



My Bible School Lessons

Exploring the Word of God

Lesson #15: "Sunday Keeping"

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

"The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God, because He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten." J. N. Andrews, *History of the Sabbath, chapter 27*.

"It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, 'Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters,' It follows that the message which commands men to worship God and keep His commandments will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment.

"It is a fact generally admitted by Protestants that the Scriptures give no authority for the change of the Sabbath. This is plainly stated in publications issued by the American Tract Society and the American Sunday School Union. One of these works acknowledges 'the complete silence of the New Testament so far as any explicit command for the Sabbath [Sunday, the first day of the week] or definite rules for its observance are concerned,' " *George Elliott, The Abiding Sabbath, page 184*.

"Another says: 'Up to the time of Christ's death, no change had been made in the day'; and, 'so far as the record shows, they [the apostles] did not. . . give any explicit command enjoining the abandonment of the seventh-day Sabbath, and its observance on the first day of the week,' "A. E. Waffle, *The Lord's Day, pages 186-188*.

"Roman Catholics acknowledge that the change of the Sabbath was made by their church, and declare that Protestants by observing the Sunday are recognizing her power. In the Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion, in answer to a question as to the day to be observed in obedience to the fourth commandment, this statement is made: 'During the old law, Saturday was the day sanctified; but the church, instructed by Jesus Christ, and directed by the Spirit of God, has substituted Sunday for Saturday; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day. Sunday means, and now is, the day of the Lord.'

"As the sign of the authority of the Catholic Church, papal writers cite 'the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of . . . because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the

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church's power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin,' " *Henry Tuberville, An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine, page 58.*

"The Roman Church has not relinquished her claim to supremacy; and when the world and the Protestant churches accept a sabbath of her creating, while they reject the Bible Sabbath, they virtually admit this assumption. They may claim the authority of tradition and of the Fathers for the change; but in so doing they ignore the very principle which separates them from Rome-that 'the Bible, and the Bible only, is the religion of Protestants' . . . Romanists declare that 'the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church,' " *Mgr. Segur, Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today, page 213. Great Controversy, 437-438, 447-448*

THE LAW OF GOD

I Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

II Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto the thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

III Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

IV Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. 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

V Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI Thou shalt not kill.

VII Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII Thou shalt not steal.

IX Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

X Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's. *Exodus 20:3-17*

THE LAW OF GOD AS CHANGED BY MAN

I. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.

[The Second Commandment has been left out]

II. [actually III] Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

III. [actually IV] Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. [The Sabbath Commandment has been changed.]

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- IV. [actually V] Honor thy father and thy mother.
- V. [actually VI] Thou shalt not kill.
- VI. [actually VII] Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VII. (actually VIII) Thou shalt not steal.
- VIII. [actually IV] Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- IV. [actually X . First Part] Thou shalt not covert thy neighbor's wife.
- X. [X . Second Part] Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

THE LAW OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

I. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10.

II' "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21;

"Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver or stone, graven by art and man's devices." Acts 17:29.

III. "That the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed." 1 Timothy 6:1.

IV. "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day."

"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." Matthew 24:20; Mark 2:27, 28;

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

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

"For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth." Colossians 1: 16.

V. "Honor thy father and thy mother." Matthew 19:19.

VI. "Thou shalt not kill." Romans 13:9.

VII. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Matthew 19: 18.

VIII. "Thou shalt not steal." Romans 13:9.

IX. "Thou shalt not bear false witness." Romans 13:9.

X. "Thou shalt not covet." Romans 7:7.

The General Catholic Catechism

"Q. Have you any other way of proving that the [Catholic] Church has power to institute festivals of precept?

"A. Had she not such power. . she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week for Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no scriptural *authority*."- *Doctrinal Catechism*, p. 174 [Roman Catholic].

"Prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it

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holy.' The Catholic Church says, No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week. And lo! The entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the Holy Roman Catholic Church." Thomas *Enright, CSSR, President, Redemptorist College, Kansas City, Missouri, February 18, 1884 [Roman Catholic]*.

A SABBATH TIME LINE FROM EDEN TO EDEN

In twelve links

A chain of Truth Linking God to His people in the Holy Sabbath

At the Creation: The Sabbath was given to mankind (*Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 31:16-17*).

Before Sinai: The Sabbath existed for 2,500 years (*Exodus 16:4, 26, 28, 30*).

At Sinai: The Sabbath was written down (*Exodus 20:8-11*).

After Sinai: The Sabbath was kept in the Old Testament (*Numbers 15:32-35; Jeremiah 17:21-27; fulfilled: Jeremiah 52:7-15; 2 Chronicles 36:19-21*).

Jesus Our Example: Jesus kept the Bible Sabbath (*Luke 4:16; 1 Peter 2:21; Mark 2:28; Isaiah 42:21; Mark 1:21; 1 John 2:6-7*).

The Disciples: Christ's disciples kept the Sabbath (*Luke 23:56-24: 1*).

Paul: The apostles kept the Sabbath (*Acts 1 7:2; 13:14, 42, 44; 16:13*).

After the time of Christ: God's people were still to be keeping the Bible Sabbath when Jerusalem was destroyed 40 years after Calvary (*Matthew 24:1-3, 20*).

The Dark Ages and the Last Days: God's people were to keep the Bible Sabbath in the Christian era, on down to the end of time (*Matthew 24: 1-3, 20; Revelation 12:17*).

An end-time revival in Sabbathkeeping was predicted: The Sabbath is to be kept in our time (*Isaiah 58: 12-14; Revelation 12: 17, 14: 12*).

In heaven and the earth made new: The Sabbath will be kept through all eternity to come (*Revelation 22:14; Isaiah 66:22-23*).

The Sabbath is your special day with God: This is because it is founded on Scripture (*Genesis 2: 1-3; Exodus 31: 13, 17; Isaiah 56:2, 4, 6; Ezekiel 20: 12, 20*).

A SUNDAY TIME LINE FROM EDEN TO EDEN

In twelve links

A chain of Fact disproving a man-made error: The Sunday-sacredness error.

At the Creation: Sunday sacredness not known. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

Before Sinai: Sunday sacredness never found. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

At Sinai: Sunday sacredness totally missing. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

After Sinai: Sunday sacredness completely absent. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

Jesus, our Example: Sunday sacredness totally ignored. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

The Disciples: Sunday sacredness not mentioned. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

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Paul: Sunday sacredness never spoken of. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

After the time of Christ: Sunday sacredness entirely missing. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

The Dark Ages: The error of Sunday sacredness predicted: Daniel 7:25, 8: 1 0-12; Revelation 13:6-7; 17:56. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

The last days: Bible prophecy predicted a return to the Bible Sabbath by a remnant few: Isaiah 58:12-14; Revelation 12: 1 7, 14: 12. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

In heaven and the earth made new: Sunday sacredness totally missing. It will continue to be just another common work day, as, in the estimation of God, it always has been (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11). Bible text vindicating Sunday: None.

Sunday is not a special day with God: Sunday sacredness is nowhere in Scripture. Bible texts vindicating Sunday: None.

CATHOLICISM SPEAKS

"Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claim to observance 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*." *Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900.*

"Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the [Roman Catholic] Church, has no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath." *John Gilmary Shea, in the American Catholic Quarterly Review, January 1883.*

"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, N.J. News of March 18, 19.03.*

"*Ques.* Have you any other way of proving that the [Catholic] Church has power to institute festivals of precept [to command holy days]?"

"*Ans.* 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." *Stephen Keenan, Doctrinal Catechism, p. 176.*

"Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these two alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible." *The Catholic Mirror, December 23, 1893.*

"God simply gave His [Catholic] 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." *Vincent J. Kelly, Forbidden Sunday and Feast Day Occupations, p. 2.*

"Protestants. . . accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change. . . But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in accepting the Bible, in observing the Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the *Pope*." *Our Sunday Visitor, February 5, 1950.*

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"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." Pope *Leo XIII*, in an *Encyclical Letter*, dated June 2.0, 1894.

"Not the Creator of Universe, in Genesis 2:1-3,-but the Catholic Church "can claim the honor of having granted man a pause to his work every seven days." S. C. *Mosna*, *Storia della Domenica*, 1969, pp. 366-367.

"The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ, hidden under veil of *flesh*." *The Catholic National*, July 1895.

"If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day. In keeping the Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church." *Albert Smith*, *Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore*, replying for the Cardinal, in a letter dated February 1 .0, 192.0.

"We define that the Holy Apostolic See (the Vatican) and the Roman Pontiff hold the primacy over the whole world." *A Decree of the Council of Trent*, quoted in *Philippe Labbe and Gabriel Cossart*, *The Most Holy Councils*," col. 1167.

"It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest [from the Bible Sabbath] to the Sunday. . Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church." *Monsignor Louis Segur*, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, p. 213.

"We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." *Peter Geiermann*, *CSSR, A Doctrinal Catechism*, 1957 edition, p. 50.

"We Catholics, then, have precisely the same authority for keeping Sunday holy instead of Saturday as we have for every other article of our creed, namely, the authority of the Church. . whereas you who are Protestants have really no authority for it whatever; for there is no authority for it [Sunday sacredness] in the Bible, and you will not allow that there can be authority for it anywhere *else*." *The Brotherhood of St. Paul*, *The Clifton tracts*, " Volume 4, tract 4, p. 15.

"The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant, claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday. In this matter the Seventh-day Adventist is the only consistent Protestant." *The Catholic Universe Bulletin*, August 14, 1942, p. 4.

The Bible is your only safe guide. Jesus can help you obey it. Trust God's Word more than man's traditions.

PROTESTANTISM SPEAKS

BAPTIST: "There was and is a command to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will however be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask, 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." *Dr. E. T. Hiscox*, *author of the Baptist Manual*.

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 observance of Sunday. . There is not a single line in the New Testament to

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suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday. "-Dr. R. W Dale, *The Ten Commandments*, pp. 106-107.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL: "The day is now changed from the seventh to the first day. . but as we meet with no Scriptural direction for the change, we may conclude it was done by the authority of the church." *The Protestant Episcopal Explanation of the Catechism*.

BAPTIST: "The Scriptures nowhere call the first day of the week the Sabbath. . There is no Scriptural authority for so doing, nor of course, any Scriptural obligation." *The Watchman*.

PRESBYTERIAN: "There is no word, no hint in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday. The observance of Ash Wednesday, or Lent, stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday. Into the rest of Sunday no Divine Law enters." *Canon Eyton, Ten Commandments*.

ANGLICAN: "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." /saac Williams, *Plain Sermons on the Catechism*, pp. 334, 336.

METHODIST: "It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week. Many believe that Christ changed the Sabbath. But, from His own words, we see that He came for no such purpose. Those who believe that Jesus (changed the Sabbath base it only on a supposition." *Amos Binney, Theological Compendium*, pp. 180-181. page 17

EPISCOPALIAN: "We have made the change from the seventh to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy, catholic, apostolic church of Christ." *Bishop Seymour, Why We Keep Sunday*.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST: "The sacred name of the seventh day is Sabbath. This fact is too clear to require argument [Exodus 20:10, quoted] . . On this point the plain teaching of the Word has been admitted in all ages . . Not once did the disciples apply the Sabbath law to the first day of the week,-that folly was left for a later age, nor did they pretend that the first day supplanted the seventh." *Joseph Judson Taylor, The Sabbatic Question*, pp. 14-17,41.

AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALIST: "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. Lyman Abbot, Christian Union, June 26, 1890*.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH: "Now there is no testimony in all the oracles of heaven that the Sabbath is changed, or that the Lord's Day came in the room of it." *Alexander Campbell, Reporter, October 8, 1921*.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST: "There is no direct Scriptural authority for designating the first day 'the Lord's Day.' " *Dr. D. H. Lucas, Christian Oracle, January 23, 1890*.

BAPTIST: "To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years' discussion with His disciples, often conversing upon the Sabbath question, discussing it in some of its various aspects, freeing it from its false [Jewish traditional] glosses, never alluded to any transference of the day; also, no such thing was intimated. Nor, so far as we know, did the Spirit, which was given to bring to their remembrance all things whatsoever that He had said unto them, deal with this question. Nor yet did the inspired apostles, in preaching the gospel, founding churches, counseling and instructing those founded, discuss or approach the subject.

"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, then adopted and sanctified by the

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Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism." *Dr. E. I. Hiscox, report of his sermon at the Baptist Minister's Convention, New York Examiner, November 16, 1893.*