "And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James,...very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun...And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man...And he saith unto them, be not affrighted; Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified; he is risen." Mark 16:1-6. (Note: everybody knows that Sunday was the resurrection day. The Sabbath was past when it dawned. Thus it is evident that the Sabbath is Saturday, the day before Sunday.)

Q. But, Lord, didn't you abolish the law which contains the Sabbath commandment?

A. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Matt. 5:17

Q. Well, at least, didn't you change one of the commandments so that today your followers may keep another day than the seventh day?

A. "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matt. 5:18

Q. But, Lord, isn't Saturday a Jewish day? Isn't the seventh day the Sabbath of the Jews?

A. "The Sabbath was made for man." Mark 2:27 (The Sabbath was made and given to man 1500 years before the existence of a Jew. See Gen. 2:1-3)

Q. Someone told me that after Your crucifixion, Lord, your followers no longer kept the seventh-day Sabbath according to the commandment. Is this true?

A. "And that day was the Preparation day and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with Him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the Sepulchre, and how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:54-56

Q. But didn't the apostle Paul always meet with the early Christians on Sunday in honor of the resurrection? What was his manner in regard to a day of worship?

A. "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures." Acts 17:2

Q. Did he meet with the Gentile converts on the Sabbath, too? Perhaps he met with the Jews on the Sabbath and the Greeks on Sunday. What about that?

A. "And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." Acts 18:4

Q. What did Paul teach in regard to Sabbath keeping?

A. "There therefore remaineth a keeping of the Sabbath to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works as God did from His." Heb. 4:9,10

Q. But, which day did Paul mean when he spoke of resting as God did?

A. "For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, 'And God did rest the seventh day from all His works'" Heb. 4:4

Q. Is this, then, your instruction in regard to Sabbath keeping?

A. "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Acts 20:27 (In the New Testament there are no less than 59 references to the Sabbath. The book of Acts records 84 Sabbaths on which the Apostle Paul and his associates held religious services. Yet there is not one word in the entire Bible authorizing Sunday keeping.)

Q. Then why is it so many people keep Sunday instead of Saturday? If the Bible teaches Sabbath keeping, how and by whom was Sunday keeping introduced into Christianity?

A. "And he (the 'little horn' power) shall speak great words against the Most High,...and think to change times and laws." Dan. 7:25

Q. The Roman Catholic Church is the little horn of Daniel 7; Do you mean that it should think to change the law of God?

A. "Ask now the priests concerning the law." Haggai 2:11

Q. Very well, I will ask Stephen Keenan, a Catholic Priest: Does your church think it has the power to change the law of God?

A. "Had she not such 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 of the week, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." Doctrinal Catechism, page 174

Q. When was this change made?

A. "We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (364 A.D.) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." The Converts' Catechism, Peter Geirmann, page 50. (This catechism received the pope's blessing on Jan. 25, 1910.)

Q. Do you feel this is your MARK of authority?

A. "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change (Saturday Sabbath to Sunday) was her act... And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things." H.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons

Q. Is this Rome's way of counterfeiting your mark? Do you have a mark too?

A. Ezekiel 20:12 & 20, "Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God." (Note: the word "sign" is the same as the word "mark." In fact you can use the words, sign, seal, mark, or stamp interchangeably in almost every instance. In fact, it's confirmed in Romans 4:11 where it says, "...he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith")

Q. Do Protestant ministers agree with this?

A. Congregationalist: "It is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath." Dr. R.W. Dale, The Ten Commandments, page 106.

Lutheran: "They [the Catholics] allege the Sabbath changed into Sunday, the Lord's day, contrary to the Decalogue, as it appears, neither is there any example more boasted of than the changing of the Sabbath day. Great, say they, is the power and authority of the church, since it dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments." - Augsburg Confession of Faith, Art. 28, par. 9.

Methodist: "Sabbath in the Hebrew language signifies rest and is the seventh day of the week,...and it must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first day." Buck's Theological Dictionary.

Baptist: "There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week...Where can the record of such a transfer be found? Not in the New Testament - absolutely not...Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history...But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god, when adopted and sanctioned by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism." - Dr. E.T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manual.

(For a comprehensive list of quotations see: http://www.sabbathtruth.com/sabbath_quotes.asp)

Q. Since all the protestant religions agree the Sabbath was never changed, why do they do as Rome does?

A. "...all the world wondered after the beast. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:3,8

Q. What difference does it make which day I keep? A day is a day isn't it?

A. "Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? Romans 6:16

Q. Then what shall I do, obey the Sabbath of God's commandment or keep the Sunday of man?

A. "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29

Q. Well, Lord, what do You think of Sunday keeping?

A. "Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition...But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:6,9

Q. But surely the millions of people who keep Sunday can't be wrong, can they?

A. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13,14 (Only a few obeyed God in the days of Noah, in the days of Lot, in the days of Christ. The majority were lost.)

Q. But Dr. So-and-so is a very wise man: Why doesn't he and all the great preachers keep the Sabbath?

A. "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." 1 Cor. 1:26,27. (Note: The great religious teachers in Christ's day rejected the truth also. His followers were of the common people.)

Q. But I have accepted Jesus; I know He is my Saviour; I know He has accepted me and I have been keeping Sunday. Surely I would not be lost if I did not keep the Sabbath now, would I?

A. "A time of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30

Q. I know you, Lord. You wouldn't condemn me for breaking the Sabbath, would you?

A. "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4

Q. But isn't it sufficient that I love the Lord and live by the law of love?

A. "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15

Q. Does that mean all ten of them?

A. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10

Q. Well, I think that if we try to follow Jesus, that is all that is necessary. Isn't that right, Jesus?

A. "He that saith he abideth in Him, ought himself also so to walk even as He walked." 1 John 2:6

Q. How did you walk, Lord, what was your custom?

A. "And 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 for to read." Luke 4:16

Q. But, Lord, that was over 1900 years ago. Wouldn't you keep some other day than Saturday if you should come to earth today?

A. "I am the Lord, I change not." Mal. 3:6 "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Heb. 13:8

Q. Does my salvation depend upon my obedience to this Sabbath injunction?

A. "And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." Heb. 5:9

Q. Do you think it would be absolutely necessary to keep the commandments to receive eternal life?

A. "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Matt. 19:17

Q. But I still can't see why You insist on the seventh day, Lord. Isn't Sunday as good as Saturday?

A. "God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it." Gen. 2:3 "He hath blessed and I cannot reverse it." Num. 23:20. "For Thou blessest, O Lord, and it shall be blessed for ever." 1 Chron. 17:27

Q. Well, it seems to me that if I keep one day in seven, regardless of which one, that ought to be good enough.

A. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 16:25 "Spiritual things...are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:13,14

Q. But, Lord! Lord! Can't I do something else? Won't my profession get me to heaven?

A. "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21

Q. But I pray.

A. "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Prov. 28:9

Q. But, Lord, look at the people who work miracles in Your name. Some heal the sick, others talk in tongues and do many wonderful things; yet they do not keep the Sabbath. What about them?

A. "Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: Depart from Me." Matt. 7:22,23

Q. Yes, I know the Sabbath is right; but my business would suffer if I closed on Sabbath. I might lose my job. I wouldn't get ahead in the world!

A. "For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36

Q. Well, for myself I wouldn't care; but what about my family? Wouldn't it be better for me to work on the Sabbath than to let my family starve?

A. "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things; but seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:32,33. I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Ps. 27:25

Q. My friends will laugh at me and ridicule me.

A. "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you,...and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake; rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven." Matt. 5:11,12. "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you." John 15:18

Q. But suppose my own family does not agree with me. Should I go against their wishes, which would mean in some cases a division in the home?

A. "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: And he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me: And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me is not worthy of Me." Matt. 10: 37,38. "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33

Q. I am afraid I won't be able to withstand all these trials. I am too weak.

A. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness....When I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12:9,10. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13

Q. Then, Lord, what is the reward for being faithful to You and the commandments?

A. "There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come, life everlasting." Luke 18: 29,30. "Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14

Q. Lord, I'm looking forward to a home in the earth made new, will we keep the Sabbath there too?

A. "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 your 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." Isa. 66: 22,23

Q. Then, Lord, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. With Your help, I will keep the Sabbath.

A. "Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:21

Author - Erling Calkins

For more answers and history on the Sabbath please visit: <http://www.sabbathtruth.com>



Rome's Challenge ***Why do Protestants keep Sunday?***

"The Adventists are the only body of Christians with the Bible as their teacher, who could find no warrant in its pages for the change of day from the seventh to the first. Hence their appellation," Seventh-day Adventists. "They're cardinal principle consists in setting apart Saturday for the exclusive worship of God, in conformity with the positive command of God Himself, repeatedly reiterated in the sacred books of the Old and New testaments, literally kept by the children of Israel for thousands of years to this day, and endorsed by the teaching and practice of the Son of God while on earth." -*Rome's Challenge, page two*

"Is not yet too late for Protestants to redeem themselves. Will they do it?... will they indeed take the written word only, the Scripture alone, as their sole authority and their sole standard? Or will they still hold the indefensible, self contradictory, and suicidal doctrine and practice of following the authority of the Catholic church and wear the SIGN of her authority? Will they keep the Sabbath of the Lord, the seventh day, according to Scripture? Or will they keep the Sunday according to the tradition of the Catholic church?" -*Ibid, page 31*

"The arguments contained in this pamphlet are firmly grounded on the word of God, and having been closely studied with the Bible in hand, leave no escape for the conscientious Protestant except the abandonment of Sunday worship and the return to Saturday, commanded by their teacher, the Bible, or, unwilling to abandon the tradition of the Catholic Church, which enjoins the keeping of Sunday, and which they have accepted in direct opposition to their teacher, the Bible, consistently accept her in all her teachings. Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives; either Protestantism and the keeping of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping of Sunday. Compromise is impossible." *The Catholic Mirror, Dec. 23, 1893.*

Stephen Keenan- A Doctrinal Catechism Third Edition
"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept? "Answer: Had she not such 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.**"

Q. Must not a sensible Protestant doubt seriously, when he finds that even the Bible is not followed as a rule by his co-religionists?

A. Surely, when he sees them baptize infants, abrogate the Jewish Sabbath, and observe Sunday for which [pg. 7] there is no Scriptural authority; when he finds them neglect to wash one another's feet, which is expressly commanded, and eat blood and things strangled, which are expressly prohibited in Scripture. He must doubt, if he think at all. ...

Q. Should not the Protestant doubt when he finds that he himself holds tradition as a guide?

A. Yes, if he would but reflect that he has nothing but Catholic Tradition for keeping the Sunday holy; ...

Source: ***Controversial Catechism*** by Stephen Keenan, New Edition, revised by Rev. George Cormack, published in London by Burns & Oates, Limited - New York, Cincinnati, Chicago: Benzinger Brothers, 1896, pages 6, 7.

The chancellor to Cardinal Gibbons wrote in response to a question about changing the Sabbath-

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. It could not have been otherwise as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical and religious without her. And the act is **a MARK of her ecclesiastical authority** in religious things".

Letter, November 11, 1895, from C.F. Thomas.

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Pastor's Page

Our Lord really simplified things when He said that the new law consisted in only two parts: love God and love neighbor. In the Hebrew Scriptures there were hundreds of laws that governed things in minutest detail. And the early Christians, most of whom were Jewish, had to really struggle with change. Some thought that many of the old laws should be carried over into the new Testament.

And, when we come to apply the Lord's commandments to concrete situations, we have to specify about particulars. So, the very early Church, without a long tradition, decreed that nobody should be overburdened, but idolatry, that is, taking part in pagan sacrifices, and sins against chastity are clearly against loving God and neighbor.

The Church has always had a strong sense of its own authority. "Whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven," Jesus said.

Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. "The Day of the Lord" (dies Dominica) was chosen, not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church's sense of its own power. The day of resurrection, the day of Pentecost, fifty days later, came on the first day of the week. So this would be the new Sabbath. People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy.

With a long long period of practice and reflection, Church law developed and changed with changing circumstances. It takes a fair amount of wisdom and study to know in detail the various Church laws. The latest revision of our Catholic Church law took place about 15 years ago, some time after the Vatican Council.

The law of Christ is always primary: we must love God and neighbor. Particular laws are made, not to be overly burdensome, but to apply, in particular circumstances, how the law of Christ is carried out in practice.

Some people think there should be no law, no government. They are anarchists, and of course they make themselves into their own law. We witness such people bombing innocents, shooting randomly in neighborhoods, destroying property, making up convenient (for themselves) rules about life, liberty, chastity, killing the unborn, free speech.

"My yoke is easy, my burden is light" said the Lord. It takes strong faith to be able to see that in all circumstances.

Here's how to love God next Thursday: Come to Mass and participate.



CSA

If you have not yet responded to the C.S.A. drive, you will be receiving information in the mail. Please place your contribution in the basket, bring to the rectory or you may mail it to the rectory.



Ascension Thursday

May 25, 1995

Masses: 9:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Festival Meeting

There will be a festival meeting of all chairpersons and all interested parishioners, Tuesday, May 23 in the meeting room in Church. All are welcome to attend. New ideas are always appreciated.



98 WHY THE SABBATH WAS CHANGED.

Q. (a) The Bible says "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord," and we read in your literature that it is the only Bible Sabbath there is. Will you please explain how the Sunday observance originated? (b) Do you think the Seventh Day Adventists keep the right day?

A. (a) If you follow the Bible alone there can be no question that you are obliged to keep Saturday holy, since that is the day especially prescribed by Almighty God to be kept holy to the Lord. In keeping Sunday,

The Question Bo.

WHY WE WORSHIP ON SUNDAY. 99

non-Catholics are simply following the practise of the Catholic Church for 1800 years, a tradition, and not a Bible ordinance. What we would like to know is: Since they deny the authority of the Church, on what grounds can they base their faith of keeping Sunday. Those who keep Saturday, like the Seventh Day Adventists, unquestionably have them by the hip in this practise. And they cannot give them any sufficient answer which would satisfy an unprejudiced mind. With the Catholics there is no difficulty about the matter. For, since we deny that the Bible is the sole rule of faith, we can fall back upon the constant practise and tradition of the Church which, long before the reign of Constantine, even in the very days of the apostles themselves, were accustomed to keep the first day of the week instead of the last, as we learn from the acts of the apostles, where we are told that St. Paul was celebrating Mass and instructing the people just as a Catholic priest does to-day. "On the first day of the week when we were assembled to break bread, Paul discoursed to them" (Acts xx. 7).

And on another occasion in writing to the Corinthians he tells them: "On the first day of the week let every one of you put apart with himself, laying up what it shall well please him

x - F. G. Lenz - 1900