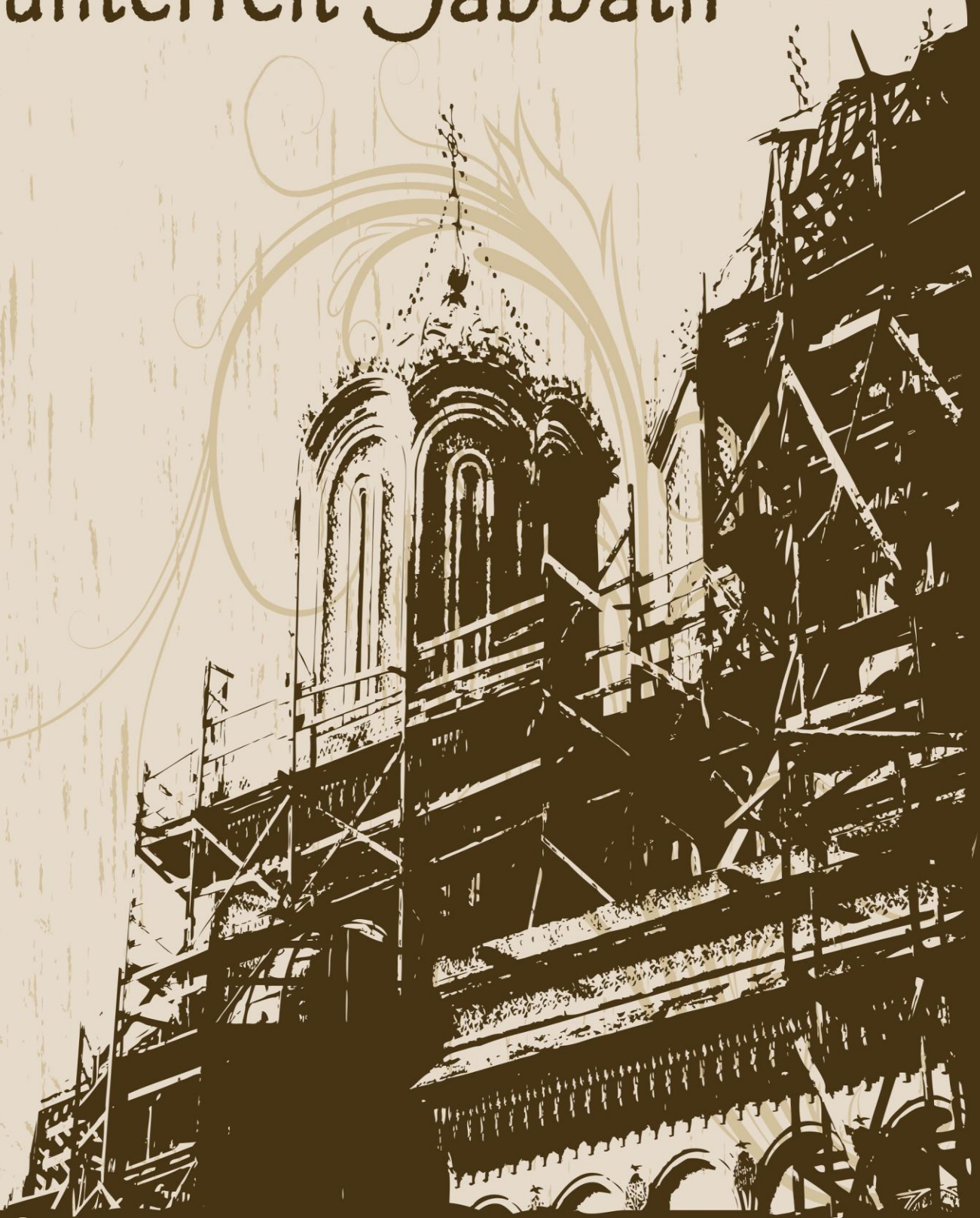


And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.

Genesis 2:2-3

THE SABBATH SERIES

Counterfeit Sabbath





COUNTERFEIT SABBATH

IS TIME IMPORTANT TO GOD?

Lesson 1A

(KJV used unless noted)

(Teachers: Student copies have blanks where it shows underlines on your copy in some of the scriptures and questions. Have students fill in the blanks or answer aloud.)

Objectives for this Lesson:

1. Does God have a way of calculating time?
2. What day did He set apart for us to worship?
3. The tools and explanation you will need to understand God's true Sabbath.

GOD'S WAY OF CALCULATING TIME

(Let some answer or have a show of hands per emotion)

- What would you do if you planned a party on a specific day at a certain time, but everyone showed up the next day instead?

- Wouldn't that make you a little angry, disappointed, or maybe even sad?
- You set the time and date, so isn't that important?

Well, time is very important to God, also. The Bible talks about time a lot. Here's an example:

The book of Daniel predicted there would someday be a power on earth so influential that it would actually attempt to change time! We're not going to look at the many prophecies of Daniel in this lesson. That's not our purpose. But we want to take a close look at one important Scripture in Daniel chapter 7. This seventh chapter of Daniel talks about four great, world-ruling empires. These kingdoms are not of God. They are of the world. They are of Satan. II Corinthians 4:4 says that Satan is the god of this world. His throne is here on the earth.

In these four earthly kingdoms, we read about one ruling system that attempts to do something incredible. Let's read verse 25 (*have a student read*):

Daniel 7:25 *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out (i.e. afflict) the saints of the most High, and think to change the times and laws...*

What does it mean when it says this ruling system shall "think to change the times"? Let's read a few scriptures from Exodus chapter 12, where God is giving the instructions to Israel for the first Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, which takes place in the Spring, and answer three simple questions. (*Inform students, before reading, that the word "month" means New Moon in Hebrew – Strong's H2320 "Chodesh." Let students take turns reading the scriptures.*)

1. (Read Exodus 12:1-2) When does God's year begin? *In the spring.* Yet, when does the world begin the year today? *In the winter, January 1st.*
2. When does God start His months? *At the new moon.* But we start our months at any given time regardless of the moon's cycle.
3. (Read Exodus 12:18) When does God begin His day? At dusk. Currently our days, though, start at *midnight.*

So, is this right? Who has the authority to change God's way of calculating time? God has His way of calculating time, but governments many, many years ago decided to

change how we calculate time. In fact, it was Julius Caesar in 45 B.C., who instituted January 1st as the start of the new year¹.

We are dealing with a system that has been around for a long, long time. We are not going to try to change how we calculate our days and months, but we are going to see a major counterfeit problem that we can do something about in our own lives. That is figuring out the counterfeit Sabbath verses the real Sabbath.

GOD'S DAY OF WORSHIP AND THE TOOLS TO EXPLAIN IT

Let's get started. Let's find out whether or not God expects Christians to observe a day of rest. And if he does, which day is it? Is it Friday as most Muslims believe? Is it Sunday as most Christians believe? Is it Saturday which most believe should be observed only by Jews? Or could God's day of rest be any day of the week that you choose? Why don't we let the Bible prove what God says?

When you do a research project for school, do you only look at sources that back up your preconceived ideas? Or do you investigate the topic with unbiased eyes, searching for "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth"? (*See if anyone wants to answer how they research*)



The best way to investigate is to look for the truth, even if it differs from what you thought was the truth.

Most Christians agree that the seventh-day Sabbath was created by God. In fact, why don't we look at a few from various Christian denominations: (*See if anyone wants to read the quotes.*)

¹ <http://www.webexhibits.org/calendars/year-history.html>

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 transaction be found? Not in the New Testament, absolutely not. There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.

"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 as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. 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. Edward T. Hiscox, author of "The Baptist Manual," in a paper read before a New York ministers' conference held Nov. 13, 1893.

Church of Christ:

I do not believe that the Lord's day came in the room of the Jewish Sabbath, or that the Sabbath was changed from the seventh to the first day, for this plain reason, where there is no testimony, there can be no faith. Now there is no testimony in all the oracles of heaven that the Sabbath was changed, or that the Lord's day came in the room of it." -- Alexander Campbell, Washington Reporter, Oct.8, 1821.

Catholic Church:

"From this same Catholic Church you have accepted your Sunday, and that Sunday, as the Lord's day, she has handed down as a tradition; and the entire Protestant world has accepted it as tradition, for you have not an iota of Scripture to establish it Therefore that which you have accepted as your rule of faith, inadequate as it of course is, as well as your Sunday, you have accepted on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church."--D. B. Ray, "The Papal Controversy," 1892, page 179.

How do these quotes make you feel about worshipping on Sunday?

Most Christians also agree that God's days begin and end around sunset—not at midnight.

Let's read Genesis 2:2-3 (*have someone in the group read*):

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.



Notice that God blessed the seventh-day Sabbath, and He sanctified it. So, we see that the weekly Sabbath was created by God in the first week of Creation.



The Sabbath existed before the Ten Commandments were given to the Israelite people in Exodus 20.

Now let's read Genesis 1:5:

The evening and the morning were the first day.

In other words, the beginning of a day, as God established it at creation, is at the dark part of the day, that is, around sunset.

Later in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible are the Torah) we find God instructing the Hebrews on when the day begins.

Leviticus 23:32 says:

From evening to evening, you shall celebrate your Sabbath.

We get the word “evening” from the word “even” which means to divide something evenly into two equal halves. Evening is when the sun is even on the horizon during the start of the dark part of the day. When you can see just half of the sun as it sets, it’s evenly divided at that point. And when the sun is evenly divided, this is the end of one day and the beginning of another. This is not just a biblical definition of the word “evening.” This is the same definition that can be found in your regular dictionaries that you have at school or at home.

Therefore, we can clearly see that God created, blessed, and sanctified the seventh-day Sabbath. And we can also clearly see that God’s days begin around sunset—at evening.

It’s interesting to note that God only named one day of the week—the Sabbath. He gave no names to the other six days of the week. The Bible only refers to those days as the first day, second day, third day, etc. The names of the days we have now are names that mankind gave them. People chose to name these days after pagan gods. For example, Thursday is named after the Norse god Thor. Monday is named after the moon. Wednesday is named after the chief Anglo-Saxon god Woden. These names are definitely not God-ordained because He didn’t want the Israelites to even repeat the names of false gods (Exodus 23:13).

Remember, the only day that God named is the seventh day of the week. It is so special to God that He named it Himself.

The word “Sabbath” is still used in many countries and languages of the world today. English is not typical in how it labels the seventh day of the week. In English, we call it Saturday. We have named it after the god Saturn. Many other use the word Sabbath to label the seventh day of the week.

For example, if you talk to a Spanish-speaking person about meeting him later in the week, you would say, “I’ll meet you on ‘Sabado’ at 7:00 am.” They call the seventh day of the week “Sabado.”

(Please refer to the handout for the list of countries.)

Discussion

Now, after looking briefly at how God calculates time and that the Sabbath was created at creation:

1. Do you think it is still important today?
2. Is it important to you to set the seventh day apart from the regular days of the week?
3. Since the Sabbath was created at creation, do you think that God really intended for it to be changed to another day?
4. Do you wonder why mainstream Christian churches keep Sunday rather than Saturday?
5. Does it make you feel uncomfortable?

Review (points to remember)

1. Exodus 12:1-2 = According to God, the year begins in the Spring
2. Exodus 12:18 = According to God, the days begin in the evening (from evening to evening)
3. Genesis 2:2-3 = God created the Sabbath on the seventh day of creation week, when He rested from all His work. It is the only day that He named setting it apart from all other days.

Handout

For More Information

Country	Name
Italian	Sabato
Arabic	Sabet
Armenian	Shabat
Polish, Slovak and Czeck	Sobota
Croatian	Subota
Russian	Subbota
Bosnian	Subota
Bulgarian	Sabota
Greek	Savvato
Indonesian	Sabtu
Latin	Sabbatum

This is not a comprehensive list. To see how other countries name the seventh day you can go to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_the_days_of_the_week

If you want to see more quotes from various Christian denominations about the Sabbath you can visit:

<http://www.sundaylaw.net/studies/truelife/liberty/quotation.htm#CATHOLIC>



COUNTERFEIT SABBATH

WAS THE SABBATH DONE AWAY WITH?

Lesson 1B

(World English Bible used unless noted)

(Teachers: Student copies have blanks where it shows underlines on your copy in some of the scriptures and questions. Have students fill in the blanks or answer aloud.)

Objectives for this Lesson:

1. The Sabbath is in the New Testament
2. It will be observed in the future.
3. Jesus did not change the Sabbath to Sunday.

The Bible teaches that God never changes, Malachi 3:6. It is reemphasized in Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Therefore, if our Father God and our Jesus never change, wouldn't that logically mean that the Sabbath also never changed?

In lesson 1A, we learned that God set aside the 7th day as His Sabbath at creation. We also know that this is the only day of the week that God named, thus adding more

importance to this day. Now let's investigate whether or not God's Sabbath was done away with or was changed to Sunday.

THE SABBATH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



We begin our investigation by looking at the life of Jesus. Let's look at Mark 1:38-39: *(Have someone read)*

He said to them, "Let's go elsewhere into the next towns, that I may preach therealso, because I came out for this reason." He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out demons.

We find this verified by Luke 4:16 that Jesus preached in synagogues. Well, if Jesus preached in the synagogues, what day do you think He preached in those synagogues?

Answer: (The Sabbath day)

If He preached in a synagogue on a day other than the seventh-day Sabbath, it would probably be empty.

In Mark 2:23, we find an incident where Jesus' disciples were walking through a field of grain and they began to pluck grain and eat it right off the plant. The religious leaders of that day became angry at them because they were breaking one of the strict rules that they added. *(If you want further proof of the religious leaders adding to God's law refer to Matthew 15:1-9 and Mark 7:1-13)* Notice what Jesus says in response to them in verses 25 through 28:

He said to them, "Did you never read what David did, when he had need, and was hungry—he, and those who were with him? How he entered into God's house when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the show bread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and gave also to those who were with him?" He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Did Jesus say, "I have the power to do away with the Sabbath"? Did Jesus say, "The Sabbath will soon be done away with after my crucifixion and resurrection"? No. He acknowledged that the Sabbath existed! And, He pointed out that He was the Lord of that day!

This claim that Jesus made shouldn't surprise us. The first chapter of the Gospel of John shows that Jesus has existed from the beginning. Let us read what the Bible says in John 1:1-4

(Have someone read)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him. Without him was not anything made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

He didn't just come into being in Bethlehem at His earthly birth. Like His Father, Jesus has always existed. He was alive during creation and was and is Lord of the Sabbath day that was blessed and sanctified during Creation week. (Recall Genesis 2:2-3)

Mark 2:23, confuses Christians, causing them to think that Jesus was doing-away or cancelling some Old Testament commandment that his disciples were breaking. There is no biblical command that the disciples were breaking by plucking grain on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were talking about the extra rules that they added to the Sabbath. What is noted as the "commandments of men" and the "tradition of the elders" were the extra rules the Pharisees added to God's laws. Jesus never broke or taught the breaking of any biblical commandments, but he did teach against the Pharisees' commandments that they added to God's Word.



The disagreements that Jesus had with the religious leaders of His time were NEVER about His desire to do away with the teachings of God's law. Rather, Jesus' disagreement with the Pharisees was over what they ADDED to the laws that God gave us. The religious leaders had made the Sabbath a burden when God intended it to be a delight (Isaiah 58:13). That's why He said the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.

In fact, Jesus' makes sure everyone knows that He did not come to destroy the law. Let's read His words in Matthew 5:17-18: (NIV used, have someone read)

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished

1. Has heaven and earth passed away? no, of course not
2. Wouldn't that mean that the law is still important for us today? yes

The word “fulfill” in Matthew 5:17-18 is the Greek is pleroo (4137), which means to “fully preach.” Therefore, the Messiah is saying He is not doing away with the law but came to “fully preach” the law. I John 3:8 says that for THIS reason the Son of God manifested to us (became human and lived on this earth) so that He might DESTROY the works of the devil. The Devil hates God’s laws. What better way for him to fight against God than to confuse the masses on what day they are to worship?

THE SABBATH IN THE FUTURE

What does Jesus say about the Sabbath in the future? His own words show that His followers would be keeping the Sabbath in 70 AD at the time of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. In Matthew 24:20, He says:

But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day. (KJV)

This verse, like many prophecies in the Bible, was given with a partial fulfillment, which was the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. But Matthew 24 is also a prophecy of just before Jesus’ return. We know that Matthew 24 is talking about the end time tribulation (not just the events of AD 70) because in the same chapter He says:

1. *“For then will be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to that day nor ever shall be” (vs 21, NKJV).* The destruction of Jerusalem is not the great tribulation which Jesus said will be the worst time on planet earth...ever.
2. *“Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of man and all the tribes of the earth will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven” (vs 30 NKJV).* This never happened in AD 70... because when Jesus comes, it says in Revelations 6:16-17 that they will cry out to the rocks and mountains *“Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of his wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?” (NKJV)*

If Jesus’ followers were to conclude that His resurrection ended Sabbath observance, wouldn’t Jesus say so? He would not have told them to pray that the tribulation would not happen on the Sabbath if thousands of years after His death the Sabbath wouldn’t be in existence. Jesus never taught His followers to abandon the Sabbath. Nor did His apostles talk about abandoning the Sabbath in their teachings and observances following their receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Notice that His followers continued to observe the Sabbath long after His death. It says in:

(Allow a different person to read the following verses)

Acts 17:2

Paul, as was his custom, went in to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures.

Acts 18:4

He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded Jews and Greeks.

Acts 13:14-15

But they, passing on from Perga, came to Antioch of Pisidia. They went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak.”

Acts 13:44

The next Sabbath almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of God.

In all these scriptures, we see that the early New Testament Christians were still keeping the Sabbath. There is no evidence whatsoever that they were worshiping on Sunday. When and how was the day of worship changed to Sunday? The answer is “it wasn’t.” God did not change the day He wants us to worship Him.

THE SABBATH WAS NOT CHANGED TO SUNDAY



Some say that the New Testament shows the early church keeping the first day of the week. This is not true.

In fact, the New Testament mentions the first day of the week only eight times and none of them mean anything at all about attending worship services on Sunday. Six of the eight occurrences are Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2,9, Luke 24:1 and John 20: 1,19, and all of them are referring to when Jesus rose from the dead. The seventh occurrence is in Acts 20:7 where Paul gathers with the disciples to break bread. The breaking of bread

usually means having a meal together - you can refer to Acts 2:46. The eighth occurrence is 1 Corinthians 16:2 where it mentions taking up a collection for the poor.

Okay, we have established that Jesus didn't do away with the Sabbath. So why do approximately two billion Christians worship on Sunday rather than Saturday? Who decided to change God's day of rest?

For our answer, we have to look at history a few hundred years after the death of Jesus. During the years 200 AD through about 400 AD, there was a definite bias against anything Jewish in the Roman Empire. The Roman government banned things like circumcision, sacrificing, and the seventh-day Sabbath. Again, just as we saw anti-Semitism in many parts of Europe in the 1930s and 1940s, anti-Semitism prevailed in the Roman Empire at that time.

At that time, Christians and Jews had many similarities. To avoid persecution, it became important for Christians in Rome to differentiate themselves from Jews. In the process, they accepted many pagan practices of the many religions of Rome. Some decided to begin worshipping God on the day named after the Sun – Sunday – as the other religions of their day did.

By the time Emperor Constantine officially recognized Christianity as an acceptable religion in February 313 AD, approximately 280 years after Jesus' crucifixion, he put the power of the empire behind Sunday observance. From then on, Sunday became established as the "Christian Sabbath." Today, Sunday observance is based solely on tradition established long ago and NOT on Scripture.

Paul teaches against following the traditions of men when they oppose God's Law. He warned us about that in Colossians 2:8-10:

(Have someone read),

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (NKJV)



Mankind was created by God and God has provided us with a manual in the same way Ford Motor Company provides a manual for each car it produces. The manual for man is the Bible. Will you follow the manual that was put together by your Creator? Will you obey His Commands? Once you start obeying God's Laws, it won't take you long to figure out that His Laws are not a bunch of selfish do's and don'ts created by God

for the purpose of holding us back from what we want to do. God's Laws were made to help us find the only true happiness that exists. We only find happiness only through the blood of Jesus and obedience to His Father.

The Sabbath is so important that God included a Sabbath command in the Ten Commandments (also called the Decalogue).

Why would He include the Sabbath in the Commandments and then yank it out after Jesus' resurrection? As we saw from the Scriptures we just read, God did NOT yank the fourth commandment out of the Decalogue. It's still there for us today. And, like the other nine commandments, it's there for our own good—for the good of all mankind.

Jesus expects us to keep all Ten Commandments if we are to receive eternal life, as we read in the following scriptures:

(Allow a different person to read the following verses)

Matthew 19:17

He said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city.

James 2:10-12

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. (KJV)

We are blessed when we keep God's commandments.

DISCUSSION

1. Did the Messiah do away with the Sabbath?
No
2. When was the Sabbath first created?
At creation
3. Why was the Sabbath given to us?
As a day of rest
4. If you have a job and your boss tell you to take Mondays off because everyone hates Mondays, would you show up for work on Monday, and then turn around and take Tuesday off instead? Do you think your boss would be happy if you ignored his rules? Well, just think how God feels when we ignore His.
5. Do you find it interesting that, just like the Pharisees following the commandments of men, most Christians are also following the commandments of men when we worship on Sunday? It reveals to us that we all can make the same mistakes as our ancestors; therefore, it is vital for us to study the Bible with open eyes and not through the lenses of the elders.

REVIEW

1. Hebrews 13:8 and Malachi 3:6 = God never changes
2. Luke 4:16 = Jesus preached on the Sabbath day
3. Acts 17:2 = Peter preached on the Sabbath day
4. Isa 66:23 = The Sabbath will be kept in the future

For further study free resources on cgi.org:

- *Sermon: "To Be a Jew"*
- *Please see our message entitled, "Sabbath Keeping in the 21st Century."*

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the

firmament.

7TH DAY OF
THE WEEK
IS NOT
THE 1ST
DAY OF THE
WEEK

7th Day of the Week \neq 1st Day of the Week

Lesson 2

(NKJV used unless noted)

(Teachers: Student copies have blanks where it shows underlines on your copy in some of the scriptures and questions. Have students fill in the blanks or answer aloud.)

Objectives for this Lesson:

1. People in the Bible worked on the first day of the week.
2. The first day of the week mentioned during Jesus' time.
3. The first day of the week mentioned during the beginning of the New Testament Church after the ascension of Jesus.
4. What does the "Lord's Day" really mean?

The First Day of Week is Just Another Day for Labor

1. First reference about the first day of the week in scripture is **Genesis 1:1-5**:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first day.



What happened on the first day? God separated light from the darkness

Doesn't this show that God worked on the first day of the creation week? There is nothing here to demonstrate a day of worship on the first day of the week.

2. The second reference to the first day of the week in Scripture, **Exodus 20:8-11**:

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.

Here God gives us a commandment. We are to work six days a week—including the first day of the week! In the entirety of the Old Testament, we don't find Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob worshipping on the first day of the week. We don't find the prophets doing worshipping on the first day of the week. In fact, not one single righteous Old Testament person is ever found worshipping on the first day of the week. For at least 4,000 years, the Hebrews worked on the first day of the week.



3. Third reference to the first day of the week, **Ezekiel 46:1**:

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."

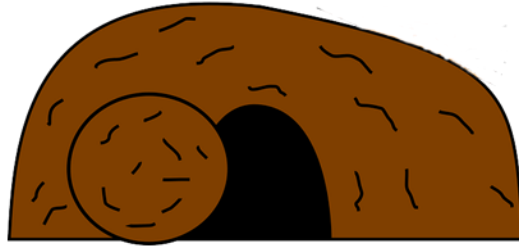
Once again, God commands us to work six days a week—including the first day. In this passage, God is commanding that His people **WORK** on the first day of the week.

The First Day of the Week in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

There is no indication at all that Jesus used Sunday as a worship day instead of a workday. The first day of the week was just another workday for Him. Just about any reputable Bible scholar will agree on this point.

In the New Testament, we find absolutely no prohibition of work on the first day of the week. The New Testament never calls the first day of the week "the Christian Sabbath." The New Testament never talks of a blessing being associated with the first day of the week. The New Testament never calls the first day of the week a rest day or a holy day. There is absolutely no record of Jesus ever mentioning the first day of the week as some kind of worship day.

However, the New Testament does mention “first day of the week” eight times. Six of those times are in the first four books of the New Testament. Let’s look at them.



1. **Matthew 28:1**
Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.
2. **Mark 16:2**
Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.
3. **Mark 16:9**
Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.
4. **Luke 24:1**
Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.
5. **John 20:1**
Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

Four of the five instances are regarding the women going to Jesus’ tomb. The other one lets us know that Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene shortly after her visit to the tomb.

Notice what is NOT said in these five Scriptures. There is NO mention of a church meeting, a special assembly, or a day of worship. It clearly says that the Sabbath day was over and it was now the first day of the week. Two women came to the tomb and saw that Jesus was not in it. In fact, Matthew’s scripture even has the statement “after the Sabbath.” Mark also states it in the first scripture. The main thing is that there is no indication in these Scriptures that the seventh day of the week was being replaced by the first day of the week as a holy day set apart by God.

Let's investigate what these women were doing: (*Teachers have students answer the questions.*)

1. Were they going to the tomb to have a Sunday morning worship service? No
2. What were they going to do? Work

They were carrying supplies because they had planned to perform additional funerary functions on the body of Jesus. This would involve unwrapping the body and rubbing various salves and spices upon it. Then, they were going to re-wrap the body and place it back into the tomb. This is hard work!

There is nothing here that can be taken as instruction to change the day of the Sabbath. Further, these women genuinely believed that Jesus was still dead. None of the women believed He was resurrected. They were as surprised as anyone that the stone had been rolled away and that Jesus was gone. Remember that one of them asked a man, whom she thought was a gardener, "What have you done with the body of my Lord?" (John 20:15)

When the women found an empty tomb, they assumed the body had been moved. There was no assembly for the purpose of celebrating Jesus' resurrection. They didn't know the resurrection had taken place.

6. John 20:19

*Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, **for fear of the Jews**, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

What we have here is a gathering. What was the purpose of this gathering? Was it a religious observance? No. These men had just seen their leader tortured and killed a few days ago. No doubt, they thought they were next on the hit list of the religious leaders. They assembled together "out of fear of the Jews." Again, there is no way you can twist Scripture and claim this was a Sunday church service that was for the purpose celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. They didn't even know Jesus was alive until He unexpectedly showed up at this meeting.

First Day of the Week After the Life of Jesus

Now, some may agree that the Sabbath didn't change during Jesus' time because He was an observant Jew. In addition, they may think that it also would be unlikely for any changes to the Sabbath so quickly after His death. But, is there any proof that it was changed years after the crucifixion of Jesus? Let's find out. The seventh occurrence of the use of the first day of the week happens after the conversion of Paul in Acts.

7. Acts 20:7

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

So many churches try to twist this Scripture into saying that it shows we should have weekly communion on Sunday. It says no such thing. We need to take this scripture in the full context. Paul sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and joined the others at Troas five days later (vs 5). He then stays with them for seven days (vs 6). It is now the beginning of the first day of the week, remember God's day doesn't start at midnight, it starts in the evening around sundown. So, what we have here is the people were together for the Sabbath. It is now the evening, start of the first day of the week, and it is time for dinner, "breaking bread." Paul is getting ready to leave in the morning, and because he is leaving, he decides to continue teaching them until midnight.



Digging Deeper: When the Bible uses the phrase "breaking bread," it is more than just bread. "Breaking bread" was a colloquial term meaning a full meal, which would include bread, meat, vegetables, beverage, and perhaps things such as fruit. Therefore, this breaking bread was just a meal that happened after sunset on what we would now call a Saturday evening. The timing of this meal was that it was in the night time part of the first day of the week.

The point is that Paul's plans were to leave at daybreak the next morning. Other men, who were with Paul that day, had already left because they had to make a sixty mile trip by boat in the Aegean Sea from Troas to Assos (Acts 20:13). They had to sail around the bottom of a peninsula on Asia Minor. Paul, though, was going to go on foot the next morning. Paul, for some reason, wanted to walk instead of taking the boat. He had to trudge almost twenty miles over steep, rough roads. His trip was going to involve hard work! If the first day of the week had replaced the seventh-day Sabbath, why would he willingly work so hard on the "New Sabbath Day" violating the commandment to rest?

From just using deductive reasoning, we can see that this scripture isn't trying to show that the first day of the week was replacing the Sabbath. It actually shows these folks were assembling for worship on the Sabbath and that they were doing hard work on the first day of the week.

8. I Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come

In this Scripture, the apostle Paul and the church is dealing with a famine. Paul is concerned about hunger for the brethren in Judea. He was wanting to take up a collection for these saints. This occasion was a special collection for a special purpose. His instructions have nothing to do with regular tithes and offerings. In I Corinthians 16:2, Paul is telling the brethren to WORK as they collected money and foodstuffs to be transported from Corinth to Jerusalem. This was not an assembly for worship on the first day of the week. It was like a food drive, which would require considerable labor and lifting and transporting to get it done.

In all of the above references, there's no indication that it was their custom to meet on the first day of the week. Nowhere in the New Testament is there an instruction to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus by worshiping on the first day of the week. Plus, there isn't any instructions in the New Testament to transfer the holiness of the seventh-day Day Sabbath to the first day of the week.



So, what is “The Lord’s Day”?

How many times have you heard, “We go to church on the Lord’s day (meaning Sunday)”? (*show of hands*)

When we say we are going to church on the Lord’s Day, we’re twisting Scripture. This phrase, the Lord’s Day, comes from Revelation 1:10. It says:

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

Let us put this Scripture in its proper context. The Book of Revelations is a book of prophecy. John is receiving a vision of the future. Secondly, John, who is a devout Jew, would be using a phrase that he is familiar with from the books of the prophets found in what we call the Old Testament today.

The “Lord’s Day” would be better translated as “the Day of the Lord,” which many biblical versions actually state it as in this Scripture. The day of the Lord in the Old Testament is refereeing to what we call Armageddon, the end of the world as we know it and the beginning of God’s Kingdom. You can look it up in Isaiah 13:6, Joel 1:15 and 2:1, and Amos 5:18 (*This is not every reference, but it can give you a clearer idea of what the phrase the Day of the Lord really means.*)

The point is that John is letting us know that he is seeing a future vision of the “Lord’s Day,” the beginning of the end of our current world. After this Day of the Lord vision, John sees and writes in graphic, symbolic details of what is going to happen in that great and terrible Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is not some twenty-four hour day. It is a time period that goes on for at least several days—probably even several weeks or months.

There is no way that this phrase (the Lord's Day or Day of the Lord) can be used to say that John was speaking of the first day of the week as being a replacement day for the seventh-day Sabbath. No matter what translation of the Bible you read, you can't get that interpretation from reading Revelation 1. There is no church meeting referred to in Revelation 1. There is no "passing of the baton" from the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week.

We have already read in the first lesson Mark 2:27, that the Sabbath was made for man (not just the Hebrews) and that the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath. Therefore, if we really want to call some day of the week the "Lord's Day," it would be the Sabbath day, which is the seventh day of the week. It is so clear from Mark 2:27 that the Sabbath belongs to Jesus. The seventh-day Sabbath is Jesus' day. The seventh-day Sabbath is our Lord's Day.

Discussion:

Let's answer some questions with just a simple yes or no:

1. Does the Bible say that God blessed the first day of the week? **No**
2. Does the Bible say that God hallowed the first day of the week? **No**
3. Does the Bible say that God commands keeping the first day of the week? **No**
4. Does the Bible say that God rested on the first day of the week? **No**
5. Does the Bible say that God calls the first day of the week a holy day? **No**
6. Does the Bible say that God offers a reward for keeping the first day of the week? **No**
7. Does the Bible say that the first day of the week will be kept in the Kingdom of God? **No**
8. Does the Bible say it was Jesus' custom to keep the first day of the week? **No**
9. Does the Bible say it was Paul's manner to worship on the first day of the week?
No



Points to Remember:

Now, let's change the wording of the questions:

1. Does the Bible say that God blessed the Sabbath? **YES!**

Genesis 2:3 –

And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.

2. Does the Bible say that God hallowed the Sabbath? **YES!**

Exodus 20:11 –

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

3. Does the Bible say that God commands keeping the Sabbath? **YES!**

Refer to Exodus 20:11

4. Does the Bible say that God rested on the Sabbath? **YES!**

Refer to Exodus 20:11

5. Does the Bible say that God calls the Sabbath a holy day? **YES!**

Isaiah 58:13 –

If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

6. Does the Bible say that God offers a reward for keeping the Sabbath? **YES!**

Continue in Isa 58 to verse 14 -

Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

7. Does the Bible say that the Sabbath will be kept in the Kingdom of God? **YES!**

Isaiah 66:23 –

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.

8. Does the Bible say it was Jesus' custom to keep the Sabbath? **YES!**

Luke 4:16 –

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.

9. Does the Bible say it was Paul's manner to worship on the Sabbath? **YES!**
Where?

Acts 17:2 –

And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures

Acts 16:13 –

And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

For Further Study:

For more information on the topic of the Seventh Day Sabbath please visit cgi.org where all publications are free. Suggested titles:

1. Should a Christian Observe the Seventh Day Sabbath?
2. Did the Law Exist Before Moses?
3. Were the Ten Commandments Abolished at Calvary?

DID THE LAW

EXIST

BEFORE

MOSES



Did the Law Exist

Before



Moses?

Lesson 3

(NKJV used unless noted)

(Teachers: Student copies have blanks where it shows underlines on your copy in some of the scriptures and questions. Have students fill in the blanks or answer aloud.)

A common thought with most Christians is that the Ten Commandments were given to Moses only for the nation of Israel. They say these Commandments are for the Jews, not for Christians.

Is this true? Did God give the Ten Commandments only to the Hebrews? Or, is it just possible that these Laws were made for all people of all times?

We can answer these questions by finding out whether or not the Ten Commandments were kept before Moses. If we find these laws being kept by people before Moses was born, then that clearly shows that these Commandments weren't JUST for the Jews, but are instead for all people of all time.

Objectives

Our main objective for this study is to prove that the law pre-existed Moses. We are going to prove it by investigating:

1. What was sin in the garden?
2. Why was Cain cursed?
3. Abraham was righteous but clearly his father was not.
4. Joseph would not commit adultery.
5. Stealing is a crime.



The beginning – The Garden of Eden

Most Christians are aware of Romans 5:12 -

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

And then verse 14 says:

...death reigned from Adam to Moses....

What? Wait a minute - sin existed in the Garden of Eden. What sin? At this point, we have to define sin. How do we determine what sin is? What is sin? According to I John 3:4 -

Sin is transgression of the Law! (KJV)

Then there was Law during the time of Adam? Wow. What law? Was it man's law? No. Adam and Eve hadn't been around long enough to start setting up any Laws. And why would they need to set up laws for a husband and wife living in such a beautiful garden? The fact of the matter is that God's Law existed during the Garden of Eden! It says so in Romans. God had Laws in place long before Moses was born.

Further, when Paul again talks about sin, he says in Romans 7:7 -

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."

Paul is clearly saying that he wouldn't know he was guilty of lusting if it weren't for the Commandment that says, "You shall not covet."

How could Adam and Eve sin in the Garden of Eden unless there was some law to define what sin is? When they disobeyed God (their Father) by lusting for the tree of good and evil, they were breaking the Commandment that says, "You shall not covet." When they took the fruit and ate it, they broke the Commandment not to steal. And most importantly, they broke the Commandment (honor your parents) by disobeying their Father. In Luke 3:38 Adam is called a son of God. Yes, God was indeed his Father.

It shouldn't surprise us that the Commandments about coveting, stealing, and dishonoring were in existence in the Garden of Eden, should it? After all, we know that God created the seventh-day Sabbath in the first day of Creation. This is the fourth Commandment.

So here we have clear evidence that at least four Commandments existed in the very early part of Creation! Now, let's see if we can find other examples of where people were expected to follow the Ten Commandments long before Moses.

After the Garden – Cain

When we examine the situation with Cain and Abel, we find out that Cain was guilty of sin. Let's read in Genesis 4:8-11 -

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand."



God did NOT try to excuse Cain's behavior by saying, "There is not yet a law against killing your brother."

God didn't say, "Well, you didn't know better because people won't know about the law of murder till later on when there's going to be a guy named Moses."

No, God made it very clear that what Cain did was wrong. Cain violated the Commandment against murder. How did Cain know that murder was wrong? Again, the Law tells us not to murder. The Commandments were in existence in the earliest days of humankind—long before Moses.

Terah, Abraham's father

Let's now talk about Abraham's father. His name was Terah. We talk about how Abraham was a righteous man who had great faith. Well, his father wasn't that way. His father worshipped idols! We read about that in Joshua 24:2 -



And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

Joshua was relating a sin that was being practiced BEFORE Moses and also BEFORE Abraham—the sin of worshipping false gods. This is another violation of the Ten Commandments.

Adultery is not acceptable

We also find that adultery was a sin long before Moses.

We have the unfortunate situation where Joseph is a slave in Egypt. He had been sold by his own brothers! He eventually ended up being owned by a man named Potifer. In Genesis 39:7-9 we read (KJV):

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused.

It goes on to say:

...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Sin against whom, Joseph's master? No, he didn't want to sin against God. Joseph knew that God forbade adultery. Joseph knew about the Commandment against adultery. Once again, this was long before Moses.

Do you want more examples?



Stealing is a crime

Ok. Let's continue. Let's talk about stealing. Let's read Genesis 30:33 where Jacob and his father-in-law Laban are attempting to keep peace among all their family members. When talking about their animals:

...every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the lambs, will be considered stolen, if it is with me.

This verse is talking about stealing. Here we see that, hundreds of years before Moses, these people knew that stealing was a sin.

So you can see from these examples that God's Law, His Great Commandments, existed long before Moses. These laws are eternal. They're not some rules for just the Jews. These laws are for all people and for all times.

Discussion:

If the law existed before Moses, do you think they are important today?

1. Notice that Jesus expects those who want eternal life to keep all Ten Commandments.

Matthew 19:17 - *So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the Commandments."*

What did James, the brother Jesus, say about the Ten Commandments?

James 2:10-12 - *For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.*

2. Who are called blessed in Revelations?

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

3. If Jesus never changes (Heb 13:8), then why would he change His Commandments?

Review:

1. The Lord never changes – Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8
2. Jesus wrote the Ten Commandments – John 1 and Hebrews 1
3. Strive to be blessed – Rev 22:14

These Commandments that we're talking about are full of love. They were created in love by a God of love. His desire is for us to be happy. And He knows that our keeping His Commandments brings us happiness, while breaking His Commandments, brings us misery. Just think how much better off the world would be if humankind kept these wonderful Commandments of love.

For further study visit cgi.org all messages are free:

- *Should a Christian Keep the Seventh Day Sabbath*
- *The First Day of the Week in Scripture*
- *Were the Ten Commandments Abolished at Calvary?*
- *613 Laws of the Torah*

A close-up photograph of a human hand, palm up, with a dark nail driven into the center. A hammer is positioned above the hand, its head just above the nail. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Were The
TEN
Commandments
ABOLISHED

at
Calvary?

Were the Ten Commandments Abolished At Calvary?



Lesson 4

(NKJV used unless noted)

(Teachers: Student copies have blanks where it shows underlines on your copy in some of the scriptures and questions. Have students fill in the blanks or answer aloud.)

Are the Ten Commandments important today? Should we still observe them or did the crucifixion of Jesus end them? Were the Ten Commandments nailed to the cross? Does grace void the law?

Today we're going to examine these questions. We're going to see whether or not the Ten Commandments were abolished at Calvary.

Objectives:

1. What was nailed to the cross?
2. Teachings of Jesus.
3. The Apostles kept the law.



What was nailed to the cross

Many Christians today believe that the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross. They think that we are not under the law anymore. Instead, we are under grace.

Let's begin our study by reading the Scripture about nailing things to the cross. Let's turn to Colossians 2:13-14 (KJV):

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.

Now let's really understand what Paul is saying when he talks about nailing things to the cross. I'm sure we can agree that there were indeed certain things nailed to the cross.

- First, Jesus was nailed to the cross. No problem there.
- Second, we see in the Gospels that some signs were nailed to the cross (Matt 27:37, Mark 15:26, Luke 23:38 & John 19:19-20). These signs seemed to be in different languages, but the gist of them was, "This is Jesus Christ, the king of the Jews."
- And third, Colossians 2:13-14, which we just read, says there was something else nailed to the cross.

Let's ask ourselves two questions to help us figure out what Paul means.

1. Did Paul say that the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross? No.
2. Did someone during the time of the Crucifixion take a parchment with the Ten Commandments written on it and then nail it to the cross along with Jesus? No.

If Paul were talking about the Law, he would have used the Greek word "nomos", which means "a law, the Mosaic Law" (<http://www.biblehub.com/greek/3551.htm>). However, the word nomos is not found anywhere in the entire chapter of Colossians 2. Here are the three words Paul wrote that got translated into **handwriting of ordinances**.

1. **Cheirographon** = handwriting
2. **To-is** = in the
3. **dogma** = decrees

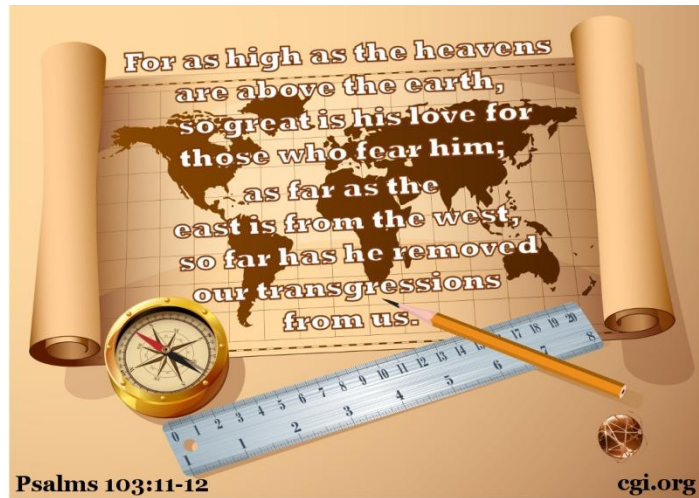
Again, the word nomos is not here. Then what's Paul talking about when he says "cheirographon to-is dogma"?

He is saying that the handwriting of ordinances **against us** were nailed to the cross. And, again, the "handwriting of ordinances against us" is NOT the Ten Commandments. Nowhere in the Old Testament or New Testament is there some formula that tells us that a definition of the Ten Commandments is some handwriting of ordinance against us.

No, the handwriting of ordinances against us is our note of guilt. It is the list of our sins. It's all the evil that we have committed. It's the certificate of our debt. Once a person accepts Jesus and agrees to follow His example in their daily lives, this note of guilt -- that summary of sins -- that certificate of debt, is now nailed to the cross. Jesus hit the "ctrl alt delete" buttons when it comes to our sins.

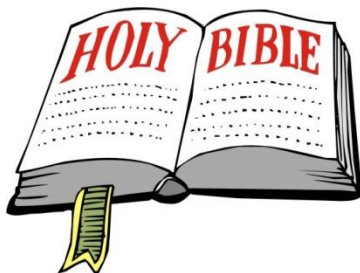
Isn't that beautiful? Once you accept Christ, it doesn't nullify God's holy Law called the Ten Commandments. Once you accept Christ, you are forgiven of all the horrible things that you've done. Psalms 103:12 tells us that, at that point, your sins become as far from God as east is from the west.

East and west can't touch. Your sins are so far removed from you and God that they are totally out of His sight and it's as though they never existed.



That's the beauty of Colossians 2:14. There is nothing in Colossians 2:14 that does away with God's wonderful Ten Commandments. In fact, we should love God's law because they make us wise (Psalms 119:97-98). Once, we accept Christ, this does not mean that we can (or even want to) disregard God's Law.

Teachings of Jesus



Now, let's look at what Jesus said.

Matthew 19:16-17

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Now here's where so many Christians jump the track. Here's where they say, "This scripture simply means that Jesus wants us to obey His commands about loving each other and forgiving each other."

Really? Notice that Jesus actually gave some examples of the commandments he told the man to obey! Observe that in the two following verses 18 and 19 the inquiring

person asked Jesus which Commandments and Jesus replied by mentioning things like not murdering, not committing adultery, not stealing, not bearing false witness, and honoring your father and mother.

1. What commandments are these that Jesus is speaking of? The Ten Commandments
2. Where are these found listed in the Bible? In Exodus 20.

Notice that Jesus did NOT say, “Keep these commandments for the time being until I am crucified and resurrected.” No. He put no time limit on them.

At this point someone may say, “Ah ha! Jesus didn’t say to keep the seventh day Sabbath in this Scripture.” That’s correct. But he also didn’t mention coveting or using God’s name in vain or bowing down before graven images. Does that mean that we can now covet, take God’s name in vain, and bow to idols because Jesus didn’t mention them in this passage? Of course not.

Jesus’ list in this passage was never meant to be comprehensive. He was simply giving examples of the Ten Commandments, so that the inquiring young man would know which commandments Jesus said we should follow if we want eternal life.

In Matthew 19:18 we read about Jesus quoting the Ten Commandments by saying, “*You shall not murder.*” However, He goes further by saying that you are guilty of murder not only when you do it, but when you think it.

- **Matthew 5:21-22:**

You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.

Some may attempt to twist Scripture as much as they’d like, but they can’t escape the fact that Jesus kept the Ten Commandments, and He told others to keep them.

Does Jesus want us to love Him and our neighbor? Yes. And one of the best ways to show love for God is to obey the Ten Commandments, which are all about loving God and our neighbor. When we obey the first four Commandments, we are showing love for God. When we obey the last six Commandments, we are showing love for our neighbor.

- **Luke 12:15**

And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Here Jesus is preaching against breaking the 10th Commandment, which condemns covetousness.



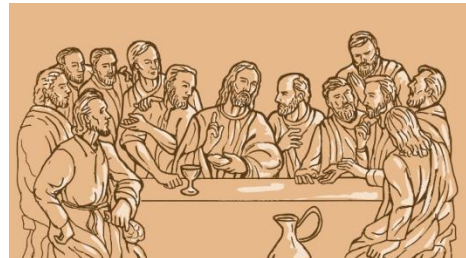
Honestly, it should not come as a surprise that Jesus preached the Ten Commandments because it was prophesied by Isaiah. Isaiah 42 is a prophecy regarding Jesus. It tells us about the wonderful promise of God sending a Messiah to bring peace to the earth. Isaiah 42 goes into detail all the things that Jesus will do when He rules as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Notice verse 21:

The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable.

Does Isaiah 42:21 say that Jesus would do away with God’s Law? No. It says He will exalt it, which means magnify it. Jesus magnified the Law by setting a perfect example of how to keep it. He magnified it by preaching it.

The Apostles Kept the Law

The apostles never preached doing away with God’s law. In fact, the apostles kept the Law. And we’re going to look at some examples to prove it.



Why don’t we tackle the one apostle who is used the most in trying to prove that the law was done away with – the apostle Paul – the one who wrote most of the New Testament and is probably the most misunderstood apostle?

Paul was sent to the Gentiles, the people who didn’t know God’s law. Did he say to them, “We preach obedience to God’s Law to the converted Jews, but to you Gentiles we preach it is done away with”? Did he say that? No. In Ephesians 4:4-6, Paul makes it clear that there were not different rules for different races and nationalities. He says that there is one body, one spirit, one Lord, one God, one faith, and one baptism. Notice what Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. And remember that Ephesus was a Gentile church.

Let's look at one point he made to the Ephesians.

- **Ephesians 6:1-3**

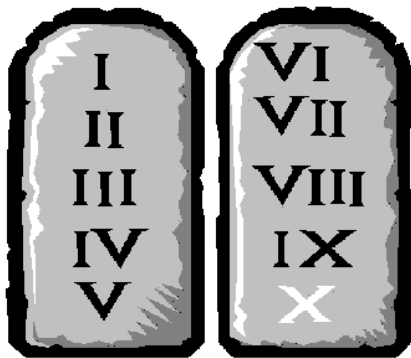
Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

If you will notice, Paul is quoting directly from scripture. This quote comes from Deuteronomy 5:16. It is where Moses relists the Ten Commandments to Israel before he dies.

Paul also points to the Ten Commandments in Romans 13:8-10.

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Once again Paul is quoting the Old Testament. In fact, even the part of "you shall love your neighbor as yourself," comes from Leviticus (the book of laws) in chapter 19 verse 18.



Does Paul then conclude by saying, "Just love one another and you have fulfilled the Law and you no longer have to obey the Ten Commandments"? No.

Like Jesus, Paul points his readers to the Ten Commandments and encourages them to obey what is written in Exodus 20 and rewritten in Deut 5.

Is this enough information to convince you? If not, there is more.

1. **Romans 7:7.** Paul writes: *I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."*

Paul is clear that, if you want to know what sin is, you must understand the Law. Once you know the Ten Commandments, then you know what sin is so you can avoid sinning by keeping that Law.

2. **I Corinthians 10:7** (KJV): *Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them...*

Again, Paul is writing to a Gentile church in the city of Corinth. And he's pointing them to the Ten Commandments, which condemns idolatry.

3. And, yes, the **fourth Commandment** is clearly mentioned by Paul. We read in **Hebrews 4:9**: *So there is still a Sabbath rest for God's people.*
4. And one last verse from another apostle. **I John 3:4**: *Everyone who sins breaks the law. In fact, breaking the law is sin.*

Notice that John does not say that sin is doing something that doesn't seem quite right. Or that sin is doing something that your pastor says you shouldn't do. No. **Sin is the breaking of God's Law.**

Again, Jesus preached the Law. The apostles preached the Law after Jesus' Crucifixion.

Discussion

1. Since Jesus kept the law, don't you think it is important for us to do so also? Look at some scriptures:
 - **1 John 2:6** – He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
 - **I Peter 2:21** – For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.
2. Most Christian churches get angry when the Ten Commandments are taken down at various locations. Why is it so important to them if they think we don't have to keep the law?
3. How do you show your parents you love them? Is it by obeying what they tell you to do? If it is, don't we need to show the same respect to our Heavenly Father?

Review

1. The Sabbath was kept by Paul: Acts 17:2, Acts 13:42-44, and Acts 18:4.
2. We don't want to be liars: 1 John 2:4
3. If you want to show God love, keep His commandments: 1 John 5:3



I hope this study has been helpful. There is so much information on this subject. We have other messages about the seventh day Sabbath. They're all free. You can get them on our website cgi.org. Here are some titles you might want to look at.

- Should a Christian Keep the Seventh Day Sabbath?
- The First Day of the Week in Scripture
- Did the Law Exist Before Moses?
- Sabbath Keeping in the 21st Century