



CREATION SABBATH

True Worship



BY RANDY C. BRODHAGEN
A SERVANT OF CHRIST

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INTRODUCTION

In these last days before the triumphant return of the Lord Jesus Christ, an angel of God is spreading the Word to the world about the everlasting gospel: "Worship God." The true worship of the Lord is in Spirit and Truth.

Hence, the Holy Spirit is bringing back the lost truth of the 7th day Creation Sabbath. This is not the sabbath as observed by the Jews. Nor is it the sabbath distorted by human tradition, the papal decree, and the current churches' Sunday practice.

This is God's Sabbath which He Himself established at Creation for Himself and the people who love Him. This is the 7th day Creation Sabbath which was given by God's own finger at Mt. Sinai as part of loving and worshipping the Lord. This is the same Creation Sabbath which will be observed by the Lord's people in the new heaven and new earth as they gather to worship the Lord forever in His presence.

This book is intended to bring an overview of the Lord's Day (7th day Creation Sabbath) as reflected in the Lord's Holy Word.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>CHAPTER ONE</u>	
WORSHIP / SABBATH OVERVIEW (Old Testament)	4
<u>CHAPTER TWO</u>	
WORSHIP / SABBATH OVERVIEW (New Testament)	11
<u>CHAPTER THREE</u>	
WORSHIP / SABBATH OVERVIEW (New Testament)	17
<u>CHAPTER FOUR</u>	
WORSHIP / SABBATH OVERVIEW	24
<u>CHAPTER FIVE</u>	
LAST DAYS WORSHIP	32
<u>CHAPTER SIX</u>	
HOW TO OBSERVE SABBATH	39
<u>CHAPTER SEVEN</u>	
HOW SABBATH CHANGE OCCURRED	47
<u>CHAPTER EIGHT</u>	
SHOULD WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY?"	55

Chapter One

WORSHIP / SABBATH OVERVIEW (Old Testament)

The next few chapters will be an overview of the Scriptures concerning worship, beginning in the Old Testament. Worship is centered around (in the Bible) what is called the “Sabbath.” Sabbath is a term which denotes a resting in the Lord. As we rest in the Lord, and as we worship Him (resting and worshipping go hand in hand), we join in union in our love relationship with Him. We are one with Him. His blessing is free to flow to us as we minister to Him, knowing that we are in His complete care and provision.

The Sabbath was set up from the very beginning of time, before the fall of mankind. The Bible tells us that God worked for six days and then He rested on the seventh. He called that seventh day holy and blessed it to Himself. It says He sanctified that day (declared it holy). It was a day to be used for Himself. It says that He established it and He Himself rested from His labor. In the Old Testament and in the New, there is a separation from the world.

1. Sabbath involves separating ourselves from this world and the affairs of this world for one day. It involves calling it a delight to the Lord. Our thinking should revolve around Him, and we should rest from our labors.
2. A second aspect of the Sabbath is that one is resting in the Lord, physically restoring the body.
3. A third aspect of the Sabbath is that it is a type of heaven here on this earth. It is a time, one day a week, that is set aside completely for the Lord and for His use. During that time we are in fellowship and communion with God for the whole day. That is what it is to be forever as we are rejoicing with the Lord in His presence in the new heaven and the new earth.

Sometimes when we are teaching about the Sabbath, people do not want to hear it. We do not want you to do so now. Keep your heart and mind open to at least study the whole matter. Long ago, as we were in the spirit, the Lord told us that His people were profaning His Sabbath. (They were not honoring it.) He was saying that whether they were observing it on Saturday or Sunday, they were profaning it (not keeping it holy) because they were not observing it in the way God would have it to be done.

In this book we also deal with worship, honoring and reverencing the Lord. As we look in the Old Testament at worship, we see that it centers around the Sabbath. We see that God had very definite ways in which His Sabbath was to

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be observed. *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”* is a command of God in the first Table of the Law which deals with honoring and reverencing Him. He outlined specific ways to observe the Sabbath. Again, when we are talking about Sabbath, we are actually talking about the Lord’s Creation Sabbath worship given to Israel in the Old Testament, for it revolved around the seventh day.

“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 that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.” **Genesis 2:2-3**

God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it (declared it holy), and He rested from all His work. We note that in these last days, the call of God before the coming of the mark of the beast will be that an angel will fly in the midst of heaven (Revelations 14:6 and following) and he will have an everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth, to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. The angel will be saying with a loud voice, *“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”* **Revelation 14:7** What we are dealing with is that in these final days, there will be an everlasting gospel that goes forth from God’s people.

We see a marked increase among God’s people when we teach about worship and the importance of worship. It does not take me by surprise because in these last days that is the call that will go forth, an everlasting gospel, we note here, to preach to all nations. The content of that gospel is to reverence and honor God and give glory to Him. Note here also, which god the verse is talking about – *“And worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the springs of water.”* This is talking about the Creator-God and Creator Worship.

On the Sabbath, God rested from His labor, and we are now to enter into the rest which He has provided for us in the New Testament in Jesus Christ. The Sabbath, the rest in the Lord, and the worshipping of God, is what we are concerned about in these last days.

Again, as the Lord was pointing out, His people are profaning His Sabbath no matter which day they are observing it (by not observing it in the way God has set down to do so).

God has very definite ways in which He wants His people to come before Him in worship. It is important to get the facts and understand what the Word of God says, not sell it short, but look closely at it. I know that your desire and my desire is to do what God has said to do. Jesus said, *“If you love Me, keep My*

commandments.” **John 14:15** That is the desire of our hearts today, to do things the way God has set them down.

“So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, ‘This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.’ ” **Exodus 16:13-15** The background here is that God said He would provide manna in the morning and quail in the evening for His people according to the cry of their hearts for food as they wandered in the desert.

*“This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: ‘Let every man gather it according to each one’s need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.’ Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one’s need. And Moses said, ‘Let no one leave any of it till morning.’ Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted. And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. Then he said to them, ‘This is what the Lord has said: ‘Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.’ So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. Then Moses said, ‘Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none.’ Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘**How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.**’ So people rested on the seventh day. Exodus 16:16-30*

God Himself reveals the importance of honoring Him and resting on His day by sending a double portion of manna on the sixth day (Friday) to supply for the Sabbath also. Normally, if the manna was stored up for the next day, it would stink. But in regard to the Sabbath, we see in verse 23, *“Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord.”* It is important to understand that God said it!

There are three miracles in this section showing how God honored and established His Sabbath, and how He intended His people to honor that day. They were to use that day to worship Him and not be concerned about the things of this world, but to spend it delighting in Him.

1. The first miracle is that He gave them a double portion of manna on the sixth day (Friday), this being different from the normal operation.
2. On the Sabbath day no manna was given, the opposite of what was being supplied every day. They had enough food so they could rest on the Sabbath and keep it holy to Him.
3. The third miracle God worked is that the manna did not stink on the second day. If they had stored it up on the other days and kept it over to the next day, it stunk. Moses became angry because of the stink in the camp and because the people were disobedient to God.

“And the Lord said unto Moses, How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?” Exodus 16:28 This means that the people disobeyed when they went out to look for manna on the Sabbath day. God had said there would be none because it was his holy day, a day to be used for His purpose and not for labor.

Exodus 20:8-11 explains the giving of the law of the Ten Commandments. Note particularly verses 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 [house]. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day: Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it [declared it holy].”*

Very clearly the Sabbath is included in the Ten Commandments. When we are talking about the law of God in this study, we will note a difference between the law that was written by God’s own hand (which He carved on stone and was to be put inside the ark in the Most Holy Place), versus the ceremonial law that was spoken only to Moses and was written down by Moses (which was to be placed on the side of the ark [outside, never inside] in the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle).

The Sabbath law is a part of loving God, it is a part of honoring God, and is a part of the Ten Commandments which are not done away with. We will see what the Lord Jesus has to say concerning the commandments of God.

Note in particular verse 11 – *“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day: Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”* These words, if you look closely, are almost identical to the ones we read from Revelation concerning the last days and the call to go and worship the Creator-God. Again, when we are talking about Sabbath, we are talking about resting in the Lord and keeping oneself from the world on that day. It is designated in the Scriptures as a type of heaven here on earth when we spend that day apart from the world, concentrating and delighting in the Lord.

*“And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘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 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 in 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 heavens and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed. [See Genesis 2:1-3] And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tables of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.” Exodus 31:12-18***

There is a clear distinction about the law of God in regard to the Ten Commandments which were written by God’s own finger versus the rest of the law which is contained in the first five books of the law (the Pentateuch). These were basically given by God to Moses but were not of the same eternal, lasting quality and order as the Ten Commandments which were written by God’s own finger. *“Surely My Sabbaths [plural] you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you [God’s people]... that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.” Exodus 31:13*

The Old Testament sacrifices that were offered sanctified the people (forgave the people’s sins) and made them holy before God. In the New Testament we have a new covenant, based on better promises, and the blood of Jesus has paid the price to sanctify us. Those other sabbaths [plural] and sacrifices are no longer necessary. However, as we noted in verse fourteen, there is a distinction made constantly throughout the Old Testament concerning the Sabbath that is to the Lord (speaking about the seventh day Sabbath, working six days and the seventh is holy to the Lord). Verse fourteen tells us the Sabbath is to be holy to us, and we are to honor it as holy to the Lord. It is to be an eternal sign of promise between God and His people. It was actually established at creation. This is the way the people in the Old Testament viewed the Sabbath – as holy to

the Lord, the sign between God and His people forever. In other words, it was an eternal covenant and an eternal promise that was set forth.

We do not observe the Jewish sabbath but the Creation Sabbath.

Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together and said to them, *“These are the words which the Lord has commanded you to do. Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the Lord. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day.”*

Exodus 35:1-3

Again, this is the call of the Lord going forth through His servant Moses that the Sabbath of rest to the Lord is to be observed for a time of worship and honoring God. We will look at how they actually observed the Sabbath further on in the book.

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. 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 ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.”

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

On the Sabbath or in their worship, the people were constantly remembering and thanking God for His wonderful works in their behalf, and delighting in the Lord.

There were various sabbaths for worship that were included in the Old Testament. *“And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.’”* **Leviticus 23:1-2**

Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation [worship time]: You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all dwellings.” **Leviticus 23:3**

You can see here that the Sabbath of rest (or worship to the Lord) on a weekly basis was set apart from the rest of the sabbaths which were observed. Verse four and following list the different kinds of sabbaths and holy convocations they had to the Lord. The feast of Passover is listed, the feast of First Fruits, the feast

of Tabernacles, the day of Atonement, etc. Various feasts that were given were all called sabbaths because they were involved in worshipping the Lord.

There is a difference between the other sabbaths recorded in Leviticus 23 and the one that was recorded in Leviticus 23:3. They are actually set apart and are done at different seasons. The seventh day Sabbath or rest to the Lord is done weekly, and is different from the others. The seventh-day Sabbath is the only one described in the Ten Commandments. All the other sabbaths have been done away with. Various people worship on Saturday or on Sunday and they call that their Sabbath to the Lord.

Isaiah 58 sets down all the things that are considered true and undefiled worship before God. *“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then shall you delight yourself in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”* **Isaiah 58:13-14**

Here is how we are to correctly observe the Sabbath (not how it is often observed): 1) Call it a delight to the Lord, holy to the Lord, honorable; honor Him on that day. 2) Not doing our own ways or works, nor finding our own pleasure, nor speak our own words, but delighting in the entire day in the Lord and our families around the Lord. God’s promise is that as we are doing so, He will cause us to ride upon the high places of the earth and feed us with the heritage of Jacob.

We are to be in the world, but not of it. Sabbath observance calls for a separation of God’s people from the world. God promises His blessing upon those who worship him in His way. They will be above the world’s temptation and influence.

Chapter Two

WORSHIP / SABBATH OVERVIEW (New Testament)

In the world today, the occult and witchcraft circles have what is known as a sabbath also. It is called the “black sabbath.” This is to designate that it is not the holy sabbath dedicated to the Lord God of Hosts, but the black one dedicated to worshipping the devil. In all of the things of God, Satan comes along with a counterfeit. In the same way, when it comes to worship, in satanic worship, it is a sabbath to Satan. There is a true Sabbath dedicated to worshipping the true Lord God.

When I was a little child, I was taught the ways of God and I loved the Lord. I wanted to worship and honor Him. I was also taught His commandments. When it came to “*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,*” I thought that meant going to church. I loved to go to church, and I loved to praise the Lord there. But, when it came to time after church, I would go and observe the rest of the day to my own pleasure and my own likes. I grew up that way, not knowing any differently. However, the more I have gone into the study concerning worship and what God would have us to do as His people, and what is involved in worship, the Sabbath has taken on a new meaning. It is more than just going to church on a certain day. It involves an entire day, set aside to the Lord, calling that day a delight to the Lord (Friday dusk to Saturday dusk).

I began to understand, as I studied God’s word, that involved in worshipping the Lord on His Sabbath day is doing away with one’s own pleasure and work, and spending that whole day delighting in the Lord. This means reading and meditating in the Word of God, and doing the rest of the things that Isaiah 58 talks about as true religion – ministering to the orphans and widows, to the oppressed, doing the work of God in this life; and resting from one’s own labors and work.

We are not to do our own work on God’s holy day. **Jeremiah 17:21** We are to spend it delighting in the Lord, worshipping Him in our own homes and also with other people. The Sabbath is a time of separation from the world, its affairs and hustle and bustle, and a time to rest in the Lord, spiritually and physically. It is a type of heaven right now in this earth, until the time of our Lord Jesus’ return. Then we will be before His throne worshipping and praising our God forever. In the meantime, the Sabbath, that one day a week that is set aside to the Lord for His purposes, is just a taste or glimpse of what is to come when we will be before God forever worshipping and honoring His holy name.

Now we move on to the New Testament and look at what is involved in worship. An issue Jesus dealt with throughout the gospels was the way in which He

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observed the Sabbath. **Matthew 12:1-11** As we go through the Scriptures, we will see that the way Jesus observed the Sabbath and worshipped the Lord on His holy day was completely different from the way the Pharisees, Sadducees, and religious Jewish leaders of His day observed that day. So, as a result, Jesus was constantly in conflict over the issue of the Sabbath.

“At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, ‘Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!’” **Matthew 12:1-2**

We need to look at God’s Word and see what God means when He says to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

What does it mean; what is involved in it? For years I did not know. (But ignorance is no excuse.) In these last days the call of God is going forth (Revelations 14) proclaiming that we are to worship God. That is the content of the everlasting gospel. Worship the God who created the heavens and the earth. The wording in Revelations chapter 14 is the exact same wording used in Exodus 20:8-11.

Jesus *did* observe the Sabbath: *“But He [Jesus] said to them, ‘Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”* **Matthew 12:3-8**

This Scripture has been used many times to say that Jesus, as the Lord of the Sabbath, has done away with the Sabbath. If we look at it closely, we see that this is not what Jesus did. Jesus did not do away with it. Jesus is indeed the Lord of the Sabbath. This means He is the One who established it and all the other laws to begin with. This is why Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. Who ought to have known how to observe the Sabbath best than the One who gave the law? This is what Jesus pointed out.

He did not come here to do away with the law, He came to fulfill the law. *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle [speaking about punctuation marks] will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whosoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the*

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kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter into the kingdom of heaven.” **Matthew 5:17-20**

In Jesus' own words, He said He did not come to do away with the law. He came to fulfill the law. Not one part of the law of God [the Ten Commandments, written by the finger of God] will pass away. They are still in operation until the day in which all things are fulfilled and the new heaven and new earth is established. Even then, God's law is eternal and God's law is good, and it will stand forever.

Worshipping God is the issue in Matthew 12:1-13. The Pharisees and the Sadducees that Jesus was speaking about had an empty form of religion that denied the power and life of God. They had made all kinds of rules and regulations which were man's rules and regulations, not God's. Yet they professed it to be true. For example, you could walk only so many steps on the Sabbath or you were considered to be working. There were other laws that were senseless and useless and actually made the Sabbath a burden rather than a delight to the Lord as God intended it to be observed.

As the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus set down rules and told these men how to observe the Sabbath, saying, "I'm greater than the temple and a form of religion. I'm actually the One who is being worshipped. I am the One who set it down, I am the Lord of the Sabbath; I ought to know how to observe it."

What does Jesus say in this verse about Himself being Lord of the Sabbath? *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."* **John 1:1-3** This is speaking about Jesus, the Creator, Jesus, the Law-giver, Jesus, the Life and Light to men. Who ought to know how to observe God's law better than the One who gave it? The men were saying their way was the way to observe God's law. Jesus said that the way they were observing it was not the way He had it written down to begin with. It was not the purpose and intention to be a burden to His people.

In Matthew, chapter 23, Jesus said the Pharisees made things weightier than they were upon the people. They made it into such a burden that no one could keep it. Then, they themselves did not observe it the way it was written. The Pharisees were not observing the law in the spirit (or intention) in which it was given.

"For by Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him, and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." **Colossians 1:16-17**

All things were created by Jesus and for Jesus. The law of God was given out of God's love for His people, that they might know what is pleasing to Him. In so doing, Jesus was here on earth observing the law correctly. Again, **Genesis 2:2-3** deals with the One who created. What did He do? *"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 [declared it holy], because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."*

The Pharisees were saying that Jesus and His disciples were working on the Sabbath day, and Jesus said, "You don't understand the Scriptures correctly concerning this." **Exodus 29:32-33** shows that priests were able, as Jesus pointed out, to profane the Sabbath or to work on the Sabbath and they were considered blameless. In the same way, the disciples and Jesus were acting as priests in God's service and so they were permitted to eat (Matthew 12:4) and were guiltless (Matthew 12:7).

God's Word is true. As we are about His business on His holy day, God honors the true observance of His Sabbath. We are not doing our own works and labors, but we are doing things in the name of Jesus such as encouraging the comfortless, ministering to the discouraged and to those who are in need. When we are about God's business it is considered true and profitable on God's holy day. Contrary to the Pharisees, who considered going to the temple on the Sabbath and sitting around in their own homes praising the Lord, we can and should be out about God's business wherever we are, in the name of Jesus. God will honor that as we do it unto Him.

*"Jesus answered them and said, 'My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak of My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.'" **John 7:16-18*** (Jesus always gave glory to the Father, He took no glory to Himself. That meant that He was a true prophet of God. In the same way today, when we as His people give glory to Jesus, in Jesus' name, the Father is being glorified and we are true).

*"Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why so you seek to kill Me? The people answered and said, 'You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill you?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'I did one work, and you all marvel. Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? Do not judge according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.'" **John 7:19-24***

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Jesus was again defining what is to be done on the Sabbath day. It says in the Old Testament that they were able to circumcise in fulfillment of the law on a Sabbath day. In other words, it was a work of God. Jesus is showing that on the Sabbath day, if people are truly doing the work of God, they have the right to go forth in the name of Jesus to lay hands on the sick and heal them, because it is the work of God. Jesus was not doing away with the Sabbath but fulfilling the Sabbath and showing the people the true way it is to be observed as to the Lord by the Spirit of God. Jesus did the will of the Father. He performed the works of God on God's Sabbath.

Along with **Isaiah 58:6-7**, we see clearly that this is what Jesus is trying to get across to the people. Doing things God's way will bring His power into the situation. That is true religion; that is true worship as laid out in Isaiah 58. Taking care of the needy, taking care of the poor, encouraging sisters and brothers, and setting the captives free is true religion. Also included in the Isaiah 58 section is the observance and keeping of God's holy day (verses 13 and 14) as a delight to Him, a day of worship and a day of honor.

In the four gospels Jesus taught on the highways and byways during the rest of the week. However, on the Sabbath day Jesus was found honoring the day in the synagogue. *"So He [Jesus] 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**

It is important to understand that Jesus Himself observed the Sabbath. Jesus still moved in the old covenant, but the point is that Jesus is our example. He worshipped God on one specific day and He called it a delight to the Lord. He was found doing the works of God on that day.

A different light is shed on the accounts in each of the gospels. *"Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. And the Pharisees said to Him, 'Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?' But He said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?' 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 2:23-28**

A new distinction is being made. Jesus did not do away with the Sabbath.

To the contrary, He established that the true purpose and intention of God's Sabbath was for man to rest and to honor God. A day out of a week should be set apart from the things of the world, set aside for a person to rest physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, to rest in the Lord. A

day was to give us a glimpse of a type of eternal rest to come in the new heaven and new earth. This was the true purpose and intention of God's Sabbath. Sabbath was for man!

The Pharisees and the Sadducees and other religious leaders turned it around so that man was a slave to the Sabbath, which was not at all God's meaning. As noted, Jesus did not do away with the Sabbath. He actually brought in (ushered in) the true meaning (the intention and purpose) and did the true works involved in keeping the Sabbath. Then God's people could experience the rest, glory, and honor that comes with getting away from the world as far as you can. You are in this world but not of it, so on the Sabbath we get out of this world and get in the spirit. We spend that time with God and His people, thinking on the things of the Lord, not being concerned about the daily affairs or what decisions we will make during the coming week.

This is in direct contrast to the practice of the Pharisees who made the Sabbath anything but a delight to the Lord by binding people to rules and regulations (which God Himself had not established). God made the Sabbath for man. He certainly knows what He is doing. He knows what men need. He knows man needs rest and spiritual communion with Him. One day a week was to be set aside for that purpose. God Himself observes His Sabbath. (Genesis 2:1-2)

The Sabbath is not a bunch of rules, rituals and rites. It is a time of fellowship with God and His people, causing them to think on Him. It is a time to do the works of God – to heal the sick, to mend the brokenhearted, to let the Spirit of God set the people free, to rest from work in this world. Jesus went about with that purpose, and the leaders came against Him, saying he did not observe the Sabbath correctly, and He did not know how to worship God. They charged Him with being false. We know Jesus to be true!

Here is another example concerning worship and what God is looking for: *“Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, ‘Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.’”* **Matthew 15:1-2**

How was Jesus violating the Sabbath, according to these people? They said He violated it by outward signs. Jesus says to judge righteous judgment and not by the appearance of things.

Chapter Three

WORSHIP / SABBATH OVERVIEW (New Testament)

Continued – Gospels

Thus far in the Bible, worship has centered around the Sabbath and what is involved in the Sabbath. Worship is a love action towards man as well as towards God. The Lord has presented that true worship. Undefined, true religion is that which is based on love for God. Our love for God is evident as we are loving towards one another. Thus, we cannot say we love Him if we do not love His people. As we have pointed out many times, worship is actually our love response to the Lord in thought, word, and deed.

Jesus came to a place where the Pharisees asked Him this question, *“Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”*

“He answered and said to them, ‘Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, “Honor your father and mother,” and, “He who curses father or mother, let him be put to the death.” But you say, “Whosoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God”— then he need not honor his father or his mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they do worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ” **Matthew 15:2-9**

The religious leaders of the day had put aside the true commandments of God and had actually instituted their own traditions and way of interpreting God’s law. Thus, they were setting aside God’s law. Jesus said, *“Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.”* **Matthew 15:6** In other words, they were following the tradition of men before the commandments of God. In many cases they actually set aside the commandments of God. The commandments of men and the teachings of men have to be sorted through and set aside, and the true commandments of God have to be brought forth in these last days. We have to take a look at what is the acceptable and pleasing worship to God.

(As the Spirit of God moved during one of our services, He taught us about worship and the Sabbath of the Lord and what was involved in it. He said to tell

the people, “Whether My people are worshipping Me on Saturday or Sunday, they are profaning [or violating] My Sabbath and not keeping it holy.” We were to tell the people this.)

The teachers of the law had put aside God’s true commandments and were teaching their own doctrines (their way of interpreting the law of God). This is not pleasing to the Lord, for verse nine tells us that Jesus said, “*And in vain they do worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*” Man taught for truth the commandments of men rather than the commandments of God. This is a sorry state of affairs in some of God’s churches throughout the world.

We should say “church” in the singular sense, because there is really only one Church. We are either in God’s family or we are not. In the New Testament, they did not have all kinds of groups, with different little doctrines, titles, and designations. There was only one church, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. That was His Body. The only true Church is the one that exalts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and acts obediently to God’s Word, teaching the whole Bible and the commandments of God, which have not been done away with.

Jesus clearly stated, “*Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.*” **Matthew 15:6** *And in vain they do worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*” **Matthew 15:9**

People today are still drawing near to the Lord with their mouths and honoring Him with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him. Any heart that is seriously concerned about walking with God will love God and His people and keep His commandments.

Our desire is to worship the way God has established, in the way He has set down. I thank God for your openness to His Word. Many of the things that the Lord taught us went against the grain on everything that I had ever been taught, but as He opened His Word, it clearly made sense that what He said was true. Sabbath is a commandment of God that is listed in the Ten Commandments. These, the Ten Commandments, are unalterable laws of God.

For men to change God’s Sabbath constitutes the command of God becoming of no effect because of the tradition of man, resulting in a loss of the Sabbath blessing because of vain worship.

Again, the Lord had pointed out that His Sabbath was not being observed correctly. The worship was not being observed correctly, whether on Saturday or Sunday. God is looking for an entire 24-hour period (Friday dusk to Saturday dusk), set aside, as a taste of what will be in the new heaven and the new earth, as we worship Him. It is to set aside to separate God’s people from the world and the affairs of the world. There was to be no buying or selling on the Lord’s Sabbath, nor was there to be any seeking of our own pleasures or doing our own

works, or any of these kinds of things. We are to set it aside solely for rest and doing God's work. It is very important for us to note that God has not done away with His commandments. Often people today think that God has put aside His commandments because of Jesus. If people would really spend time in the Bible, they would see clearly that the law of God has not been set aside because of Jesus' coming.

God's blessings are involved in worshipping Him in the way that He has established it, and He established it to be done on the Sabbath day. Jesus did not do away with or change but rather fulfilled God's law. Jesus states that God's law will not and cannot be changed without there being consequences to those who alter His law. God's law still stands, even if people attempt to change it.

Exodus 20 shows which Sabbath has been designated to be observed by God's people. The one written by God's own finger has not been done away with.

“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, 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 Word of God delineates and specifies which one is the Sabbath of the Lord included in the Ten Commandments, the seventh-day Sabbath. Jesus observed the same Sabbath. By God's own finger, by God's own anointing, by God's own words, He carved into the stone tablet: *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Exodus 20:18*

He specifies to “remember” the Sabbath day. Apparently God knew that in time people were going to forget it and not observe it in the way He said to observe it. He said to remember the Sabbath day (for what purpose?) to keep it holy. The Lord spoke to us. “My people are profaning My Sabbath.” These are the same words that were used in the Old Testament. Whether people observe the Sabbath on Saturday or Sunday, it is not merely going to church for an hour or two on that day and then going out and using that day for whatever we want. This is not observing correctly the Lord's commandment.

Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you. ” A little while longer and the world will see Me no more; but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that

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day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments [it is clear and crisp] and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and manifest [reveal] Myself to him.... Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to Him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words, and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.' **John 14:15-24**

Remember, Jesus said that the law was not done away with, nor would it be done away with. Jesus fulfilled it (in our place) that we might have the life of God. Our salvation truly rests in faith in Jesus Christ alone. We are saved by grace through faith in Him, not by our works lest anyone should boast. It is a gift of God. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

This is clear and it is true. The Lord Jesus said that the commandments of God are guidelines for us now as to what God's will is for our lives, how we are to live, and what we are to do. Jesus basically summed up the whole law in two commandments. First to honor the Lord your God, to love Him with all your heart, mind and spirit, and secondly, to walk in love towards our neighbors as ourselves. As we look at the Ten Commandments, we discover that the first part deals with loving God and the second table of the law is recorded for us to know what is involved in loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Remembering the Sabbath day and worshipping God is a part of the first table of the law in honoring, loving and worshipping Him. Jesus said, *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. John 14:21a And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest [reveal] Myself to him."* **John 14:21b**

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word." **John 14:23**

"If you love Me, keep My commandments." **John 14:15**

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me." **John 14:21**

To honor the Sabbath is God's command. It is all a part of truly worshipping God. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament show it clearly to be a matter of honoring God. It is a taste of what it will be like in the new heaven and new earth. One day a week set aside right now, a glimpse of what will be forever as we worship God and separate ourselves from this world.

As the Spirit of God pointed out, the Sabbath will be a point of persecution for His people. There will be a time when the world comes against God's people as they

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observe His Sabbath and worship Him in a way that He has truly intended it to be done. This will be a time of separation from the world. That is what the Sabbath was all about in the Old Testament. It actually designated who were and who were not God's people!

What about the apostles? How did they worship God? *"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."* **Acts 2:41-47**

Here is an example of what went on with the apostles and the believers and New Testament believers. Note they continued *"daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house."* We see a "daily" practice of praise and worship of God and a continuing in the Word of God. The apostles continued daily in the temple and broke bread from house to house.

"So they [the apostles] departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." **Acts 5:41** They had just been persecuted for the Word of God, but they continued their practice according to the next verse *"Daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."* **Acts 5:42** Their program was stepped-up, for God's people are to be worshipping and praising God every single day.

I fully believe that with all my heart. We need to be delighting in the Lord every day and encouraging His people not to fall away from the Lord Jesus but to continue to press on in the things of God's Spirit. We need to move by the Spirit of God, encouraging one another, that no one's faith fail in the day of testing.

The apostles taught and preached Christ daily in the temple and in every house. But, the question is, did they have a day specifically designated to the Lord, set aside to the Lord for worship and for practice in spiritual things?

"Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying 'This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.' And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas." **Acts 17:2-4**

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Paul, as a continuous practice (just like Jesus, as we pointed out earlier), went in and preached to the people on the Sabbath day. This was a time the people gathered, and he took every opportunity to preach the Word.

Acts 16:13 tells of what happened in Philippi with Paul, *“And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.”* **Acts 16:13**

This was the practice of Paul on the Sabbath day, for he designates it was on that day. The Sabbath day was not out of effect, and he himself was observing it. What was he doing? He was going down to the river to pray. He talked about Christian people. *“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshipped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”* **Acts 16:14** Others came to the Lord as a result. On the Sabbath day, Paul was observing the things that were to be done on that day. He prayed and preached the Word of God. Note again, they observed it.

At the council of Jerusalem the apostles said what things to abstain from: *“...But that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”* **Acts 15:20-21**

What the Gentiles were to do was stated in verse 20 which basically had to do with the ceremonial law. The preaching of the law was done every Sabbath day in the synagogue. According to Jesus' commands, there was more to this. No Gentile or convert would have to observe the ceremonial laws. There is no Christian who should observe the ceremonial law given to Moses. In the name of Jesus we have been set free from them.

However, the question today is, what do we do with the Ten Commandments? What did the apostles do with the Ten Commandments? Do we or do we not observe the Ten Commandments? Jesus clearly stated that the Ten Commandments still stand. Not one jot or tittle should pass from them until the new heaven and earth are established. Those who teach and observe the commandments will be considered great in the kingdom of God. Those who do not teach and do not do the commandments of God will be considered the least in the kingdom of God. This is important! What is involved in true worship? What are we going to do with the Word of God?

I thank God for your openness to His Word, and I thank Him that you are diligently searching the Scriptures. Take a look at God's Word that we are sharing with you. Do not receive it just because we are saying it, look for yourselves. Consider these things we are telling you. Do not shut them off

before you check out God's Word. I know that the Spirit of God will lead us into all truth in Jesus' name! **John 14:26, 16:13-14**

Chapter Four

WORSHIP / SABBATH OVERVIEW (Epistles)

We noted earlier that in Revelation, chapter 14, in these last days there will be an everlasting gospel proclaimed throughout the world. It will consist of this statement, “...*Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea, and springs of water.*” **Revelations 14:7** The call to everyone throughout the world in these last days will be that of worshipping God. This is the content of the everlasting gospel.

Paul established a principle, sorting out what was true teaching and what was false teaching. **Colossians 2:2-23** Whenever we talk about the Sabbath, right away it is an issue in the Christian church. It is an issue in the world also, because the Sabbath involves the separation of God’s people from the world for a twenty-four hour period. The Sabbath is a tempting taste of what is involved in the new heaven and new earth, as we will be before God Himself.

As we scan Colossians, chapter 2, we note a warning found in Paul’s teaching. It is a warning to the people who are exalting and putting other things before Christ Jesus. As we have already noted, the Sabbath was actually the day around which worship of God was centered. Jesus Himself established Himself as Lord of the Sabbath.

Notice that Jesus did not do away with the Sabbath. He taught the people how the Sabbath was to be observed. Who ought to know better than the Lord of the Sabbath, the One who actually set down the declaration, to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy? Who ought to better know how to observe and keep it holy than the Lord Jesus Himself?

Jesus Christ is the center of our faith. He is the center of our worship. He is the only way we can come before the Father God in worship and praise. Without Jesus Christ, religion is void, empty and vain. You can keep all the commandments of God as you try in your own strength, but you will fall short; and you cannot have salvation through the observance of the law. You cannot have salvation through any of the commandments. Salvation and life with God is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ! Salvation through faith in Jesus is God’s gift to us, “*not of works, lest anyone should boast.*” **Ephesians 2:9** There is no person who can keep the law of God perfectly. That is why God, in His love, sent Jesus that we might have life and that we might have it abundantly with Him.

Now then, why do we keep the commandments? Or, are we to keep the commandments? The Word of God has established principles which we are to consider and obey as God's people. In John, chapter 14, it clearly says that if we love Jesus Christ we will keep His commandments. In Matthew, chapter 5, Jesus said that the law of God was not done away with. Jesus came to fulfill it, not to abolish it. It was to stand until the day the new heaven and new earth was established in righteousness and holiness. We then see that the law of God *does* stand.

False teaching would promote that Jesus Christ is not the center of religion, but other observances and traditions of men and doctrines of men are to be established before the Lord Jesus and His commandments. We center our faith in Jesus Christ alone. According to God's Word, because we love Him, we then in loving response will keep His commandments. These are faith works. These are works that proceed from saving faith.

The book of James points out in chapter two that faith without works is dead. If we are not observing the commandments of God, then we probably do not have any true saving faith. Worship is the key which is centered around the commandment that deals with remembering the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Why? Because we love God, and our fondest delight and desire is to spend time with Him before the things of this world, before ourselves, before anything else. Jesus Christ is to be our first love. Worship is all about our hearts being set on love. We want to do it God's way. God has set down the ways we are to show our love for Him, the ways we are to come to Him. They all center around Jesus Christ.

Without the key, there is a very difficult section in Colossians, chapter two. It is one of the sections people used to prove that we are not to observe the Sabbath Day any more. Even though people are observing the Sabbath on either Saturday or Sunday, these same people purport that the Sabbath has been done away with. We noted in the last chapter, however, that Paul, Peter and the other apostles observed it. What are we going to do with tests like the ones we are about to look at? I pray you will stick with us as we go through God's Word together.

The Lord Jesus Christ has blotted out "*...the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*" **Colossians 2:14**

We cannot be saved by the law. The law condemned us, the law judged us. There was no salvation that could be made for us through the observance of the law because no one could keep the law perfectly (because of our fallen nature). The Lord Jesus came along and observed the law in perfection. In our behalf He fulfilled it, that we could be able now to have life with God. His law has now

taken on a new order for us – it is a guideline on how we are to walk in His ways. The Lord has set down how we are to love Him through His Word.

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no man judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths.” Colossians 2:15-16 It is important to note that sabbath days is plural. *“Which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.” verse 17* We will be getting back to verses 16 and 17 of Colossians 2 because these are key verses. They are used by people to say that the Sabbath Day is no longer observed.

Do not take it just because we say it. We want you to follow God’s Word closely with us. Do not let the devil steal. Always keep an open heart and mind as you approach God’s Word. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal God’s truth to us.

“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—‘Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,’ which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.” Colossians 2:18-23

As we have already noted, in many religions there are all kinds of do’s and don’ts which are traditions, doctrines of men, and commandments of men that God has never established or said. The entire basis of true religion is centered around nothing other than Jesus Christ. Jesus clearly said of the Pharisees that in vain they did worship God, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men, teaching as truth the commandments of men. This is an abomination before God.

It is very important to gain clarity concerning worship also. What is involved in serving God? What are we to do, and what don’t we have to do anymore? As we look at these Scriptures we will see clearly. We hold today that Colossians, chapter 2, is referring to ceremonial sabbath days and ceremonial rules and regulations. For example, it mentions what they could eat or drink and what they could not eat, drink or touch. All these ceremonial laws which were given to Moses have clearly been done away with in the coming of Jesus Christ. God has established an order which we are to follow.

Is this referring to the Ten Commandments? We would challenge you today to consider if it is talking about the Ten Commandments written by God’s own

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finger, given by God's own command, or is it alluding to something Jesus has already taken care of for us? What are we to do with the Ten Commandments?

According to the Colossians, chapter 2 text, sabbath days are to be done away with. Which sabbath days? Look at Galatians, chapter 4. *“But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.” Galatians 4:8-11*

Apparently the people were observing days, months, times and years. They were still observing the old ceremonial law, rituals and rites that were set down. Paul's argument here is against people who were trying to bring the Gentile Christians under the old ceremonial laws of Judaism. The Lord, ministering through Paul, said that we do not have to observe these things for our salvation anymore. Nor do we have to be circumcised, which was the mark in the Old Testament of God's true people. We are now in the New Testament, circumcised of heart through the Lord Jesus Christ, and God's mark is upon us. (Romans 2:28-29) Praise His holy name!

Galatians, chapter 4, notes that we are not to observe ceremonial days anymore. What is involved here? **Romans 14:1** says, *“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”* In other words, do not argue with people that have just come to the Lord, even though they have different teachings and doctrines and are still carrying the trappings of the ceremonial laws. Keep Jesus in the center of things.

“For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.” Romans 14:2-4

Here it comes – *“One person esteems one day above another, another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord, and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Romans 14:5-10*

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This is very important: What is Paul talking about? He is speaking to the Romans about men esteeming one day above another and others esteeming every day alike. Is this pertaining to God's holy Sabbath? We are referring to the seventh-day Sabbath when we are talking about the Sabbath. It is clearly established in Exodus 20:8-11 and in the tables of the law as a commandment that is designated by God to stand forever. Or, is it referring to the other sabbaths? There were many sabbaths, as we have already noted. We just want to point this out to you and would like you to consider it in light of God's Word.

We want to note that Jesus is to be the center of our faith. We are saved through faith in Jesus apart from the works of the law. However, we know that Jesus has not done away with the law and wants us to keep the law which certainly also includes the seventh-day Sabbath.

The ceremonial system is where we need to make a distinction. The ceremonial systems of the Old Testament had many festivals, holy days and annual sabbaths. That system had passed away when Jesus paid the sacrifice for our sins once and for all. I want you to look closely at Colossians, chapter 2. We saw a very specific helpful reference: *"So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."* **Colossians 2:16 - 17** The sabbath days that were done away with here, and which none of us are to observe, are specifically referred to in **verse 17** *"which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."*

Apparently these sabbath days, referred to in Leviticus 23, all had to do with making atonement for sin. There was a blood offering that was made for sin. The Bible says clearly that these things were a shadow of things to come and were fulfilled in Christ. Now look at this: *"For the law, having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect."* **Hebrews 10:1** In other words, these atonement sacrifices recorded in Leviticus 23 (there were seven annual sabbaths) did not fulfill what was needed for the people. They were a shadow of the fulfillment which was to come by the precious blood of Jesus given for us on the cross – that would pay the price for our sins once and for all.

When Jesus came these sacrifices were no longer necessary. This is what **Hebrews, chapter 10** is getting at. Note clearly verse 1, *"For the law, [these ceremonial laws and ceremonial sabbaths] having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect."* In other words, these atonement sacrifices recorded in **Leviticus 23**

[there were seven annual sabbaths] were observed every year. **Leviticus 23:4, 24, 32 and 39** deal with these sabbaths.

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats could take away sins. Therefore, when He came into the world, He said, ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body you have prepared for Me.’” **Hebrews 10:4-5**

Does this not tie in exactly with **Colossians 2:17**? It is a shadow of good things to come which were fulfilled in Christ’s body.

“In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.’” **Hebrews 10:6-7**

God’s Word is showing us that the offering of Jesus Christ’s blood on the cross paid the price for our sin, once and forever. It is done so there is no more offering for sin. There is no more need for any of these ceremonial sabbaths. No more need for the sacrifices that were done on the ceremonial sabbaths. Therefore, we do not need to observe these anymore. But does that pertain to the Sabbath of the Lord, the seventh day Sabbath? The one that God Himself declared holy to Himself? I would challenge you today to say no. I will show you why.

That old sacrifice system (for our sins) passed away in Jesus. The old system foreshadowed the coming of Christ and the giving of His body and blood for us. The believer is not, therefore, to return to the types and shadows of the old ceremonial law. We do not need to observe its seven annual sabbaths as recorded in Leviticus 23:4, 24, 32 and 39. All of these were to be kept in addition to or besides the sabbaths (plural) of the Lord (Leviticus 23:38). As these ceremonial and ritual observances were no longer binding, the Christian believer is (in this passage of Colossians, Galatians and Romans) exhorted not to permit any man to judge him in these things. That is what Romans chapter 14 was dealing with. None of these passages have any reference at all to the seventh day Sabbath of the Lord, because it has nothing to do with being a type for Christ paying the price for our sins. In other words, the seventh day Sabbath has nothing to do with Jesus’ paying the price for our sins.

The Sabbath has to do with worshipping God, separation from the world, and resting in the Lord as a type of the new heaven and new earth to come. It is rather a type for the rest which remains for the people of God in eternity. As such, like the remainder of God’s law, the seventh day Sabbath will remain in effect forever.

Romans 14:5-6 has to do with people who are still honoring some of these old holy days, and we are not to judge them. This observance has to do with men

honoring or not honoring the old holy days. It has nothing to do with cancelling the Sabbath which God Himself established to and for Himself, that His people might honor Him and rest.

The Scriptures in Colossians 2, Romans 14, and Galatians 4 are not at all dealing with the seventh-day Sabbath which is included in the Ten Commandments. They have to do with all these other ceremonial sabbaths which were set up for atonement purposes to pay the price for the sins of the people on a yearly basis. The blood of bulls and goats was involved. Now the blood of Jesus has paid the price once and for all, and so we do not need to observe those things anymore.

Hebrews 4:3-9 was written to believers in the New Testament, pointing out: *“For we who have believed do not enter that rest, as He has said, ‘So I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest,’ although the works were finished from the foundations of the world. For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way. “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”, and again in this place. They shall not enter My rest.” Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. The term used here for rest is “sabbatizing.” It has to do with a keeping of a sabbath. The actual meaning of that term in the Greek means to have a taste of what is involved in the new heaven and the new earth. Note, a Sabbath was to remain for God’s people.*

I would like now to share with you a word from the Lord. One time when I was in the Spirit, the Lord made this point clear and He gave me this word:

“Worship is an endearing love relationship, like marriage. What God has joined together, let not man put asunder. God instituted and designated the Sabbath (speaking about the seventh-day Sabbath) and set down how to come into His presence. Only God’s way is acceptable worship. Man has no right to esteem one day better or less than another. It is what the Lord esteems that matters! He established a specific day and manner of observance. (Genesis 2:1-2) Man has no right to decide, “I will do it my way.” God has set down how it will be. The two shall leave father and mother and become one flesh. In marriage man joins with woman in unity and oneness. The Lord has initiated in love, and we respond

in love by worshipping in His way, in spirit and in truth. Only His way is acceptable to Him as is evidenced in the Old Testament practice and in the New Testament practice (Hebrews 10:17 and following). The Lord always sets down the terms for our relationship with Him.”

Chapter Five

LAST DAYS WORSHIP

“Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.” Hebrews 4:1-2

The author of Hebrews is speaking about the children of Israel who did not enter into the rest God had promised for them because of their unbelief. Note here that they did not profit by the word that was preached to them because they did not mix faith with it. Today we will mix faith with the word that is preached.

“For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He said; ‘So I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest, although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.’ Hebrews 4:3

The work of the Lord was being done from the foundation of the world and now God has promised rest to His people. We are seeing here what that rest is *“For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: And God rested on the seventh day from all His works, and again in this place. They shall not enter My rest.” Hebrews 4:4-5* God has actually provided rest for His people through the Lord Jesus Christ, and that rest is provided.

As we studied about worship, we saw how communing with God and worshipping Him brings rest to His people. Throughout the Bible, God has promised and provided a Sabbath rest. The purpose of that rest was to cause God’s people to separate from the world and to delight in His presence in worship and in praise to Him. Setting apart one’s own pleasures and works (as stated in Isaiah 58), and just delighting in the Lord for one entire day a week. God, on the seventh day, rested according to the word in Hebrews 4. Note that this is New Testament.

People often think the Sabbath was just in the Old Testament, but as you can see through the Scriptures about worship and what is involved in worship, the Sabbath continued throughout the New Testament even into the epistles. In the book of Hebrews, it is still being talked about. This is something for us to consider.

“Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again, He designates a certain day, saying in David, ‘Today, after such a long time; as it has been said: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.’ Hebrews 4:6-7

Here there is a certain limiting of a day. That day, as the call goes out concerning Jesus, is today. Today is the day of salvation, today is the day of healing, today is the day of deliverance, today is the day of our God. However, throughout the Scriptures, God set aside a specific day that He declared a delight to Himself. He declared it to be the Lord's day.

By faith in Jesus Christ alone we are saved. God in His Word has set down principles that we are to follow. As we earlier noted, the Lord has told us that the worship which is pleasing to Him is worship that is done in the way that He has set down to do it.

"For if Joshua [Jesus] had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. Hebrews 4:8 Now the key verse: *"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God."* **Hebrews 4:9** The Greek for "rest" is "a sabbatizing," which actually means in this particular case "a type of heaven." This is what we have been noting in our study about worship. The Sabbath is a type of the rest which is to be ours in heaven as we worship God before the throne forever. Throughout the Bible each of the texts separates the seventh day Sabbath (which is also included in the Ten Commandments) from all of the other ceremonial sabbaths which we know have been done away with through our Lord Jesus Christ. However, the seventh day included in the Ten commandments is separated from those other sabbaths. We still, according to God's Word, are to be observing it.

"For he who has entered His rest has also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience." **Hebrews 4:10-11**

Let us take a closer look at what is involved. Is the Sabbath to be observed in these last days also? **Revelations 1:10** shows us John (speaking about himself), *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet."* What is meant by the "Lord's Day?"

The Lord told us before, "My people are profaning My Sabbath, whether they are observing it on Saturday or Sunday." Apparently there was a profaning of the Lord's Sabbath. This means that people were not keeping it in the way God had set it down. Notice that as far back as the time of the book of Revelation, the Lord's Day was still being observed by John.

What is the Lord's Day? People today have taken some things for granted because of what others have said, and this has been passed down from generation to generation. Let us take a close look at what the Lord's Day is. Which day was actually set aside by the Lord as the Lord's Day?

“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them were finished. 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, [declared it holy]: because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” **Genesis 2:1-3** Here is a designation of calendar in the Old Testament and New Testaments which is different from ours today. The Bible cites a seven day week. The days were not named as we know them today. They were named: first day, second day, third day etc., down to the seventh day. The seventh day was the conclusion. That was the day God rested from His work. It says there specifically that He did not declare the first day holy. He did not declare the second day holy, nor the third, etc. He declared the seventh day holy, and He then rested on it. God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy. Concerning which day is the Lord’s day, it should be evident that God declared the seventh day holy to Himself.

It is very important that we substantiate everything with two or three witnesses (Scriptures) if we are to establish a principle. God’s Word will do so if it is one of God’s truths.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” **Exodus 20:8** “Day” is a singular noun. That day is to be kept holy. The term “profane” means to violate something that is holy. We are to look closely at God’s Word, ignoring opinions or doctrines we do not think ring true. Putting all of these Scriptures together, we would conclusively see that there still remains a Sabbath for God’s people. (Hebrews 4:9)

The correct Sabbath day to be observed is designated in Exodus 20:8-11. Note that these are the Ten Commandments that Jesus says have not been done away with. *“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 heaven and 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 20:9-11**

Which day is the Sabbath day? The Lord blessed and clearly specified the seventh day as the Sabbath day (the Lord’s Day).

“Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. 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 ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. **Deuteronomy 5:12-14** That is the Lord’s Day!

John said, “*on the Lord’s Day...*” There is only one Lord’s Day throughout the Bible. That day is the day which God Himself set up to be declared holy and to be a rest day to Him. We have noted there is only one such day. There is no Scriptural evidence that any change has happened so that God has done away with His Sabbath, nor the way that it is to be observed.

If one reads **Colossians 2, Galatians 4, and Romans 14** without any understanding, it would appear that the sabbaths have been done away with, but we noted the distinction. The ceremonial sabbaths have been done away with in Jesus. It is clear they were a shadow of what was to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ. When Jesus came, those ceremonial sabbaths that were used for blood offering purposes were done away with.

However, the seventh day Sabbath is a type of heaven, which is used in **Hebrews, chapter 4**. It deals with the fact that those things ought to be considered as we are involved in worship. The Sabbath still stands by God and ought to be observed in the way God instituted it. Again, the Lord is concerned about the correct day, and He is concerned about the way in which it is being observed. God’s people will be observing the Word of God the way He intended it to be done.

I believe it is important, before we make any conclusions on God’s Word, to check everything out (and check it thoroughly). This needs to be done in order to see if this is really and genuinely the case. I was not raised in any understanding about the Sabbath as it is being presented in this book. I was taught these truths by the Spirit of God. He taught me the truth as I was studying worship. He revealed these things to me by His Holy Spirit, and I am now sharing them with you.

Let us check it out together. If it is not true, let us reject it. If it is true, let us take it and run with it, observing it in the way that God set it down. In Matthew 24 Jesus was speaking about the last days: *“But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath: For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”* **Matthew 24:19-22**

Note that the Sabbath day is still being observed here at the end because it says, *“And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.”* Let us take a look at what is involved in the last days.

Is the Sabbath still to be observed in the last days? I have been searching through God's Word because I want to know what it has to say. I don't want someone's opinion or mere tradition; I want what God says, and I know you are of the same heart and mind.

"Thus saith the Lord: 'Keep justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.'" Isaiah 56:1-2

As mentioned previously, here is the word the Lord gave me one time when I was in prayer: "My son, My people are profaning My Sabbath whether they are observing it on Saturday or Sunday."

He gave me understanding about what He meant by polluting the Sabbath, as well as how to keep it holy. As a child, I was taught *"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,"* but no one ever taught me what was involved in keeping it holy. God pointed out that there is a way to keep it holy. There is a way to keep from polluting it. The people who do so are going to be blessed of Him.

"Also the sons of the foreigner..." Isaiah 56:6 (When it says the sons of the foreigner, it means the Gentiles which include all of us who are not Jews.) According to Isaiah 56:4 and 5 the eunuchs and others who were keeping the Sabbath chose to do those things that pleased God and take hold of His covenant. They were the ones who entered into everlasting life. Verse six also deals with Gentiles. Isaiah 56 is not talking about something that happened back when. It is actually referring to what is coming up in the new heaven and new earth.

"Also the sons of the foreigner, who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants — everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant— Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted upon My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." Isaiah 56:6-7

Whenever the Bible says "I will bring to My holy mountain" it has to do with the New Jerusalem, in the new heaven and new earth. People that observe the Sabbath (even Gentiles) and keep from polluting it (and take hold of His promises) are the ones who will be brought in. How tremendously exciting and important this is as we get closer to the day of our Lord Jesus' return, which we are all awaiting.

Will the Sabbath still be observed in the new heaven and the new earth? Let us look at what God says rather than what people say.

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“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me, says the Lord, so shall your descendants and your name remain. 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. And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.” **Isaiah 66:22-24**

(“Gehenna” is where all unbelievers will be going with Satan and the demonic host.)

What does it say will be going on in the new heaven and new earth? *“And from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says the Lord.”* **Isaiah 66:23**

Throughout the Bible the Sabbath involves the worship of God – and where God’s people enter into rest. It is more than going to a church for an hour or two. We are talking about observing the Sabbath the Lord’s way (the way He has established it.)

So many people think that the commandments of God have been done away with so I needed to have some evidence. I asked the Lord specifically, “Lord, I want some Scriptures to show if this is true, and they would show me and your people that You have not done away with Your commandments in these last days.”

My God gave me three Scriptures.

1. **Revelation 14:6-7 KJV** *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: And worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”*

In these end-time days there will be a message going forth. I believe it has already started and I believe that we are a part of it. It will spread throughout Christianity, even though at this point people have no understanding concerning the Sabbath. By the Spirit of God and the spirit of worship God will communicate to His people that the Body of Christ will come into a unity concerning the matters of worship. This is what the everlasting gospel that is to be preached is all about. That worship centers around the Sabbath. We are speaking here about the seventh day Sabbath which God has clearly set down in His Word.

What has this to do with anything? Notice the text comes just before the mention of the mark of the beast. It is a point in time which we have not yet come to, but we are coming very close. Those that take the mark of the beast upon themselves will not enter into the life of God.

“And the smoke of their torment [those who have taken the mark] ascends forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name.” Revelations 14:11
Involved in that mark is worshipping the beast, the power of Satan.

2. Another Scripture the Lord gave me was, *“Here is the patience of the saints: here are those [note this closely] who keep the commandments of God [note the Sabbath is among the commandments of God], and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12* This shows the importance of keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Jesus says, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15*

In answer to the question, are we to keep God’s commandments even though we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ? Another Scripture that the Lord gave me at that time was: *“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*

According to God’s Word, we need to have both the testimony (or the faith) of Jesus Christ and keep His commandments. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by our works lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9), but today if we say we love God (and we are Christians) we will do and keep His commandments. (See **James 2:14-26**).

3. The final proof that was given was: *“Since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.” Romans 3:30-31*

The law of God has not been done away with. To the contrary, the law of God has been established by Jesus forever! Who are we as men to say that the law of God is done away with and not do what the Lord has established to do in worshipping and honoring Him on His Sabbath, the Lord’s day?

Chapter Six

HOW TO OBSERVE SABBATH (The Lord's Day)

The Lord revealed that His people, you and I, are not observing His Sabbath in the way He intended in His holy Word, even though we may be worshipping on Saturday or Sunday. Whenever we start to talk about Sabbath, a red flag goes up for most people. It need not be. People have no trouble in observing "*Thou shalt not steal*" or "*Thou shalt not kill*" or "*Thou shalt not commit adultery*" or "*Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother.*" These commandments have not been done away with, as is well noted throughout Christianity. However, God has also given "*Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy*" which is included in the list. As such, it is still to be observed.

We want to observe it, however, in the manner in which God has set it down and not the way man has. The Sabbath involves more than just going to church for an hour or two on Saturday or Sunday. What is actually involved in the Sabbath (the time framework)? The first Sabbath began at the close of the sixth day at dusk and went to the close of the seventh day at dusk. In the Scriptures the designations for time is that Saturday dusk through Sunday dusk is the first day. The seventh day is from our Friday dusk to Saturday dusk. This is the Sabbath day. This is the day the Lord blessed, observed, declared holy, and called the Lord's Day – special to Him and blessed to us.

If we are to follow God's way, we need to see from God's perspective. The evening always begins the day, and dusk of the next day always closes the day. We find the same thing in **Deuteronomy 16:6**.

"But at the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt."

A day begins at sundown and ends the next day at sundown. We see the same thing in **Mark 1:32**.

What is the purpose of the Sabbath? One, we observe it because God says, "*Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.*" The three major purposes are 1) a separation from the world and the affairs of the world. 2) An entering into rest in the Lord, communing with Him in worship (both public and private) and centering our family's life on that day around the Lord Jesus Christ, rejoicing in our God for all He has done for us. 3) It is a type of heaven where we will be rejoicing before

the throne of God. *“There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.”*
Hebrews 4:9

It is God’s purpose that man observe the Sabbath because He Himself rested on the seventh day. We are to rest from the labors of this world and simply concentrate on our God.

We know we can do that every day. We can rejoice in the Lord every day, but I do not know too many people that set aside their labors every day. There is to be a total separation from the world on that one day.

“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words.” **Isaiah 58:13**

In other words, we are not to be doing our own work or any kind of work, nor are we to be doing our own pleasures. This would involve watching secular TV, going to secular movies, picnicking, doing all kinds of different things that involve our own pleasure. We are not to be speaking our own words – we are not to be speaking about the affairs of the world, the affairs of the day, what we will do on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday. We are to be spending our time thinking on God and speaking God’s Word to one another and encouraging one another in the Lord.

Here is the promise that goes with it: *“Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”* **Isaiah 58:14**
This promise of God is true for those who delight in God by observing His Sabbath.

We are to prepare our food and other things that are needful upon the day before. We are not to spend much time in preparation of the food on the Lord’s Day. We are to eat, or if you want to fast, that is perfectly fine. Do what you are led to do, but we are not to spend hours in preparation of the food. This should be prepared ahead of time, so the whole family is able to enjoy one another and the Lord, and rejoice in God.

We are to cease from secular or earthly employment and devote ourselves to sacred and heavenly things. *“And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. The he said to them, ‘This is what the Lord has said: ‘Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil, and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.’”* **Exodus 16:22-23**

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The day of preparation, or the day before the Sabbath, is needed so that the people can rest and enjoy things on the Sabbath of the Lord.

Obedying God can actually be something delightful! God says His commandments are not grievous. **1st John 5:3** They are grievous to those who do not want to do them. We have found such a great blessing as we seek to worship God and observe His day in the way He has intended, calling the day a delight to the Lord. We have found the week orders out the way He has intended. There is a refreshing and strength to do what needs to be done. Our family is being blessed, and our family is growing even stronger in the Lord together. We look forward to the day we call a delight to the Lord, and we rejoice in our God.

“That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near.” **Luke 23:54** There apparently was a preparation day before the Sabbath so people could finish all their affairs and not have to trouble themselves with them. Grocery shopping and other kinds of shopping should not be done on the Sabbath day.

This principle is established in **Nehemiah 13:15-22** and **Jeremiah 18:21-27**. There is no buying or selling done on the Lord’s Day. We are to separate ourselves from the affairs of the world for that day to delight in the Lord.

What are we to be doing on the Lord’s Day? Jesus told the people, *“It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath day.”* **Matthew 12:12** This question was put to Jesus for the purpose of catching Him in a trap. *“Then He said to them, ‘What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. Then He said to the man, ‘Stretch forth thine hand.’ And he stretched it out, and it was restored whole as the other.”* **Matthew 12:11-13**

The principle Jesus set down is that if there is an emergency on the Sabbath day, one has to deal with it. Most importantly, people are to be healed in the name of Jesus on God’s holy day. People are to be baptized on God’s holy day. People are to be visited in the nursing homes (Isaiah 58) because God is concerned about the widows, the orphans, and the people who need to be ministered to. In other words, the works of God are to be done on God’s holy day.

We are to put aside all the other work such as cutting the grass or our regular employment. We put aside all those things, and we concentrate on doing God’s work on God’s holy day. This is not a day for ordinary labor, nor for being lazy or idle, nor for our amusement, but is intended to be for rest both spiritually and

physically. It is a day to be spent in meditation or thinking on God's Word, sharing it in the family as well as individually in public worship.

We believe this is a wonderful time for families to come together in the Lord and to rejoice in Him.

How often now days does the family have time to get together for anything? There always seems to be one scurrying here and the other scurrying there. God has provided, in His infinite wisdom and love, a day in which His family can come together in Him. What a blessing it is to God's people when they begin to realize this and do what the Lord has set down.

The Lord has said He made the Sabbath for man, and not man for the Sabbath. He knew man had a need for rest, physically as well as spiritually, in Him. He knew that people needed time as a family to get together in the Lord, to rest in God, and to communicate the Lord to one another. We are simply to take that time out of the world with all of its hustle and bustle and evil, and, as a type of heaven have a time to rejoice in the Lord.

God knew that we needed this rest, this is why He said, "*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.*" **Exodus 20:8**

Again, our salvation is not based on keeping the Sabbath. Our salvation is based on faith in Jesus Christ alone. However, God had set down the Sabbath to be observed. Jesus said, "*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. You do what I have given you to do.*" The Sabbath is a time for holy joy and a time for mutual helpfulness as we go and encourage one another in the things of God.

Suggestions for Keeping the Seventh Day Sabbath Holy

- Ask the Holy Spirit what HE wants and how to do it, if anything.
- Read Bible.
- Do family devotions and enjoy family and spouse in Jesus.
- Prayer with self and family.
- Attend church.
- Talk about what you learned in church service and children's ministry.
- Fellowship meals.
- Go for a walk with Jesus, or someone else. Enjoy the Lord and His creation.
- Relax in a pool and think on Jesus.
- Nursing home visitation/or visit those unable to leave homes (shut-in).
- Watch Godly movies.
- Read Godly books.
- Do what the Lord takes pleasure in – ask Him.

- Do the works of the Lord – pray for the sick, mend broken hearts, and encourage people in the Lord. **Isaiah 61, Isaiah 58**
- Communicate the Lord’s goodness with someone.
- Give the Lord – *Time, Talents, and Treasures*.
- Acts of kindness towards others.
- Take a nap – rest and be refreshed in spirit, mind, and body.
- Play praise and worship music.
- Dance to the Lord / sing to the Lord.
- Share testimony as to what the Lord has done.
- Share Scriptures with each other.

There has been a definite change in the Sabbath observance. Have you ever thought how that came about? If you are like me, you were probably never taught anything about the Sabbath being on a different day than when most of us have observed it. Sunday was always the day we were taught was the Sabbath day, and we were to observe it and keep it holy. This was passed down from generation to generation.

I wonder, today, how many have actually taken the time to do some research into the Sabbath to find out what day is actually the Sabbath. The Bible says the seventh day is the Sabbath. I had never taken too much thought about that fact. I had always assumed that Sunday was the Sabbath. The reason people gave for having Sunday worship was that Jesus rose on Sunday, and so it was set down by the apostles and others as being the Lord’s Day. I took that idea hook, line, and sinker and just believed it as being true. However, as the Spirit of God started to deal with my heart, God showed me that the seventh day Sabbath still stands. And it will stand forever!

How do we then account for a change of the day? If we are to observe the Sabbath correctly, we also need to get in on the correct day. People are not observing the Sabbath today as the Sabbath that God intended. God intended a 24-hour period to be set aside for Him, not one or two hours, and then we go out and do whatever we want to do after church. We also want to deal with the fact that there has been a day change. The question is, why was it changed? How did that change come about?

Let us look first at why the day was changed. Jesus said, *“In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”* **Matthew 15:9** He was speaking to the Pharisees. He was saying that the way they observed the commandments was in this way, putting man’s ways and man’s teachings before the commandments of God.

As we look around us we see a breakdown happening in family situations. I would just like to pose this thought to you. In 150 years, if people do not think that marriage is the standard but think that living together is the standard, how

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would people think that marriage was ever a standard? They would not! Grandpa did it this way, daddy did it this way, so “I can do it this way.”

People are taught down through the ages this way. We have been taught that Jesus rose on Sunday, the first day of the week. This is a common accepted belief among Christendom. But **Matthew 28:1** makes it clear – “*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.*” As we know, Jesus was already risen from the dead.

In the same way, if we were to go back, we would see that the Sabbath was changed from Saturday to Sunday. I had never looked at this but simply took it for granted that as soon as people mentioned the Sabbath, they would not want to hear any more.

I believe in doing things God’s way. I believe in searching the Scriptures and proving things out whether they be true or false. I know you are of like heart. So that is why we are taking a look at this.

Why was the Sabbath changed from Saturday to Sunday? It is clear from the Scriptures that the seventh day is the Sabbath. Friday dusk to Saturday dusk is clearly the Sabbath as God has set it down. I want to pose to you today that over the centuries this change has happened, and people have so taken this tradition of men, as you will see it is, that they have programmed it to be a commandment of God. It is not so. If you were to search the Scriptures you would find no evidence to support Sunday worship. There are only two places, in fact, that deal with this.

1. Acts 20:7 is one of the Scriptures used to substantiate that a change was made by the apostles from worshipping on the Sabbath (Saturday) to worshipping on Sunday. In this passage Paul was preaching, so let us see what happened:

“Now on the first day of the week [the first day is our designation for Sunday], when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered.” Acts 20:7-8

Paul spoke late and a young man fell out of the window. Paul, by the Spirit of God, raised him up in the name of Jesus. Verse seven clearly says that they broke bread, Paul preached to them so he could depart in the morning, and Paul continued his speech until midnight. Scripturally this was no longer talking about Sunday but *Saturday night*, a Saturday night meeting because the day designation always began at dusk.

Scripturally a day is dusk to dusk. Therefore, upon the first day of the week (at dusk) when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached to them, ready to depart in the morning and continued his speech until midnight. This cannot be used to establish Sunday worship but was in actuality a Saturday night meeting!

The fact that their meeting was held on the first day of the week does not establish a precedent for Sunday worship, in the place of the Sabbath. It simply states that they were meeting on that day. The first day of the week actually begins Saturday night at dusk and continues through Sunday at dusk. God's Sabbath or Lord's Day begins Friday dusk to Saturday dusk.

It is more than likely that this final meeting of Paul's, which went past midnight, occurred just following the close of the Sabbath (at dusk Saturday night). Thus it was a Saturday night meeting, not Sunday worship at all.

Also there is no mention there of the sacredness of the day. As we noted in **Revelation 1:10**, John designated the day to be the Lord's Day. In other Scriptures, when God is talking about the Sabbath, He is talking about the Lord's Day: *"My day, My holy day,"* the Lord says. There was but a simple statement in Paul's Acts 20 meeting as to the day of their meeting. In other words, there was no sanctity about this first day of the week as there is when God refers to His Sabbath or as John states in **Revelation 1:10**. When it is referring to the Lord's Day, it is clearly referring to the Sabbath.

2. **1st Corinthians 16:2** is often used to substantiate Sunday worship. Let us take a close look at that. When you examine Scriptures, make sure you see what God is actually saying.

Does **1st Corinthians 16:2** refer to establishing first day worship? It says there, *"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 collection when I come."*

I want to propose to you that this is not talking about worship at all nor is it talking about an offering at a public worship meeting on the first day (Sunday). This is not dealing with Sunday worship at all! It is dealing with each believer being responsible to privately set aside the money for their offering on the first day (or Sunday) so that when it came time for the public offering they would not have spent the money.

Note, this is not even referring to worship! A public church collection would eventually be taken for the famine victims in Jerusalem. However, this passage states specific guidelines for each individual in how they are to privately set aside (note, privately set aside) and determine what their offering will be. In other

words, this Scripture cannot be used to support Sunday versus God's Sabbath (Friday dusk to Saturday dusk) worship.

Chapter Seven

HOW SABBATH CHANGE OCCURRED

Why was the Lord's Day changed from Saturday to Sunday? How did Sunday worship evolve? Did God declare such a change?

I would like to encourage and exhort you today to search the Scriptures for yourself on this issue and not just believe what has been taught for so many years. Search the Scriptures and find out what God has to say.

Many people, and I was the same way at one time, do not even know what it means to "*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.*" I was always taught that Sunday was the Sabbath of the Lord. I was to remember it and keep it holy. Many people today have not been taught any differently. However, as I studied the word of God, I saw that it clearly shows the Sabbath to be the seventh day, beginning Friday at dusk and ending on Saturday dusk.

I have found absolutely no scriptural evidence to support a change from the seventh day (or Sabbath) worship to a first day (Sunday) worship.

THREE REASONS

There are basically three reasons that have been given in the past for such a change. One of these reasons was opposition to and separation from the Jewish faith. We find this to be inconsistent with the Word of God in that all of us as God's people are now spiritual Jews. According to the Word of God we have become children of Abraham through the blood of Jesus Christ and heirs to the promises which belong to God's chosen people, the Jews. Opposing the Jewish faith is to go against God.

The truth is we are not observing the "Jewish" Sabbath, but the Creation Sabbath.

The second reason that was given for the change from Saturday to Sunday worship, and this is the one most commonly cited today, is that Sunday (or the first day) is the day of Jesus' resurrection. As such, we are now to celebrate and worship on the day Jesus was resurrected. According to the Word, there is no evidence to support this. We find that none of the apostles (in their epistles) dealt with changing to a first day or Sunday worship.

Another argument often used today for worshipping on Sunday instead of Saturday is that we are not under the law anymore. The Scripture that is used many times to support that we are not under the law is Acts, chapter 15, which

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deals with what the apostles told the Gentiles to do: *"That they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood."* **Acts 15:20** The Gentiles did not need to observe all the ceremonial laws.

Note here that we are not under the law; we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone, apart from the works of the law. However, we see an inconsistency in using this argument, "We are not under the law now." If the Gentiles were only to "abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood," then why did Paul exhort the believers at Corinth not to commit adultery, not to be involved in fornication or drunkenness, and not to be involved in other things such as gossip? In Ephesians chapter 4 believers were warned about lying and stealing. Through Paul and other teachers of the day, God is explicitly exhorting the people to keep His commandments. They have faith in Jesus, and now they are saved, but as James puts it, *"Faith without works is dead."* What are the works? The works are the keeping of God's law. God is explicitly exhorting the people to keep His commandments.

The argument goes on to say that there are only two commandments now -- one is to love God and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. It is true that Jesus said that, and it is fine to point it out. However, we see that Jesus was quoting two Old Testament Scriptures -- **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** and **Leviticus 19:18**. In **Matthew 5:19** Jesus clearly says that the commandments of God have not been done away with; they still stand.

ESTABLISHED BY GOD

The seventh day Sabbath is specifically the one that still stands; all the ceremonial sabbaths have been done away with. The seventh day (Saturday) is to be observed (unknowingly observed by most Christians on the first day [Sunday]). At creation the seventh day Sabbath was established before the law was given. The Lord, by His own finger, also included it in the Ten Commandments. **Exodus chapter 20** No Scripture supports a change from Saturday to Sunday worship. If so, how did the change come about? You will find this very interesting!

Flying was not considered possible 200 years ago. People would have thought it ridiculous, but it is a common thing today. In a similar way, if marriage was done away with, in 200 years it would not even be considered. In such a society, people would do whatever they wanted because their granddad did it that way, their dad did it that way, and now they are doing it that way. They don't know any differently.

People do not know how the change from Sabbath worship to Sunday worship happened. I think it is important for the Body of Christ to study the history of how

the change came about. How did it come to be that we now worship God on Sunday?

We have noted that there is absolutely no evidence in the Old or New Testament for the change from Saturday to Sunday. In fact, we see the apostles and everyone else observing the Sabbath. If God did not change it, who did? If we were to go back through history, we would find the answer simply and clearly. We are not condemning any people today who are involved in any particular fellowship. However, we want to get to the truth about how this change came about. The change from the Sabbath (Saturday) was not made by God but by the Roman Catholic Church.

OBSERVATIONS BY SOCRATES, SOSAMAN AND WEBSTER

Socrates, a Greek church historian of the fifth century, wrote, "Almost all churches throughout the world celebrate the sacred mysteries on the Sabbath of every week. Yet the Christians of Alexandria and at Rome on account of the same ancient tradition have ceased to do this."

In other words, this change was not made by the apostles. In fact, the early church was observing the Sabbath (Saturday) up and through the fifth century. The Christians of Alexandria and Rome had ceased to do it. This is found in Ecclesiastical History, verse 21 and 22 in a select library of Nicene and post-Nicene fathers, the second series, volume 22, page 132.

Sosaman was another church historian of the fifth century. He wrote, "The people of Constantinople (or the Eastern Catholic Church) almost everywhere assemble together on the Sabbath as well as on the first day of the week, which custom is never observed at Rome or at Alexandria." We see a division even within the early church at that point. The Eastern Catholic Church observed worship on the Sabbath as well as the first day of the week through the fifth century. In other words, they observed a Sabbath worship on Saturday as well as a worship on Sunday. "Which custom (writes Sosaman) is never observed at Rome or Alexandria." The Western Church had divided, stopped what they had been doing, and made a change. This is found in Ecclesiastical History, in a select library of Nicene and post-Nicene fathers, second series, volume 2, page 390.

How did this change come about? The early Christians had at first adopted the Jewish seven day week with its numbered weekdays. "By the close of the third century A.D., this began to give way to the planetary week. This is what we now know as -- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. In the fourth and fifth centuries the pagan designation became generally accepted in the western half of Christendom. The use of the planetary names by Christians attest to the growing influence of astrological speculations which were introduced by converts from

paganism. During these same centuries, the spread of the oriental solar worship (especially that of Mythra, the Persian sun worship) in the Roman world had already lead to the substitution by pagans of the day of solas for day of saturny as the first day of the planetary week. Thus gradually a pagan institution was engrafted into Christianity.” We find this on page 220 and 221 of Rest Days, by Hutton Webster. Apparently up through the fifth and sixth centuries, Sabbath was still being observed in the eastern part of Christianity. However, in the western part (centered around Rome and Alexandria) the change had come. They had already dropped the Sabbath and were worshipping solely on Sunday.

What was the motivation for such a change?

CONFUSION PRODUCED

It was a compromise of God's Word in order not to disturb the practice of pagan people. Sunday was the day of pagan worship. In addition, it was hoped that they would simply change from worshipping false gods to worshipping Jesus. Did it work? No. In fact, it created confusion about whether the Christians were now worshipping the sun god.

Another early historian, Tertullian, wrote, "Others with greater regard to good manners, it must be confessed, suppose that the sun is the god of the Christian because it is a well-known fact that we pray toward the east and because we make Sunday a day of festivity. What then, do you do less than this? Do not many among you with an affection of sometimes worshipping the heavenly bodies likewise move your lips in the direction of the sunrise? It is you, at all events, who have even admitted the sun into the calendar of the week and you have selected its day, Sunday, in preference to the preceding day (which we know is the Sabbath) as the most suitable day of the week. Now by resorting to these customs you deliberately deviate from your own religious rites to those of strangers [or the pagans]." This is found in Ad Nations, i-13, in the Ante-Nicene fathers, volume 3, page 123.

We see that the Christian practices were confusing the pagans. The pagans thought the Christians had now become pagans because they had taken Sunday as the day of festivity and worship, and they had changed the calendar so that instead of going with God's order of the first day, second day, third day, fourth day, etc., they had now changed to the designations of Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, etc., all in benefit of pagan gods. The tactic of changing the day made the pagans think that the Christians had become pagans.

DECREES BY CONSTANTINE AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

If it created confusion, why did the change to Sunday continue? It was put into civil law by Constantine in 321 A.D. and into church law by the popes of Rome.

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"On the venerable day of the sun, let the magistrates and the people residing in cities rest." This is the civil law that was set up by Constantine in 321 A.D. "Let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits because it often happens that another day is not suitable for grain sowing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost. (Given the seventh day of March, Crispus, and Constantine being consuls each of them for the second time.)" This is found in the Codex Justinianus, library 3, Title 12-3, translated by Philip Schaff, D.D. It is found in The History of the Christian Church (the 7-vol. edition), 1902, Volume 3, page 380.

Constantine was the emperor of Rome from 306-337 A.D. He himself was a sun worshipper in the first years of his reign and later professed a conversion to Christianity. However, it is noted that in his practices it was apparent he was still an admirer of the sun god, Apollo. He made into civil law, or public law, that Sunday was declared to be a day set aside for rest.

Who gave the Catholic Church authority to change God's Sabbath to Sunday? God did not. They did it themselves! On this subject The Converts' Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, which received the Apostolic Blessing of Pope Pius X, on January 25, 1910, stated -- "Questions: Which is the Sabbath day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea 336 A.D. transferred the solemnity or the holiness from Saturday to Sunday." Second edition, page 50.

A Doctrinal Catechism, by Rev. Kennan, approved by Most Rev. John Hughes, D.D., Archbishop of New York, states, "Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept or commandment? Answer: Had she not such a 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."

In their own writings, the Catholic Church says it had the power to change the worship on Sabbath to Sunday by papal decree. It is substantiated here. They even said that there was no scriptural authority to do so. The only way they could do it was because they (the church) had the right to change the authority of Scriptures.

In An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine, by Reverend Henry Tuberville of Douay College, France, the following, "Question: How prove you that the church has power to command feasts and holy days, or establish new laws and

regulations? Answer: By the very act of changing the Sabbath to Sunday which Protestants allow us. And therefore, they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church. Question: How do you prove that? Answer: Because by keeping Sunday, the (Protestants) acknowledge the Catholic Church's power to ordain feasts and to command them under sin. And by not keeping the rest of the feast days, by her commanded, they again deny in fact the same power." Page 58.

We see that all of the reformers recognized that the commandments of God still stood. Yet when it came to the issue of the Sabbath, the fourth commandment, to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, there was a change.

COMPROMISE REVEALED

Even the Catholic Church, who made the change by the pope's decree, say they hold the Protestants in account on this very issue. Here is a quotation from a document entitled, "Why Don't You Keep the Sabbath Day?" from the Library of Christian Doctrine, pages 3 and 4. This was written by the Catholic Church in response to the Protestants breaking away from the Catholic Church, as to what was going on in the Protestant movement. "If the Catholic Church, and not an ordinance of God, made the change from Saturday to Sunday, why did the Protestant movement not change it back to the seventh-day Sabbath in accordance with God's law which all Protestant reformers stand by as not being done away with?"

(That is the question. Why didn't the Protestants change it back to the way it was supposed to be?) Answer: They did not want to change the people's way of thinking and pattern of life even though God's Word called that change to take place. They compromised in the Sabbath area what they fought so hard for in other areas -- to get back to doing what the Bible says. The Catholic Church noted the fallacy of the Protestant thought in this area concerning the Sabbath.

"You tell me that Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, but the Christian Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed, but by whom? Who has the authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, 'Ye shall keep holy the seventh day,' who shall dare to say, 'no, you may work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day, but you shall keep holy the first day instead'? This is a most important question." (This quotation was from the Catholic Church, who had changed the Sabbath to Sunday, speaking to the Protestants. They were showing their disregard for the Protestant movement because the Protestants said they professed "Bible, bible, nothing but bible" and yet in practice they did not go back to establish the Sabbath the way God had set it up originally. Instead they went with papal decree.)

Back to the quotation: "This is a most important question which I know not how you can answer. You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the bible and the bible only, yet in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day, you go against the plain letter of the bible and put another day in the place of that day which the bible has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the Ten Commandments. You believe that nine are still binding. Who gave you the authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your principles, if you really follow the bible and the bible only, you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered." This is from the article, "Why Don't You Keep the Sabbath," from the Library of Christian Doctrine, pages 3 and 4.

The Catholic Church wrote to the Protestants holding them accountable for what they were doing concerning the Sabbath. The Catholic Church viewed themselves as being the only ones with the authority to change a command of God. The Protestants had no right. If the Protestants were going to go on with this change from God's clear Commandment, then the Catholic Church figured that they should go with all of the other papal decrees, instead of casting them aside.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The seventh day Sabbath is God's holy day by God's command, and He has not changed it. No man or church body has the right to change God's commands. Any alteration by man is an abomination before God. Even today's Sunday worship is not pleasing to God when people are not setting aside the entire day for God's Word, worship and rest. Instead they are using the day for their own pleasure as soon as they get out of church. For us, as God's people, to be obedient to His call to holiness and to receive the fullness of His plan for us, we need to honor the Lord of the Sabbath on His Sabbath.

Our salvation is not dependent on keeping the Sabbath, but our salvation is depended on Jesus alone. However, Jesus said, *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."* We can worship God every day, but God has established the seventh day and declared it holy. A Saturday or Sabbath rest to Him is God's command to us. In **Matthew 15**, Jesus said, *"In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."* Teaching for doctrine that Sunday is the Sabbath day on which to worship instead of going back to the way God intended it to be is vain worship.

We believe that the Sabbath is going to be a point of contention in these last days. It will be a point of contention among God's true people, the world, and carnal believers.

The question always comes, "Why is no one in the Christian Church really acting upon this yet?" This question is answered in **Revelations 14:6-12**, where the Lord tells us that this will be a message just before the coming of the beast and the mark of the beast. We are in the last days, and the message concerning worship and holiness has already begun in the Body of Christ. Even now this message will play a part in the move of the Holy Spirit of God, drawing God's people into that which God considers to be true worship before His return, at which time we will worship God forever.

Chapter Eight

“SHOULD WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY?”

THE SABBATH WAS ESTABLISHED

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they do worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” **Matthew 15:8-9**

“...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,” **1 Samuel 15:22** Obedience is the key to true life and worship of God. Obedience to what? The Commandments of the Bible which is how God’s people are to obey Him in what He wants accomplished. God always sets down the directions. Man has no right to determine or alter God's commands.

Concerning worship and God's holy Sabbath, it is important that we realize that the Sabbath is an eternal creation principle of God. Like the tithe, the Sabbath was established long before the law was given to Moses. In fact, the seventh-day was established by God before Adam fell away from Him. The Sabbath is also established by the law which is eternal and holy. **Exodus 20:8-11; Romans 7:12-14** It will be observed in the new heaven and new earth. **Isaiah 66:22-24**

God established the Sabbath immediately after He had made His creation. In **Genesis 2:1-3**, we find that God Himself observed, blessed, and declared holy to Himself the seventh day. We note: God declared holy and blessed the seventh day (Friday dusk to Saturday dusk). God did not bless and declare holy the first day (Saturday dusk to Sunday dusk), nor the second, third, or other days. The seventh day He blessed. Who is man to change what God has blessed?

Only one entire day a week, according to God's Word, was set aside by the Lord Himself and declared holy to Himself. Man, before falling away from God, observed the seventh-day Sabbath. Why is it that the Spirit-filled Church in these last days is not observing it to the Lord? The Holy Spirit of God certainly will not violate His own principles!

True, we can and should worship God every day. However, it must be made clear, that when God is talking about His holy Sabbath being kept holy, He is not merely talking about remembering to go to church! The Lord has definitely set down in His Word that there be a twenty-four hour period, set aside for man to rest from his own work, pleasure, buying and selling, and to worship and delight in the Lord. (Isaiah 58:13-14) The Sabbath involves a total separation of God’s

people from the world, a foreshadowing of the new heaven and new earth to come.

When the Lord was teaching me about worship and His holy Sabbath, He said, "My son, My people are profaning My Sabbath whether they observe it on Saturday or Sunday." At the time, I did not understand what "profane" meant, until the Lord showed me **Isaiah 56:1-8**. It used the same words about His people profaning, violating, desecrating, and not keeping holy His Sabbath. They were not observing it in the way He declared it to be observed as being holy. To keep it holy means to observe it God's way! "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*" **Exodus 20:8**

THE LAW WAS NOT ABOLISHED

Let me give you more information for your consideration.

The major reformers and men of God throughout history and today acknowledge that the Commandments of God are not done away with by faith in Jesus. **Romans 3:30-31, Revelation 12:17; Revelation 14:12; I Timothy 1:7-11; Romans 7:10-14; I John 5:3; Romans 7:22; James 2:17-26, John 14:15, 21-24** Jesus Himself stated that He did not come to do away with the law, and that the law stands until the new age. **Matthew 5:17-20**

Sin is the transgression of the law. **I John 3:4** and **Romans 5:13** It is willfully expressed rebellion against the holy law of God; as such, rebellion against God Himself. To deny God's law is to deny His right of authority over one's self. To a person walking in the Spirit, the Commandments of God are not grievous and burdensome, but rather a delight. Jesus is truly their Lord. **I John 5:3, Romans 7:22, and Romans 8:4**

The Commandments of God are only a problem to those who are carnally minded and who do not want to obey the Lord, rather desiring to serve their own flesh. See **Romans 8:1-14**. For the person who is led of the Spirit of God, keeping the Commandments is a delight and comes naturally in the spirit. The people led of the Holy Spirit are truly sons of God because they are obediently displaying the righteousness of the law being fulfilled in them through His Spirit that lives and works in them in Jesus. **Romans 8:3; John 14:15, and 21-24**

The person who is led of the Holy Spirit is not under the law. Why? Because the law is for transgressors (to turn them to Jesus and to fulfill the law). **I Timothy 1:7-11** The person who is walking in the Spirit does not violate the commandments of God. He obeys the Commandments, and because he fulfills the law, he is not under the law, nor does condemnation come by not doing the law. **Galatians 5:16-18; Romans 8:1-4; and I John 5:1-3**

If the law of God is done away with, then why do John, Paul, James, and Peter spend so much time discussing the concern for sin and the need for holiness in peoples' lives? Sin is the transgression of the law of God **I John 3:4**. If the law of God is done away with, then there would be no more sin to talk about.

Romans 5:13 Apparently, in the letters included in God's Word, since sin and the need for holiness are discussed so much, the law of God must still stand to drive commandment-breakers to Jesus for life; and to provide God's standard for true holiness. **Romans 7:12**; and **Galatians 3:19-26**

One of the early Church heresies or false teachings, which even Paul was dealing with, was called "Anti-Nomianism." This was the teaching that in Jesus we are no longer under the law, but under grace; so we can now go and sin, living however we want in violation of the Commandments. Paul in response to this type of thinking stated, "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*" **Romans 6:1-2**

Our salvation comes by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by works lest any man should boast. Our salvation is God's free gift. **Ephesians 2:8-9** However, if we are truly sons of God, we will obey His commandments. We will live holy by keeping His Commandments because of His life in us. **James 2:17-26**; **Hebrews 10:26**; **I John 3:1-10**; **I Peter 1:13-25**; and **Philippians 2:13-14**

Jesus said, "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*" Read **Matthew 7:21** You will know the true sons of God by the fruit of obedience to Him in their lives. God's true children love to know and obey their Father's Commandments. It is a lie of the devil to say that we do not have to keep the commands of God.

THE TRUE COMMANDMENTS

If the Commandments of God have not been done away with and those who walk after the Spirit are to be observing His Commandments, then it is vital that we know in truth what God has set down to be His Commandments so we can obey them! Is this not true?

From a little child, I was taught the Commandments of God. In my catechism, and in all major catechisms (teaching materials of the church), you will find that the Commandment about the Sabbath is listed as the third commandment and reads, "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*"

Are you aware that the devil has violated and counterfeited the commandments of God through the ignorance of men and the doctrines of devils? If this is not the case, why is the fourth commandment, "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep*

it holy,” called the third commandment in most religious circles’ teaching materials?

Take a look at **Exodus 20:1-17**. Here we find the Ten Commandments of God which were written with His own finger. You will quickly discover that the true Commandments, as recorded in **Exodus 20**, have been altered by the religious world.

This is the order in which they were written in **Exodus 20**:

- (1) v.3 no other gods;
- (2) v.4-6 no graven images;
- (3) v.7 no taking the Lord’s name in vain;
- (4) v.8-11 remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy;
- (5) v.12 honor father and mother;
- (6) v.13 no killing [murdering];
- (7) v.14 no committing adultery;
- (8) v.15 no stealing;
- (9) v.16 no bearing false witness; and
- (10)v.17 no coveting neighbor’s house, wife, etc.

Let me show you what the devil, working through religious leaders, has done to the Commandments. Check this information with any catechism or teaching guide of any religious organization. You will find these changes:

First, they have omitted the second commandment. This was done so the church could sell, for great financial gain, little images of various saints for people to pray to, in direct violation of the second commandment of God -- *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image...”*

Secondly, they have completely omitted **verses 9-11** concerning the fourth commandment and shortened it to read, *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (v.8).”* The purpose of this omission is so that they could change the day and purpose of God’s true seventh-day Sabbath to any day they wanted, and no one over the centuries would know the difference. The emperor and the pope decided to make the Sabbath on Sunday, which was the pagan day of worship to the sun god.

God specifically spent four verses discussing the Sabbath commandment and how to observe it. What did the “church” omit in verses 9-11? If you search the Word of God, you will find they omitted which Sabbath day is still to be observed. It is not done away with as were the ceremonial sabbaths. **Verses 9-10** reads, *“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God...”*

Now you can understand why they had to change God's holy Commandment. They could not deceive and change God's holy seventh-day Sabbath to any day they wanted unless they first altered the commandment itself as they taught it to people. They could get away with this because many people, to their shame, do not take the time to know what God really says in His Word.

The Lord showed me one time that the teachers of His Word are held accountable with a greater responsibility. **Matthew 18:6; James 3:1** However, people who do not search the Word of God themselves, to find out and check out what the teachers are saying, are not going to be able to say when they stand before God, "He taught me wrong!" God will also hold the people responsible for believing and acting upon a lie.

The third change that the "church" made was to add a commandment. Since they had dropped the second commandment, they had to add another one in order to have ten. They split up Exodus 20:17 into two commandments -- "*You shall not covet your neighbor's house; You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, etc.*"

Are you able to see clearly and recognize the empty counterfeit that Satan has presented to God's people? This happened through spiritually ignorant and unholy people, who had a form of godliness but denied the power of God. When you change the day of the Sabbath, the blessing of God is removed. The seventh day is blessed, not the first day, because there is no first day Sabbath in God's eyes. He did not command a first day Sabbath; man did.

"And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." **Matthew 15:9** You might say, "But I can worship any day." Friend, you have missed the point! One, the seventh day Sabbath is a command of God. **Exodus 20:8-11** Two, if you are truly going to "*Remember to keep the Sabbath holy,*" there is more to it than going to church an hour or two on a certain day. (See the chapter on "How to observe the Sabbath.") God wants the entire day to be kept holy as a delight to the Lord.

TRUE BELIEVERS CAN KEEP THE COMMANDMENT

When the Lord taught me about this, line upon line, precept upon precept, He revealed that the Sabbath was going to be an issue of great importance in the last days. The Lord said that great persecution would arise over this issue against God's true believers. The persecution would come from unbelievers and from carnal religious people.

Most of the time, unbelievers could not care less what believers are doing, and in many cases they cannot tell the difference between believers and themselves. This is often why they do not want Jesus. However, people who have kept true

religion, as the Bible says, “...keep oneself unspotted from the world.” **James 1:27** People who observe God’s holy Sabbath are keeping themselves unspotted from the world, interestingly, on the world’s busiest day. Unbelievers will persecute you for this because you are different from them.

Carnal believers, the Lord showed me, have one foot in heaven and one foot in the world. They want the best of both worlds. Jesus said, “*I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*” Read **Revelation 3:15-19** If we are believers, we cannot just do what we feel like doing; we belong to the Lord. **I Corinthians 6:19-20**

The Lord told me to tell the people who are carnal that they had better repent and get both feet planted in heaven, because only the true believers, who have the faith of Jesus and keep the Commandments of God, are going to enter into life with Him. **Revelation 14:12; Rev. 12:17; Rev. 3:15-19** We have to have both feet planted in heaven. We are in the world, but not of it. **John 17:15-16, Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1-6**

The Lord said that carnal people would not be able to observe His holy Sabbath because they love the world and because it involves total separation from the world and one’s own desires for a twenty-four hour period. The Sabbath is to be a taste of the “heavenly” on this earth now. **Hebrews. 4:9** Carnal believers love the world and their own pleasures and affairs too much to let go of it and obey God’s Commandments. They do the Commandments only when it is convenient. The Sabbath is not convenient to a carnal believer.

Permit me to show you what God’s Word says concerning carnal people who live after their own flesh rather than the commandments and Spirit of God. In **Romans 8:1-14**, we find this information. First, carnal believers who walk after their own flesh rather than by the Holy Spirit, and do not keep God’s Commandments, are under condemnation (v.1). Second, through Jesus, the righteousness of the law or Commandments of God are fulfilled in those who are not carnal but spiritual (v. 3-4). Third, carnal people spend their time thinking about and doing the things of the flesh. Spiritual people do the things of the Holy Spirit. They obey the Commandments of God (v.5). Fourth, carnally-minded people are going to die. Spiritually minded people are going to have life and peace (v.6). Fifth, carnally-minded people are at war against God. (James 4:4) Those people are rebellious against God by being disobedient to His law and Commandment. They deny God or His law to have any authority over them because they have set themselves up as gods (v.7). Sixth, carnal or fleshy people cannot please God. God’s wrath will be shown to them (v.8).

However, those who are true believers walk in the Spirit, obeying the Commandments of God and not fulfilling their own fleshly desires. If the Spirit of

God lives in us, and we are His true sons, then we will daily put to death our own desires and do what His Commandments say. We are led by His Spirit (v.9-14).

True worship is a matter of simple obedience to God in all areas of our lives. Jesus has given us new life and the ability to live as God's sons and daughters, fulfilling the law of God in our lives. **Romans 8:3-4** We as His true people, delight in our God and in His Word and Commands. **Psalm 119**

In the Christian church today, nine commandments are recognized and followed to the letter. However, the fourth commandment also needs to be recognized and observed. We need to *"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..."* **Exodus 20:8-11**

Are people saved who do not observe God's Sabbath? The issue is not that of salvation, but a loving and thankful obedience to our Lord and His Commandments. We know from His Word that a true child of God will not willfully, knowingly, continue to sin or violate God's Commandments. Read **1 John 3:2-11**

"Everyone who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness; for [that is what] sin is, lawlessness (the breaking, violation of God's law by transgression or neglect – being unrestrained and unregulated by His commands and His will). No one who abides in Him (Jesus) [who lives and remains in communion with and in obedience to Him – deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] commits (practices) sin. No one who [habitually] sins has either seen or known Him [recognized, perceived, or understood Him, or has had an experimental acquaintance with Him] (Jesus). Boys (lads), let no one deceive and lead you astray. He who practices righteousness [who is upright, conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action, living a consistently conscientious life] is righteous, even as He is righteous." **1 John 3:4, 6-7** Amplified Bible

It is quite clear from God's Word, especially if you would continue to read further in **1 John 3:8-11**, that a person who is truly a child of God will keep God's Commandments. Ignorance is no excuse. We cannot even claim that the twenty-four hour seventh-day Sabbath is not required by God for us to observe in the manner He has instituted as one of His Commandments.

A true child of God, according to God's Word, will not continue to willfully, deliberately, knowingly, and continually practice sin. **1 John 3:9** When a person willfully and deliberately continues to sin, after having knowledge of the truth, will bring God's judgment upon himself. Read **Hebrews 10:26-31**

The Body of Christ in these last days is coming into an understanding concerning worship and holiness. Loving God and holiness, in God's understanding,

involves obedience to His commandments. **I Peter 1:14-16; I John 5:1-3** *“If you love Me, keep My commands.”* Read **John 14:15, 21-24**

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...” is one of God’s Commandments. To keep it holy means that we are obedient to observe God’s day in the way in which He has said to observe it.

As stated before, the Lord told me, “My son, My people are profaning (not keeping holy) My Sabbath, whether they observe it on Saturday or Sunday.” The Lord proceeded to show me that not only were we observing His Holy Sabbath on the wrong day, but we were not keeping it holy because we were not observing the twenty-four hour day completely to the Lord. **Isaiah 58:13-14**

A true, loving heart worships in obedience to God’s Commandments. The Lord Jesus said, *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whosoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 5:17-19

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

The time of the end of this age is rapidly approaching. God is seeking for His true people to worship Him in spirit and truth. **John. 4:23-24** In truth means in obedience to His ways.

What will you do with God’s Holy Sabbath now?

- *“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’ And another angel followed saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name.’*

Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:6-12

- *“...Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear (reverence) You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You; for Your judgments have been manifested.” Revelation 15:3-4*
- *“ ‘For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make, shall remain before Me,’ says the Lord, So shall your descendants and your name remain. 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. And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm shall not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.” Isaiah 66:22-24*
- *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it be good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, see also 2 Corinthians 5:10*

As the Spirit of God ministered to me from His Word concerning what He considered to be true worship and His holy Sabbath, my heart and mind were convicted by the truth. I realized that for all those years the Body of Christ, myself included, had been teaching and living contrary to God’s Word.

I felt like Josiah when Hilkiah the priest discovered the book of the law which had been lost in the temple archives. When they read God’s Word, Josiah wept and tore his clothing in repentance. He knew that they were not teaching and living according to God’s standards. Josiah repented and initiated a major reform for godliness in his nation based on God’s standards. Read **2 Kings 22-23**

The truth of the Word concerning true worship and His holy Sabbath has been lost and buried for centuries by religious traditions, commandments of men, and doctrines of devils. However, in these last days, the Spirit of God has again restored the truth. The truth of God demands a decision. What will be your decision?

Josiah acted on the Word of God and began a reform to restore the Lord’s principles. I believe that His true people, who have faith in Jesus and desire to keep His Commandments, are rising up in response to the Spirit of God’s reform in the Body of Christ today.

After honestly examining God's Word in the area of worship and His holy Sabbath, I believe that those of us who are genuinely committed to Jesus as Lord are going to respond in obedience to the Word. I believe that you and I desire to have all that the Lord has for us because we love and trust our heavenly Father.

I believe that because of your love for the Lord and His people, you who are teachers of His Word are going to seek to continue to lead His people in the truth of God's standards. I know that it is our delight to be faithful to His Word and to his people in communicating His Word.

"Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:19

True worship involves obedience to God. He has said, *"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... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and 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** see also **Isaiah 58:13-14**

God has drawn the line and said to us, "Which will it be? Will you worship Me in the way I have declared, in spirit and in truth, or will you continue to worship Me in vain by following the traditions and commandments of men?"

"The choice is yours!" saith the Lord. *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."* **John 14:15** Do you love Me?! (Read **John 14:23-26**)