

# Sabbath Confessions

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*Which day is the Christian Sabbath? Does it matter which day is observed by those who embrace Christ and the Bible? Which day did the apostles keep? What about Paul and the gentile churches he raised up? To those who believe Jesus Christ changed the seventh day Sabbath to Sunday, this booklet will present a case for the biblical Sabbath—against which there is no rebuttal.*



## ***Part 1***

### **The Sabbath throughout the Bible**

#### ***The Sabbath was Created at the Beginning***

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 sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made (Genesis 2:2-3).

#### ***The Sabbath Has Always Been Kept by God's Faithful***

Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws (Genesis 26:5).

Note: The word "statutes" is used 104 times in the pages of the Old Testament referring to God's appointed ordinances including His Sabbaths. The word "laws" is translated from the Hebrew *torah* meaning the Decalogue.

#### ***The Sabbath Was Restated at Sinai***

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 hallowed it (Exodus 20:8-11).

#### ***The Sabbath is of Great Importance***

Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; it *is* the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings (Leviticus 23:3).

### ***The Sabbath is a Mark***

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. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh *is* the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore, the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. **It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever**; for *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed’ (Exodus 31:13-17).

Note: The word “sign” used in verse 17 is the Hebrew *oth* and can be translated as a signal, a flag, or a mark. The Sabbath is a marker indicating who God’s people are.

Moreover, I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies them (Ezekiel 20:12).

I *am* the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them; hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I *am* the LORD your God (Ezekiel 20:19-20).

Note: Before entering the Promised Land, God reiterated His law in the book of Deuteronomy. The name of this book means the second giving of the law. The Almighty stated that they, including the Sabbath, were His sign or mark.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes** (Deuteronomy 6:6-8).

### ***Israel Polluted the Sabbath and God Punished Them***

Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments, which, *if* a man does, he shall live by them; and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them. But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out. So I also raised My hand in an oath to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given *them*, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands, because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols... Notwithstanding, the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, and were not careful to observe My judgments, which, *if* a man does, he shall live by them; but they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness (Ezekiel 20:13-21).

Note: In the book of Revelation, God pours out His wrath in the form of trumpet plagues and bowl plagues on those who have the mark of the beast. That mark is a counterfeit and contrary to the ordinances established by God.

### ***The Sabbath Was Honored by Christ***

Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught (Mark 1:21).

And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27-28).

And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing *Him* were astonished, saying, “Where *did* this Man *get* these things? And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!” (Mark 6:2).

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).

Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority (Luke 4:31-32).

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10).

### ***The Sabbath Was Honored by Paul***

But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down (Acts 13:14).

So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God (Acts 13:42-44).

Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures (Acts 17:2).

Note: If Paul intended to abandon the Sabbath, this would have been the time to do so. He could have informed the people that they could meet on a week day like Sunday. However, He observed the Sabbath with them. The Bible further demonstrates that the Gentiles were expected to keep the Sabbath. When the decision was made regarding circumcision, they wrote no more expecting the Gentiles to hear Moses and the Law read on the Sabbath.

For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath (Acts 15:21).

### ***The Sabbath is Kept during the Last Days***

And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath (Matthew 24:20).

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:17).

Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city (Revelation 22:14).

### ***The Sabbath is Kept during the Millennium***

“And it shall come to pass *that* from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD (Isaiah 66:23).

Note: The book of Ezekiel dedicates eight chapters to describing a temple that shall be built for Christ during the Millennium. At that time, the Sabbath will be observed.

Thus says the Lord GOD: “The gateway of the inner court that faces toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on

the Sabbath it shall be opened, and on the day of the New Moon it shall be opened” (Ezekiel 46:1).

Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the entrance to this gateway before the LORD on the Sabbaths and the New Moons (Ezekiel 46:3).

## ***Part 2***

### **The Sabbath and God’s Church**

The gentile Christians observed also the Sabbath (*Gieseler’s Church History*, Vol. 1, ch. 2, p. 93).

Down even to the fifth century the observance of the Jewish Sabbath was continued in the Christian church (*Ancient Christianity Exemplified*, Ch. 26, sec. 2, p. 527, Lyman Coleman).

The seventh-day Sabbath was... solemnized by Christ, and primitive Christians, till the Laodicean Council did in a manner quite abolish the observations of it (*Prynne’s Dissertation on the Lord’s Day*, p. 163).

The ancient Christians were very careful in the observation of Saturday, or the seventh-day... It is plain that the Oriental churches, and the greatest part of the world, observed the Sabbath as a festival... Anthonasius likewise tells us that they held religious assemblies on the Sabbath, not because they were infected with Judaism, but to worship Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath... (*Antiquities of the Christian Church*, vol. II, book XX).

The Primitive Christians had a great veneration for the Sabbath, and spent the Day in Devotion and Sermons. And ‘tis not to be doubted but they derived this Practice from the Apostles themselves (*A Discourse in Six Dialogues on the Name, Notion, and Observation of the Lord’s Day*, p. 189).

(The Nazarenes) ... regarded circumcision, Sabbaths, foods and the like, they did not refuse to recognize the apostolicity of Paul or the rights of heathen Christians (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, Eleventh Edition, p. 319).

Insabbati [they were called] not because they were circumcised, but because they kept the Jewish Sabbath (J.N. Andrews, *History of the Sabbath* p. 410).

Observance of the Sabbath by ceasing from worldly labours, is enjoined (Blair, *History of the Waldenses*, Vol. 1, p. 220).

That we are to worship one only God, who is able to help us, and not the Saints departed; that we ought to keep holy the Sabbath day (*Luther's Fore-runners*, London, 1624, p.38).

In 1310, two hundred years before Luther's theses, the Bohemian brethren constituted one fourth of the population of Bohemia, and that they were in touch with the Waldenses who abounded in Austria, Lombardy, Bohemia, north Germany, Thuringia, Brandenburg, and Moravia. Erasmus pointed out how strictly Bohemian Waldenses kept the seventh day Sabbath (Armitage, *A History of the Baptists*, p.313).

For centuries evangelical bodies, especially the Waldenses, were called Insabbati because of Sabbath-keeping (Gui, *Manuel d' Inquisiteur*, Vol. 1, p. 37).

We dwelt upon the Paulicians, Petrobrusians, Passagians, Waldenses, Insabbatati, as great Sabbathkeeping bodies of Europe down to 1250. We wrote of the Sabbatarians in Bohemia, Transylvania, England, and Holland between 1250 and 1600, as authenticated by Cox, Jones, Allix, and William of Neuburg. We have mentioned the innumerable Sabbath-keeping churches among the Greeks, Abyssinians, Armenians, Maronites, Jacobites, Scythians, and the great Church of the East (also from A.D. 1250 to 1600) with supporting evidence from competent authorities. The doctrines of all these Sabbath keeping bodies

throughout the centuries were comparatively pure, and the lives of their members were simple and holy. They were free from the unscriptural ceremonies which arose from the following of tradition. They received the Old Testament, and the whole Bible was their authority (*Truth Triumphant*, p. 456).

The Sabbath played the most important part in their religion's life... They called the Sabbath celebration a "spiritual marriage," and adorned themselves for it in wedding attire. The Sabbath service consisted of prayers and hymns, introduced and concluded by the sermon or 'instruction.' ... they maintained that, in adhering to these observances, they were following the example and teaching of Jesus. "He who keeps not the Sabbath will have no portion in the inheritance of Christ" (*Jewish Quarterly Review*, July 1890, #4, vol. II, Abrahams and C.G. Montefiore, pp. 472-475).

### ***Part 3***

## Professing Christianity's Confession Regarding the Sabbath

Nor can we imagine any one foolhardy enough to question the identity of Saturday with the Sabbath or seventh day, seeing that the people of Israel have been keeping Saturday from the giving of the Law... We deem it necessary to be perfectly clear on this point... The Bible - the Old Testament - confirmed by the living tradition of weekly practice for 3383 years by the chosen people of God, teaches, then, with absolute certainty, that God had, Himself, named the day to be kept holy to Him - that the day was Saturday, and that any violation of that command was punishable with death (*The Catholic Mirror*, Sept. 9, 1893).

But they err in teaching that Sunday has taken the place of the Old Testament Sabbath and therefore must be kept as the seventh day had to be kept by the children of Israel... These churches err in their teaching, for Scripture has in no way ordained the first day of the week in place of the Sabbath. There

is simply no law in the New Testament to that effect (*Sabbath or Sunday*, pp. 15-16, John Theodore Mueller).

You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we [The Roman Catholic Church] never sanctify (*Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 111, James Cardinal Gibbon).

The Redeemer, during His mortal life, never kept any other day than Saturday (*The Catholic Mirror*, Sept. 2, 1893).

The Bible commandment says on the seventh day thou shalt rest. That is Saturday. Nowhere in the Bible is it laid down that worship should be done on Sunday (*Toronto Daily Star*, October 26, 1949, Philip Carrington).

There is nothing in Scripture that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day (*Christianity Today*, Harold Lindsell, Nov. 5, 1976).

The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a Divine command in this respect, far from them, and from the early apostolic Church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday (*Neander's Church History*, p. 186, translated by H. J. Rose).

Take the matter of Sunday. There are indications in the New Testament as to how the church came to keep the first day of the week as its day of worship, but there is no passage telling Christians to keep that day, or to transfer the Jewish Sabbath to that day (*Christian Advocate*, July 2, 1942, Harris Franklin Rall).

But, the moral law contained in the ten commandments, and enforced by the prophets, He did not take away. It was not the design of his coming to revoke any part of this. This is a law which never can be broken... Every part of this law must remain

in force upon all mankind, and in all ages; as not depending either on time or place, or any other circumstances liable to change, but on the nature of God and the nature of man, and their unchangeable relation to each other (*Sermons on Several Occasions*, Vol. I, pp. 221- 222).

The Sabbath instituted in the beginning and confirmed again and again by Moses and the Prophets, has never been abrogated (*New York Herald*, 1874, on the Methodist Episcopal Bishops Pastoral).

It seems to have been customary in the Celtic churches of early times, in Ireland as well as Scotland, to keep Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, as a day of rest from labor. They obeyed the fourth commandment literally upon the seventh day of the week (*The Church in Scotland*, p. 140, Professor James C. Moffat, D.D., Professor of Church History at Princeton).

The Sabbath was binding in Eden, and it has been in force ever since. This fourth commandment begins with the word “remember,” showing that the Sabbath already existed when God Wrote the law on the tables of stone at Sinai. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away when they will admit that the other nine are still binding? (*Weighed and Wanting*, Dwight L. Moody).

There is much evidence that the Sabbath prevailed in Wales universally until AD 1115, when the first Roman bishop was seated at St. David’s. The old Welsh Sabbath-keeping churches did not even then altogether bow the knee to Rome, but fled to their hiding places (*Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America*, Vol. 1, p. 29, Lewis).

It was the practice generally of the Eastern Churches; and some churches of the west... For in the church of Millaine [Milan];... it seems Saturday was held in farre esteeme [fair esteem]... Not that the Eastern churches, or any of the rest which observed that day, were inclined to Iudaisme [Judaism]; but that they came

together on the Sabbath day, to worship Iesus [Jesus] Christ the Lord of the Sabbath (*History of the Sabbath Part 2*, pp. 73-74, London: 1636).

Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the name of the sun-god, then adopted and sanctified by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism.” Dr. E.T. Hiscox, report of his sermon at the Baptist Ministers’ Convention, in “New York Examiner,” November 16, 1893

The primitive Christians did keep the Sabbath of the Jews... therefore the Christians for a long time together, did keep their conventions on the Sabbath, in which some portion of the Law were read: and this continued till the time of the Laodicean council (*The Whole Works of Jeremy Taylor*, Vol. IX, p. 416).

Note: In 363, the local Council of Laodicea passed the following decree: Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But if any man be found to be judaizing, let them be anathema from Christ (Percival Translation, Canon XXIX).

It will surely be far safer to observe the seventh day, according to express commandment of God, than on the authority of mere human conjecture to adopt the first (*Sabbath Literature*, pp. 46-54, John Milton).

Which church does the whole civilized world obey? Protestants call us every horrible name they can think of—antichrist, the scarlet-colored beast, Babylon, etc., and at the same time profess great reverence for the Bible, and yet by their solemn act of keeping Sunday they acknowledge the power of the Catholic Church. The Bible says, ‘Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy,’ but the Catholic Church says, ‘No, keep the

first day of the week,' and the whole world bows in obedience (Catholic priest Thomas Enright, C.S.S.R., lecture at Redemptorist College, Kansas City, MO, Feb. 18, 1884).

And on the seventh day God rested from the work he had done... He blessed the seventh day and hallowed it. The shabbat, the biblical Sabbath, is tied to this mystery of God's rest. If we Christians celebrate the Lord's day on Sunday, it is because on that day the Resurrection of Christ occurred (Pope John Paul II, July 12, 1998).

Is Saturday the seventh day according to the Bible and the Ten Commandments? I answer yes. Is Sunday the first day of the week and did the Church change the seventh day - Saturday - for Sunday, the first day? I answer yes. Did Christ change the day? I answer no! Faithfully yours, James Cardinal Gibbons (letter written by James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore 1877-1921, *The Catholic Press*, Aug. 25, 1900).

Nowhere in the Bible do we find that Christ or the Apostles ordered that the Sabbath be changed from Saturday to Sunday. We have the commandment of God given to Moses to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is the 7th day of the week, Saturday. Today most Christians keep Sunday because it has been revealed to us by the [Roman Catholic] church outside the Bible (*Catholic Virginian*, p. 9, Oct. 3, 1947).

Examining the New Testament from cover to cover, critically, we find the Sabbath referred to sixty-one times. We find too, that the Savior invariably selected the Sabbath (Saturday) to teach in the synagogues and work miracles. The four Gospels refer to the Sabbath fifty-one times. In one instance, the Redeemer refers to Himself as "Lord of the Sabbath" as mentioned by Matthew and Luke, but, during the whole record of His life, while invariably keeping and utilizing the day, (Saturday), He never once hinted at a desire to change it ... with the Bible alone as the teacher and guide in faith and morals. This teacher most emphatically forbids any changes in

the day for paramount reasons. The command calls for a “perpetual covenant.” The day commanded to be kept by the teacher (the Bible) has never once been kept (by the Protestant or Catholic churches), thereby developing an apostasy from an assumedly fixed principle, as self contradictory, self stultifying, and consequently as suicidal as it is within the power of language to express (James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Catholic Mirror*, Nov. 25 1893).

Everyone knows that Sunday is the first day of the week, while Saturday is the seventh day, and the Sabbath, the day consecrated as a day of rest. It is so recognized in all civilized nations, I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who will furnish any proof from the Bible that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep, and no one has called for the money (Roman Catholic Priest Thomas Enright, C.S.S.R., lecture at Redemptorist College, Kansas City, MO, Feb. 18, 1884).

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 transaction be found? Not in the New Testament absolutely not. To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years’ intercourse with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question... never alluded to any transference of the day; also, that during forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated. Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history... But what a pity it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god, adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism! (Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, a paper read before a New York ministers’ conference, Nov. 13, 1893, reported in *New York Examiner*, Nov.16, 1893).

## ***Part 4***

### **The Roman Catholic Church Attempted to Change Sabbath to Sunday**

Some theologians have held that God likewise directly determined Sunday as the day of worship in the New Law, that He Himself has explicitly substituted Sunday for the Sabbath. But this theory is now entirely abandoned. It is now commonly held that God simply gave His Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days as holy days (*A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies*, Vol 1, p. 51, John Laux, 1936).

We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws (*Catholic Church Extension Society*, 1975, Chicago, Illinois, Peter R. Kraemer).

Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday. The fact is that the Church was in existence for several centuries before the Bible was given to the world. The Church made the Bible, the Bible did not make the Church (*Things Catholics Are Asked About*, Martin J. Scot, 1927 ed.).

**Question:** Which is the Sabbath day? **Answer:** Saturday is the Sabbath day. **Q:** Why do we observe Sunday instead of

Saturday? **A:** We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea, transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. (*The Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, 3rd edition, Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R.).

Sunday is our mark of authority. The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact (*The Catholic Record*, Sept. 1, 1923).

**Note:** It is interesting to note that God also has a mark. That mark, which is an identifying sign between Him and His people, is His Sabbath. See Exodus 31:17 and Ezekiel 20:12, 19, 20.

Because the third commandment (which is really the fourth commandment but Catholicism does away with the second commandment so they do not have to acknowledge their idolatry, which to them makes the Sabbath the third) depends upon the remembrance of God's saving works and because Christians saw the definitive time inaugurated by Christ as a new beginning, they made the first day after the Sabbath a festive day, for that was the day on which the Lord rose from the dead (Pope John Paul II, May 31, 1998).

They [Roman Catholics] refer to the Sabbath Day, as having been changed into the Lord's Day, contrary to the Decalogue, as it seems. Neither is there any example whereof they make more than concerning the changing of the Sabbath Day. Great, say they, is the power of the Church, since it has dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments! (*Augsburg Confession of Faith*, Article 28, approved by Martin Luther, 1530).

The Catholic Church... by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday (*The Catholic Mirror*, Sept. 23, 1893).

Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday... Now the Church instituted, by

God's authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday (*Things Catholics Are Asked About*, Martin J. Scott).

My brethren, look about you upon the various wrangling sects and denominations. Show me one that claims, or possesses the power to make laws binding on the conscience. There's but one on the face of the earth—the Catholic Church—that has the power to make laws binding upon the conscience, binding before God, binding under pain of hell fire. Take for instance the day we celebrate—Sunday. What right have the Protestant churches to observe that day? None whatever. You say it is to obey the commandment, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' But Sunday is not the Sabbath according to the Bible and the record of time. Everyone knows that Sunday is the first day of the week, while Saturday is the seventh day and the Sabbath, the day consecrated as a day of rest. It is so recognized in all civilized nations. I have repeatedly offered \$1000 to anyone who will furnish any proof from the Bible that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep, and no one has called for the money. If any person in this town will show me any scripture for it I will, tomorrow evening, publicly acknowledge it and thank him for it. It was the holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week. It was the holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week. And it not only compelled all to keep Sunday, but at the Council of Laodicea, A. D. 364, anathematized those who kept the Sabbath and urged all persons to labor on the seventh day under the penalty of anathema (Catholic Priest Enright, *The American Sentinel*, Vol. 5, No. 6, Feb. 6, 1890, p. 46).

**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 (*A Doctrinal Catechism* Third Edition, Stephen Keenan, p. 174).

**Question:** How prove you that the Church hath power to command feasts and holy days? **Answer.** By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of, and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same Church (*Manual of Christian Doctrine*, 1916, Daniel Ferres).

Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observation can be defended only on Catholic principles... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first (*The Catholic Press*, Vol. IV, No. 251, Aug. 25, 1900, p. 22, Sydney, Australia).

“Our Lord rose from the dead on the first day of the week.” said Father Jourigan of the Jesuit Seminary. “That is why the Church changed the day of obligation from the seventh day to the first day of the week. The Anglican and other Protestant denominations retained that tradition when the Reformation came along” (Toronto Daily Star, Oct. 26, 1949).

## ***Part 5***

### **Protestant Denominations and the Sabbath**

#### ANGLICAN

The Lord’s day (Sunday) did not succeed in the place of the Sabbath... The Lord’s day was merely an ecclesiastical institution. It was not introduced by virtue of the fourth commandment, because for almost three hundred years together they kept that day which was in that commandment... The primitive Christians did all manner of works upon the Lord’s

day even in times of persecution when they are the strictest observers of all the divine commandments; but in this they knew there was none (Bishop Jeremy Taylor, *Ductor Dubitantium*, Part 1, Book II, Ch. 2, Rule 6, Sec. 51, 59).

The Primitive Christians had a great veneration for the Sabbath, and spent the Day in Devotion and Sermons. And 'tis not to be doubted but they derived this Practice from the Apostles themselves (*A Discourse in Six Dialogues on the Name, Notion, and Observation of the Lord's Day*, p. 189).

And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because of the Bible, but because the church has enjoined it (*Plain Sermons on the Catechism*, Isaac Williams, vol. 1, pp. 334, 336).

We have made the change from the seventh day to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy Catholic Church (*Why We Keep Sunday*, Bishop Seymour).

### BAPTIST

There was never any formal or authoritative change from the Jewish seventh-day Sabbath to the Christian first-day observance (*The Lord's Day in Our Day*, p. 49, William Owen Carver).

The Lord's Day is not sanctified by any specific command or by any inevitable inference. In all the New Testament there is no hint or suggestion of a legal obligation binding any man, whether saint or sinner, to observe the Day. Its sanctity arises only out of what it means to the true believer (*The Sabbatic Question*, J. J. Taylor, p. 72).

## CONGREGATIONALIST

It is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath... the Sabbath was founded on a specific Divine command. We can plead no such command for the obligation to observe Sunday... There is not a single sentence in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday (*The Ten Commandments*, pp. 106-107, Dr. R. W. Dale).

... the Christian sabbath [Sunday] is not in the Scriptures, and was not by the primitive Church called the Sabbath (*Theology: Explained and Defended*, 1823, Timothy Dwight).

The current notion that Christ and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day for the seventh, is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament (Dr. Layman Abbot, *The Christian Union*, June 26, 1890).

## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

The first day of the week is commonly called the “Sabbath.” This is a mistake. The Sabbath of the Bible was the day just preceding the first day of the week... The first day of the week is never called the “Sabbath” anywhere in the entire Scriptures... It is also an error to talk about a “change of the Sabbath.” There never was any change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not, at any place in the Bible, any intimation of any such change (*Thirteen Chapters On First Day Observance*, pp. 17-18).

There is no direct Scriptural authority for designating the first day ‘the Lord’s Day’ (*Christian Oracle*, Dr. D.H. Lucas, Jan. 23, 1890).

But, say some, it was changed from the seventh to the first day. Where? When? And by whom? No man can tell. No; it never was changed, nor could it be, unless creation was to be gone through again: for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to the reason, can be changed! It is

all old wives fables to talk of the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that August personage changed it who changes times and laws ex officio - I think his name is Doctor Antichrist (*The Christian Baptist*, Feb. 2, 1824, Alexander Campbell).

### LUTHERAN

We have seen how gradually the impression of the Jewish Sabbath faded from the mind of the Christian Church, and how completely the newer thought underlying the observance of the first day took possession of the church. We have seen that the Christians of the first three centuries never confused one with the other... (*The Sunday Problem*, 1923).

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 transaction be found? Not in the New Testament absolutely not... (Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, New York minister's conference, Nov. 13, 1893).

### METHODIST

The reason we observe the first day instead of the seventh is based on no positive command. One will search the Scriptures in vain for authority for changing from the seventh day to the first (Clovis G. Chappell, *Ten Rules For Living*, p. 61).

No Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral (*Methodist Church Discipline*, p. 23, 1904).

The Sabbath was made for MAN; not for the Hebrews, but for all men (E.O. Haven, *Pillars of Truth*, p. 88).

### PRESBYTERIAN

The Sabbath is a part of the Decalogue - the Ten Commandments. This alone forever settles the question as to

the perpetuity of the institution... Until, therefore, it can be shown that the whole moral law has been repealed, the Sabbath will stand... The teaching of Christ confirms the perpetuity of the Sabbath (*Theology Condensed*, T. C. Blake, D.D. pp. 474, 475).

There is no word, no hint, in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday... Into the rest of Sunday no divine law enters... The observance of Ash Wednesday or Lent stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday (Canon Eyton, *The Ten Commandments*, pp. 52, 63, 65).

### PENTECOSTAL

Why do we worship on Sunday? Doesn't the Bible teach us that Saturday should be the Lord's Day? ...Apparently we will have to seek the answer from some other source than the New Testament (Is Sunday the Lord's Day? *The Pentecostal Evangel*, David A. Womack, Aug. 9, 1959, No. 2361, p. 3).

## **Part 6**

### **Protestants Honor Their Mother Church**

... Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man (*Catholic Church Extension Society*, 1975, Chicago, Illinois, Peter R. Kraemer).

It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible (*Catholic Church Extension Society*, 1975, Chicago, Illinois, Peter R. Kraemer).

The observance of Sunday by Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] church (*Plain Talk About The Protestantism of Today*, p. 213).

Thus we see Daniel 7:25 fulfilled, the little horn changing “times and laws.” Therefore it appears to me that all who keep the first day for the Sabbath are Pope’s Sunday-keepers and God’s Sabbath-breakers (T.M. Preble, Feb. 13, 1845).

Incidentally, there is no proof in scripture that God willed the Sabbath to be changed from Saturday to Sunday, so that those non-Catholics who do not accept the value of tradition as a source of faith should logically still observe Saturday as the Sabbath (*This is the Faith; Catholic Theology for Laymen*, Francis J. Ripley, p. 176).

But since Saturday, not Sunday, is specified in the Bible, isn’t it curious that non-Catholics who profess to take their religion directly from the Bible and not from the Church, observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course it is inconsistent; but this change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born, and by that time the custom was universally observed. They have continued the custom, even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text in the Bible. That observance remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away--like a boy running away from home, but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair (*The Faith of Millions – The Credentials of the Catholic Religion*, John A. O’Brien, Ph. D., LL. D. p. 473, 1955).

The Bible commandment says on the seventh day thou shalt rest. That is Saturday. Nowhere in the Bible is it laid down that worship should be done on Sunday (Philip Carrington, *Toronto Daily Star*, October 26, 1949).

From this we may understand how great is the authority of the church in interpreting or explaining to us the commandments of God - an authority which is acknowledged by the universal practice of the whole Christian world, even of those sects which profess to take the holy Scriptures as their sole rule of faith,

since they observe as the day of rest not the seventh day of the week demanded by the Bible, but the first day. Which we know is to be kept holy, only from the tradition and teaching of the Catholic church (*Catechism Made Easy*, Henry Gibson, #2, 9th edition, vol. 1, p. 341-342).

If the Bible is the only guide for the Christian, then the Seventh-day Adventist is right in observing the Saturday with the Jew... Is it not strange that those who make the Bible their only teacher, should inconsistently follow in this matter the tradition of the Catholic Church? (*The Question Box*, Cardinal Gibbons, p. 179).

## ***Part 7***

### **Sunday Worship Originated in the Pagan World**

... as a “holy” day of rest and cessation from labor and amusements Sunday was unknown to Jesus... Outside the Church its observance was legalized for the Roman Empire through a series of decrees starting with the famous one of Constantine in 321, an edict due to his political and social policies rather than, as Eusebius thought, to religious ones. For he took the day not because of the Christian custom of meeting then to commemorate the Resurrection but from “the venerable day of the Sun” ...So much confusion in identifying Sunday and the Sabbath has been inherited by Britain and America through Puritan influence that it seems well to recapitulate the well-known facts... (Walter Woodburn Hyde, *Paganism to Christianity in the Roman Empire*, p. 257).

“Sabbath” is derived from both “rest” and “seven.” With the Egyptians it was the reverse... for them on the contrary, the sun-god was the beginning and origin of all things. The day of the sun, Sunday, became necessarily for them the feast day... The holiday was transferred from the last to the first day of the week. The seven planetary names of the days were at the close of the second century A.D. prevailing everywhere in the

Roman Empire... This astrology originated in Egypt, where Alexandria now so loudly proclaimed it to all... “The day of the sun” was the Lord’s day, the chiefest and first of the week. The evil and fatal Saturn’s day was the last of the week on which none could celebrate a feast... (*Daglige Liv i Norden*, Vol. XIII, pp. 54-55, 91-92).

This Sunday law constituted no real favoritism to Christianity... It is evident from all his statutory provisions that the Emperor during the time 313-323 with full consciousness has sought the realization of his religious aim: the amalgamation of heathenism and Christianity (*Kirken og Romerstaten [The Church and the Roman State]* p. 256).

They despise our sun-god. Did not Zoroaster, the sainted founder of our divine beliefs, institute Sunday one thousand years ago in honor of the sun and supplant the Sabbath of the Old Testament? Yet these Christians had divine services on Saturday (*The Syriac Church and Fathers*, pp. 83, 84, O’Leary).

The retention of the old pagan name of Dies Solis, for Sunday is, in a great measure, owing to the union of pagan and Christian sentiment with which the first day of the week was recommended by Constantine to his subjects - pagan and Christian alike - as the ‘venerable’ day of the sun (*History of the Eastern Church*, Arthur P. Stanley, p. 184

... pastoral intuition suggested to the Church the christianization of the notion of Sunday as “the day of the sun,” which was the Roman name for the day and which is retained in some modern languages. This was in order to draw the faithful away from the seduction of cults which worshipped the sun, and to direct the celebration of the day to Christ, humanity’s true “sun” (*Dies Domini*, John Paul II, p. 27. *The day of Christ-Light*, 1998).

The Sun was a foremost god with heathen-dom... The sun has worshippers at this hour in Persia and other lands... There is, in

truth, something royal, kingly about the sun, making it a fit emblem of Jesus, the Sun of Justice. Hence the church in these countries would seem to have said, to “Keep that old pagan name [Sunday]. It shall remain consecrated, sanctified.” And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus (*Doctor of Divinity, The Catholic World*, p. 809, William Gildea, Mar. 1894).

## **Part 8**

### **Sabbath through the Centuries**

#### **The First Century**

And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath... And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God (Acts 13:42-44).

Then the spiritual seed of Abraham fled to Pella, on the other side of Jordan, where they found a safe place of refuge, and could serve their Master and keep His Sabbath (*Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History*, book 3, ch. 5).

The primitive Christians had a great veneration for the Sabbath, and spent the day in devotion and sermons. And it is not to be doubted but they derived this practice from the Apostles themselves, as appears by several scriptures to that purpose (*Dialogues on the Lord's Day*, p. 189. London: 1701, by Dr. T.H. Morer).

#### **The Second Century**

The primitive Christians did keep the Sabbath of the Jews... therefore the Christians, for a long time together, did keep their conventions upon the Sabbath, in which some portions of the law were read: and this continued till the time of the Laodicean council (*The Whole Works of Jeremy Taylor*, Vol. IX, p. 416).

While the Jewish Christians of Palestine retained the entire mosaic law, and consequently the Jewish festivals, the Gentile Christians observed also the Sabbath and the Passover, with reference to the last scenes of Jesus' life, but without Jewish superstition (*A Text-Book of Church History*, Geiseler, p. 93).

From the Apostles' time until the council of Laodicea, which was about the year 364, the holy observation of the Jews' Sabbath continued, as may be proved out of many authors: yea, notwithstanding the decree of the council against it (*Sunday a Sabbath*, John Ley, p. 163).

### **The Third Century**

Except ye make the Sabbath a real Sabbath [sabbatize the Sabbath, Greek], ye shall not see the father (*The Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, pt. L, p. 3, Logion 2, verse 4-11, translated from a third century Egyptian papyrus, 200-250 A.D.).

Thou shalt observe the Sabbath, on account of Him who ceased from His work of creation, but ceased not from His work of providence: it is a rest for meditation of the law, not for idleness of the hands (*The Anti-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 7, p. 413. From Constitutions of the Holy Apostles, a document of the 3rd and 4th Centuries).

### **The Fourth Century**

Ambrose, the celebrated bishop of Milan, said that when he was in Milan he observed Saturday, but when in Rome observed Sunday. This gave rise to the proverb, "When you are in Rome, do as Rome does" (*Heylyn, The History of the Sabbath*, 1612).

Canon 16 On Saturday the Gospels and other portions of the Scripture shall be read aloud. Canon 29 Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honor, and, as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day (*Hefele's Councils*, Vol. 2, b. 6. Council of Laodicea. 365).

## **The Fifth Century**

Augustine shows here that the Sabbath was observed in his day in the greater part of the Christian world, and his testimony in this respect is all the more valuable because he himself was an earnest and consistent Sunday-keeper (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, 1st Series, Vol. 1, pp. 353, 354).

SIDONIUS (speaking of King Theodoric of the Goths, A.D. 454-526) It is a fact that it was formerly the custom in the East to keep the Sabbath in the same manner as the Lord's day and to hold sacred assemblies: while on the other hand, the people of the West, contending for the Lord's day have neglected the celebration of the Sabbath (*Apollinaris Sidonii Epistolae*, lib. 1, 2; Migne, 57).

In Jerome's day [420 AD] the devoutest Christians did ordinary work on Sunday (*Treatise of the Sabbath Day*, Dr. White, Lord Bishop of Ely, p. 219).

## **The Sixth Century**

In this latter instance they seemed to have followed a custom of which we find traces in the early monastic church of Ireland by which they held Saturday to be the Sabbath on which they rested from all their labours (W.T. Skene, *Adamnan Life of St. Columba*, 1874, p. 96).

Having continued his labours in Scotland thirty-four years, he clearly and openly foretold his death, and on Saturday, the ninth of June, said to his disciple Diermit: This day is called the Sabbath, that is, the rest day, and such will it truly be to me; for it will put an end to my labours (*Butler's Lives of the Saints*, Vol. 1, A.D. 597, p. 762).

## **The Seventh Century**

Professor James C. Moffatt, D.D., Professor of Church History at Princeton says: It seems to have been customary in the Celtic Churches of early times, in Ireland as well as Scotland, to keep Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, as a day of rest from labour. They

obeyed the fourth commandment literally upon the seventh day of the week (*The Church in Scotland*, p. 140).

Gregory I wrote against Roman citizens [who] forbid any work being done on the Sabbath day (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Second Series, Vol. XIII, p. 13, epist. 1).

Gregory, bishop by the grace of God to his well-beloved sons, the Roman citizens: It has come to me that certain men of perverse spirit have disseminated among you things depraved and opposed to the holy faith, so that they forbid anything to be done on the day of the Sabbath. What shall I call them except preachers of anti-Christ? (*Epistles*, b. 13:1).

### **The Eighth Century**

We command all Christians to observe the Lord's day to be held not in honour of the past Sabbath, but on account of that holy night of the first of the week called the Lord's day. When speaking of that Sabbath which the Jews observe, the last day of the week, and which also our peasants observe... (*Mansi*, 13, 851).

The hills of Persia and the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates reechoed their songs of praise. They reaped their harvests and paid their tithes. They repaired to their churches on the Sabbath day for the worship of God (*The Book of ser Marco Polo*, Vol. 2, p. 409).

Widespread and enduring was the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath among the believers of the Church of the East and the St. Thomas Christians of India, who never were connected with Rome. It also was maintained among those bodies which broke off from Rome after the Council of Chalcedon namely, the Abyssinians, the Jacobites, the Maronites, and the Armenians (Schaff-Herzog, *The New Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, art. "Nestorians"; also Realencyclopaedie fur Protestantische Theologie und Kirche, art. "Nestoriane").

### **The Ninth Century**

Bulgaria in the early season of its evangelization had been taught that no work should be performed on the Sabbath (Responsa Nicolai Papae I and Con-Consulta Bulgarorum, Responsum 10, found in *Mansi, Sacrorum Conciliorum Nova et Amplissima Collectio*, Vol. 15; p. 406; also Hefele, *Conciliengeschichte*, Vol. 4, sec. 478).

Cardinal Hergenrother says that they stood in intimate relation with Emperor Michael II (821-829) and testifies that they observed the Sabbath (*Kirchengeschichte*, 1, 527).

### **The Tenth Century**

The Nestorians eat no pork and keep the Sabbath. They believe in neither auricular confession nor purgatory (Schaff-Herzog, *The New Encyclopaedia of Religious Knowledge*, art. Nestorians).

And because they observed no other day of rest but the Sabbath day. Yes; they called them Insabathas, as much as to say, as they observed no Sabbath [i.e., did not observe Sunday] (*Luther's Fore-Runners* [original spelling] pp. 7, 8).

They worked on Sunday, but kept Saturday in a Sabbatical manner (*A history of Scotland from the Roman Occupation*, Vol. I, p. 96, Andrew Lang).

### **The Eleventh Century**

Her next point was that they did not duly reverence the Lord's day, but in this latter instance they seemed to have followed a custom of which we find traces in the early Church of Ireland, by which they held Saturday to be the Sabbath on which they rested from all their labours (*Celtic Scotland*, Vol. 2, p. 349).

They held that Saturday was properly the Sabbath on which they abstained from work (*Celtic Scotland*, Vol. 2, p. 350).

Because you observe the Sabbath with the Jews and the Lord's Day with us, you seem to imitate with such observance the sect of Nazarenes (*Migne, Patrologia Latina*, Vol. 145, p. 506; also Hergenroether, Photius, Vol. 3, p. 746).

### **The Twelfth Century**

Robinson gives an account of some of the Waldenses of the Alps, who were called Sabbati, Sabbatati, Insabbatati, but more frequently Inzabbatati. One says they were so named from the Hebrew word Sabbath, because they kept the Saturday for the Lord's day (*General History of the Baptist Denomination*, Vol. 2, p. 413).

The papal author, Bonacursus, wrote the following against the "Passagini": Not a few, but many know what are the errors of those who are called Passagini... First, they teach that we should obey the Sabbath. Furthermore, to increase their error, they condemn and reject all the church Fathers, and the whole Roman Church (*D'Achery, Spicilegium I*, f. 211-214; Muratory, *Antiq. Med. aevi*. 5, f. 152, Hahn, 3, 209).

### **The Thirteenth Century**

They say that the blessed Pope Sylvester was the Antichrist of whom mention is made in the Epistles of St. Paul as having been the son of perdition. [They also say] that the keeping of the Sabbath ought to take place (*Ecclesiastical History of the Ancient Churches of Piedmont*, p. 169).

The sect of the Passagii represents in most obvious tangible form the Judaizing aspects of heterodox movements in Christendom during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries... The insistence by the Passagii upon the literal observance of the Sabbath commandment reflects the strong Sabbatarian influence in the Christian Church from its earliest beginnings to present day... The length to which the Passagii carried their acceptance of the Jewish law may be perceived in their attachment to Mosaic dietary regulations... Like the ancient sects of the Christian communion, among them the Nazareans,

Ebionites, Elkesaites, Sampseans and others, the Passagii sought to harmonize the Old and New dispensations. The Catholic Church had pretended to follow a similar policy, but in the process had negated and virtually obliterated, by its “spiritual” exegesis, the author of the Old Testament (*Jewish Influence on Christian Reform Movements*, 255-266, Newman).

Thousands of God’s people were tortured to death by the Inquisition, buried alive, burned to death, or hacked to pieces by the crusaders. While devastating the city of Biterre the soldiers asked the Catholic leaders how they should know who were heretics; Arnold, Abbot of Cisteaux, answered: “Slay them all, for the Lord knows who is His” (*History of the Inquisition*, p. 96).

### **The Fourteenth Century**

In 1310, two hundred years before Luther’s theses, the Bohemian brethren constituted one-fourth of the population of Bohemia, and that they were in touch with the Waldenses who abounded in Austria, Lombardy, Bohemia, north Germany, Thuringia, Brandenburg, and Moravia. Erasmus pointed out how strictly Bohemian Waldenses kept the seventh-day Sabbath (*Armitage, A History of the Baptists*, p. 318; Cox, *The Literature of the Sabbath Question*, Vol. 2, pp. 201-202).

We wrote of the Sabbatarians in Bohemia, Transylvania, England, and Holland between 1250 and 1600, as authenticated by Cox, Jones, Allix, and William of Neuburg. We have mentioned the innumerable Sabbath-keeping churches among the Greeks, Abyssinians, Armenians, Maronites, Jacobites, Scythians, and the great Church of the East (also from A.D. 1250 to 1600) with supporting evidence from competent authorities. The doctrines of all these Sabbathkeeping bodies throughout the centuries were comparatively pure, and the lives of their members were simple and holy. They were free from the unscriptural ceremonies which arose from the following of tradition. They received the Old Testament, and the whole Bible was their authority (*Truth Triumphant*, p. 456, Wilkinson).

## **The Fifteenth Century**

The first matter concerned a keeping holy of Saturday. It had come to the ear of the archbishop that people in different places of the kingdom had ventured the keeping holy of Saturday. It is strictly forbidden it is stated in the Church-Law, for any one to keep or to adopt holy days, outside of those which the pope, archbishop, or bishops appoint (*The History of the Norwegian Church Under Catholicism*, R. Keyser, Vol. II, p. 488).

Louis XII, King of France (1498-1515), being informed by the enemies of the Waldenses, inhabiting a part of the province of Provence, that several heinous crimes were laid to their account, sent the Master of Requests, and a certain doctor of the Sorbonne, to make inquiry into this matter. On their return they reported that they had visited all the parishes, but could not discover any traces of those crimes with which they were charged. On the contrary, they kept the Sabbath day, observed the ordinance of baptism, according to the primitive church, instructed their children in the articles of the Christian faith, and the commandments of God. The King having heard the report of his commissioners, said with an oath that they were better men than himself or his people (*History of the Christian Church*, Vol. II, pp. 71-72, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

## **The Sixteenth Century**

In the reign of Elizabeth, it occurred to many conscientious and independent thinkers (as it previously had done to some Protestants in Bohemia) that the fourth commandment required of them the observance, not of the first, but of the specified "seventh" day of the week (*Chambers' Cyclopaedia*, article "Sabbath," Vol. 8, p. 416, 1887).

For many years, God in his providence made Moravia (where there were Christian Sabbath-keepers) the place of refuge for many thousands of honest believers, assembled there from various parts of Europe, and he brought all these in touch with his truth. Even most prominent men, as the princes of Lichtenstein, held to the observance of the true Sabbath. When

persecution finally scattered them, the seeds of truth must have been sown by them in the different portions of the Continent which they visited. That there were also Sabbath-keepers in other countries of Europe, although they were few in number and somewhat secluded because of the severe persecutions against them, proofs are not lacking. We have found them in Bohemia. They were also known in Silesia and Poland. 22 Likewise they were in Holland and in northern Germany. Dr. Cornelius states of east Friesland, that when the Baptists were numerous, "Sunday and holidays were not observed..." (*History of the Sabbath and First Day of the Week*, p. 649, Andrews and Conradi, 1912).

The Sabbatarians teach that the outward Sabbath, i.e., Saturday, still must be observed. They say that Sunday is the Pope's invention (*Refutation of Sabbath*, Wolfgang Capito, 1599).

### **The Seventeenth Century**

Here in England are about nine or ten churches that keep the Sabbath, besides many scattered disciples, who have been eminently preserved. *Stennet's letters*, 1668 and 1670. Cox. Sab., 1, 268).

It will surely be far safer to observe the seventh day, according to express commandment of God, than on the authority of mere human conjecture to adopt the first (Sab. Lit. 2, 46-54, John Milton).

The Lord's day (is) not enjoined in the place thereof, either by Christ, or his Apostles; but instituted by the authority of the (Catholic) Church. Our Saviors resurrection upon the first day of the week, and apparition on the same, make it not a Sabbath (*History of the Sabbath*, P. Heylin, p. a4, 1636).

We can trace these opinions over almost the whole extent of Sweden of that day from Finland and northern Sweden. In the district of Upsala the farmers kept Saturday in place of Sunday. About the year 1625 this religious tendency became

so pronounced in these countries that not only large numbers of the common people began to keep Saturday as the rest day, but even many priests did the same (*History of the Swedish Church*, Vol. I, p. 56).

That Sabbatarians again appeared in England by the time of the Reformation, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth (a.d. 1533-1603), Dr. Chambers testifies in his Cyclopaedia. (*History of the Sabbath and First Day of the Week*, p. 650, Andrews and Conradi, 1912)

### **The Eighteenth Century**

He himself says: "It cannot be shown that Sunday has taken the place of the Sabbath" (p. 366). The Lord God has sanctified the last day of the week. Antichrist, on the other hand, has appointed the first day of the week (*Auszug aus Tennhardt's Schriften*, p. 49, 1712).

AMERICA, 1741 [Moravian Brethren after Zinzendorf arrived from Europe]. As a special instance it deserves to be noticed that he is resolved with the church at Bethlehem to observe the seventh day as rest day (*Varnhagen von Ense Biographische Denkmale*, p. 5, 301).

But before Zinzendorf and the Moravians at Bethlehem thus began the observance of the Sabbath and prospered, there was a small body of German Sabbath-keepers in Pennsylvania (*Rupp's History of Religious Denominations in the United States*, pp. 109-123).

### **The Nineteenth Century**

They have preserved the Bible in its purity; and their doctrines are, as far as the Author knows, the doctrines of the Bible. Besides, they maintain the solemn observance of Christian worship throughout our Empire, on the seventh day (Buchanan, *Christian Researches in Asia*, p. 259).

But the majority moved to the Crimea and the Caucasus, where they remain true to their doctrine in spite of persecution until this present time. The people call them Subotniki, or Sabbatarians (*Geschichte der Juden in Polen*, p. 124).

A spectacular resurgence of seventh day Sabbath keeping erupted in 19<sup>th</sup> century America... Seventh day Baptists currently number around 5000, but have many more members worldwide... In 1844 Seventh-day Adventists arose and had spread to nearly all parts of the world by the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their name is derived from their teaching of the seventh-day Sabbath... Previously known as “Church of God, Adventist” or “Church of God Seventh Day” or simply COG7, this group of churches also spawned from the Adventist movement... (*Sabbath Diagnosis*, p. 431-433, Hullquist).

### **The Twentieth Century**

It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church (Priest Brady, in an address, reported in the Elizabeth, NJ News, March 18, 1903).

Founded in the 1930s by COG7 ministers, Herbert W. Armstrong, a one-time SDA, the Worldwide Church of God developed primarily through radio and television ministries. By the early 1950s, the Radio Church of God, as it was then known, developed a strong central hierarchical government. Membership grew to over 100,00 at its peak (*Sabbath Diagnosis*, p. 433, Hullquist).

The evaluation of Sunday, the traditionally accepted day of the resurrection of Christ, has varied greatly throughout the centuries of the Christian Era. From time to time it has been confused with the seventh day of the week, the Sabbath. English speaking peoples have been the most consistent in perpetuating

the erroneous assumption that the obligation of the fourth commandment has passed over to Sunday. In popular speech, Sunday is frequently, but erroneously, spoken of as the Sabbath (F. M. SETZLER, Head Curator, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute, from a letter dated Sept. 1, 1949).

### **The Twenty First Century**

New Testament writings do not explain how the practice (Sunday worship) began. Jewish Christians probably kept the sabbath at the synagogue... (Encyclopedia Britannica, History of the Church Year, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/church-year/History-of-the-church-year>, retr. 7/25/2011).

Observation of the Sabbath is one of the key variations between Christianity and Judaism, even though each of these two religious systems of man claim adherence to the same Book (or at least portions thereof), which clearly delineates everything about the Sabbath. While the Sabbath is acknowledged by both, the actual day observed by these two religious systems differs (*The Biblical Sabbath*, <https://www.thebiblicaltruths.com/post/the-biblical-sabbath>, retr. 12/21/2022).

## **Part 9**

### **Sabbath Questions**

Did the Creator rest on, bless and hallow the Sabbath? Yes (Gen. 2:3; Exo. 20:11). Did He rest, bless or at any time hallow Sunday? No!

Does God command the keeping of Sabbath? Yes (Exo. 20:8-11). Does He command the keeping of Sunday? No!

Did God call the Sabbath His Holy Day and offer great reward to those who keep holy the Sabbath? Yes (Isa. 58:13-14). Did He call Sunday His Holy Day and offer reward to those who keep holy Sunday? No!

Will the Sabbath be kept in the New Earth? Yes (Isa. 66:23).  
Will Sunday be kept in the New Earth? No!

Is keeping the Sabbath holy a sign that we worship the one and only living God? Yes (Eze. 20:20). Is keeping Sunday holy a sign that we worship the true God? No!

Should the saints pray about the Sabbath? Yes (Mat. 24:20).  
Should the saints pray about Sunday? No!

Did holy women keep the Sabbath according to the commandments? Yes (Luke 23:56). Did holy women keep Sunday according to any commandment? No!

Was it Christ's custom to keep the Sabbath? Yes (Luke 4:16).  
Was it the Savior's custom to keep Sunday? No!

Was it Paul's "manner" to worship on Sabbath? Yes (Acts 17:2).  
Was it Paul's "manner" to worship on Sunday? No!

Were people punished by God for Sabbath breaking? Yes; (Jer. 17:27; Neh. 13:17-18).  
Were people punished by God for Sunday breaking? No!

Are those who keep the commandments of the Almighty blessed? Yes (Rev. 22:14).  
Are those who keep the traditions of men blessed? No (Mat. 15:3).

Do scriptures say that the Law would NOT be abolished by the Messiah? Yes (Mat. 5:17).  
Will God ever change His way? No (Mal. 3:6).

Are there six working days? Yes (Eze. 46:1). Did Paul make tents on the six working days? Yes (Acts 18:3).  
Is the Sabbath one of these working days? No (Exo. 20:8-11). Did Paul make tents on the Sabbath? No (Acts 18:4).

Is the Sabbath a sign of obedience to God? Yes (Eze. 20:12). Is Sunday a sign of obedience to God? No! (Exo. 31:13).

Does Scripture say that the Savior is the Master of the Sabbath? Yes (Mark 2:28). Do they say that the Savior is the Master of Sunday? No!

Is teaching for doctrines the commandments of men vain worship? Yes (Mat. 15:9). Is teaching for doctrines the commandments of the Almighty vain worship? No (Mat. 19:17).

No Christian of the New Testament, either before or after the resurrection, ever did ordinary work upon the seventh day. Why should modern Christians do differently from Bible Christians?

Are we under grace? Yes (Rom. 6:14). Does grace allow us to transgress the Law? No (Rom. 6:15; 3:20). In fact, grace rightly defined means “*graciousness* (as *gratifying*), of manner or act... especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life” (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, G5463).

Does faith establish the Law? Yes (Rom. 3:31). Does Faith annul the Law? No! Faith is not merely belief—the faith of the saints is faithfulness.

Paul, the apostle to the gentiles, called it the “Sabbath day” about A.D. 45 (Acts 13:27). Did Paul not know? Or shall we believe modern teachers who affirm that it ceased to be the Sabbath at the resurrection of Christ?

Saturday still called Sabbath (Sabato) in the Greek language as well as in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and others.

In all their accusations against Paul, they never charged him with disregarding the Sabbath day. Why did they not, if he did not keep it? Paul himself expressly declared that he had kept

the law. “Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended anything at all” (Acts 25:8). How could this be true if he had not kept the Sabbath?

Did Christ say that we should not only observe, but teach others to observe the Law? Yes (Mat. 5:19). Did He say that we should teach others to break the Law? No!

When the Son of God came, He kept the seventh day all His life on earth (Luke 4:16; John 15:10). Thus He followed His Father’s example from creation. Shall we not be safe in following the example of both the Father and the Son?

The evidence is insurmountable, so what are you personally going to do about it?

## ***Part 10*** **Sabbath Facts**

After working the first six days of the week in re-creating this earth, the great God rested on the seventh day (Gen. 2:1-3). This stamped that day as God’s rest day. Therefore, the seventh day must always be God’s Sabbath day. Can you change your birthday from the day on which you were born to one on which you were not born? No. Neither can you change God’s rest day to a day on which He did not rest. Hence the seventh day continues to be God’s Sabbath day.

God sanctified the seventh day (Exo. 20:11) from the beginning of man, (Gen. 2:1-3) before man had sinned. Thus, it was never a type or symbol introduced after the fact.

The Sabbath is also a memorial of creation (Exo. 20:11, 31:17). Every time we rest upon the seventh day, as God did at creation, we commemorate that grand event.

The Sabbath is not Jewish because it was made 2,300 years before there was ever a Jew.

The Bible never calls it the Jewish Sabbath, but always “the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” Men should be cautious how they stigmatize God’s holy rest day.

Evident reference is made to all Sabbaths and the seven-day week throughout the patriarchal age (Gen. 26:5). It was kept by all the men and women of God down through the ages. All those things are examples for us (1Cor. 10:11).

It was a part of God’s law before delivering the Ten Commandments at Sinai (Exo. 16:4, 27-29).

Christ said that the Sabbath was made for man (Mark 2:27) that is, for mankind, hence for the Gentile as well as the Jew.

The Sabbath was placed within God’s Ten Commandments (Exo. 20:1-17). Why did He put it there if it was not like the other nine precepts, which all agree to be immutable?

The seventh-day Sabbath was commanded by the voice of the living God (Deu. 4:12, 13), and then He wrote the commandment with His own finger (Exo. 31:18).

The Sabbath was engraved in the enduring stone (Deu. 5:22), which was sacredly preserved in the Ark of the Covenant, within the holy of holies (Deu. 10:1-5), thus signifying its imperishable nature.

God forbade work upon the Sabbath even in the busiest of times (Exo. 34:21).

God destroyed the Israelites in the wilderness because they walked not in His Statutes, despised His judgments and greatly polluted His Sabbaths (Eze. 20:12, 13).

The Sabbath is the sign of the true God, by which we are to know him from false gods (Exo. 31:13-17, Eze. 20:20).

God promised that Jerusalem should stand forever if they would keep the Sabbath, but alas they did not so He destroyed Jerusalem for its violation (Jer. 17:24-27).

The Sabbath is part of the prophetic mystery of God's plan for humanity, and God has promised to bless all who keep it (Isa. 56:6-7; Heb. 4:1-13).

The Lord instructs us to take delight in the Sabbath and to call it honorable (Isa. 58:13). Beware ye who take delight in calling it a yoke of bondage and the like.

All of the great men and women of faith, the holy prophets, the apostles, Christ, and the New Testament Church kept the seventh day.

The seventh day is the Lord's day (Rev. 1:10; Isa. 58:13; Exo. 20:10). Christ is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28) that is, to love and protect it, as the husband is the lord of the wife, to love and cherish her (1Pet. 3:6).

The Sabbath is a merciful institution designed for man's good (Mark 2:23-28).

Instead of abolishing the Sabbath, Christ carefully taught how it should be observed (Mat. 12:1-13).

Christ taught His disciples that they should do nothing upon the Sabbath day but what was "lawful" (Mat. 12:12) and that they it should be prayerfully regarded (Mat. 24:20).

The pious women who had been with Christ carefully kept the seventh day Sabbath when He was in the grave (Luke 23:56).

Thirty years after Christ's resurrection, the apostles continued to observe and call it "the Sabbath day" (Acts 13:14).

Luke, the inspired Christian historian, writing as late as A.D. 62 calls it the Sabbath day. In addition, the Gentile converts kept the Sabbath (Acts 13:42-44).

In the great Christian council, A.D. 49, in the presence of the apostles and thousands of disciples, James explained that Gentiles were expected to keep the Sabbath day (Acts 15:21).

It was customary to hold prayer meetings upon that day (Acts 16:13).

Paul read the Scriptures in public meetings as was his custom to preach on the Sabbath day (Acts 17:2-3; 13:14, 44).

There was never any dispute between the Christians of the Bible and the Jews about the Sabbath day. This is proof that Christians still observed the same day that the Jews did.

The Sabbath is mentioned in the New Testament nearly sixty times, and always with respect, bearing the same title it has in the Old Testament. Not a word is said anywhere about the Sabbath being abolished, done away or changed.

The seventh day Sabbath was an important part of the law of God, as it came from His own mouth, and was written by His own finger upon stone at Sinai, Exodus 20. When Christ began His work, He expressly declared that He had not come to destroy any part of the law (Mat. 5:17).

Christ reprimanded the Pharisees and called them hypocrites for claiming to revere God while keeping a tradition that violated the fifth commandment (Mat. 15:3-6). Those who keep Sunday do something similar by choosing to observe a tradition of men that transgresses the fourth commandment.

## *Part 11*

### First Day Facts

The very first thing recorded in the Bible is work done on Sunday, the first day of the week (Gen. 1:1-5). This was done by the Creator Himself. If God worked on Sunday, can it be wrong for us to work on Sunday?

God tells us to work on the first day of the week (Exo. 20:8-11). God Himself calls it a “working” day (Eze. 46:1). Is it wrong to obey God?

God did not rest upon Sunday. He never blessed it. Christ did not rest upon it and never blessed it. The apostles never rested on it. It has never been sanctified nor blessed by any divine authority.

No law was ever given to enforce the keeping of Sunday. Hence, it is no transgression to work upon it (Rom. 4:15, 1John 3:4).

No regulation is given as to how Sunday ought to be observed. Would this be so if the Lord wished us to keep it?

It is never called, or even insinuated that Sunday is the Lord’s Day, a rest day, or the Sabbath day at all in the Scriptures. No sacred title whatever is applied to it. Neither God, nor inspired men ever said one word in favor of Sunday as a holy day. It is simply called “first day of the week.”

The first day of the week is mentioned only eight times in all the New Testament (Mat. 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1Cor. 16:2). None of these utterances refer to it as a holy day.

Paul directed the saints to look over their secular affairs on the first day (1Cor. 16:2).

The Bible nowhere says that the first day of the week commemorates the resurrection of Christ. This is a tradition of men, which contradicts the law of God (Mat. 15:1-9). It is baptism that commemorates the burial and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3-5).

The entire Bible is silent with regard to any change of the Sabbath day or any sacredness for the first day of the week.

## *Part 12*

### Can You Find a Scripture?

- Telling man to keep the first day of the week holy or to worship or rest on the first day of the week?
- That shows any of the apostles keeping the first day of the week as the Sabbath?
- Declaring that the seventh day is no longer the Eternal's Sabbath day?
- That calls the seventh day the Jewish Sabbath or one calling the first day the Christian Sabbath?
- Calling the first day of each week a holy day?
- That says the Sabbath was changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week?
- That says the Sabbath has been done away?
- That tells us to keep the first day in honor of the resurrection of the Savior?
- Where an apostle taught the keeping of the first day of the week as the Sabbath?
- Where Sunday is to kept as the New Testament Sabbath?

## *Part 13*

### The Sabbath Has Never Been Lost

≈ 4000 B.C. Genesis 2:1-3

≈ 1950 B.C. Genesis 26:5

1491 B.C. Exodus 16:25-28

1491 B.C. Exodus 20:8-11

1491 B.C. Exodus 31:13-17

1451 B.C. Deuteronomy 5:12-15

1042 B.C. Psalm 92 (title)

1004 B.C. 2 Chronicles 8:13, 14

712 B.C. Isaiah 56:1-8

594 B.C. Ezekiel 20:11-13, 19, 20

445 B.C. Nehemiah 13:15-20

A.D. 26 Luke 23:56

A.D. 53 Acts 17:2

A.D. 64 Hebrews 4:9-10

A.D. 90 1 John 2:3-5

A.D. 96 Revelation 14:12

Future: Isaiah 66:22-23

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