

THE GREATEST COVER-UP

(LESSON 10)

Bible Study

1. Of the verses listed, what document does one of them refer to using the words from Revelation 14:7, "made heaven, and earth, and the sea"? **Acts 14:15, Acts 4:24, Psalms 146:5-6, Exodus 20:11**
2. What does the keeping of God's Sabbath day acknowledge (hint: it is what God did to them)? **Ezekiel 20:12**
3. According to the Bible, which day is the Sabbath (hint: it is the one between the two events)? **Mark 15:42-16:6**
4. How shall we worship God when the new heavens and earth are formed for eternity (2 items)? **Isaiah 66:22-23**
5. What event reveals that the Sabbath existed before Mount Sinai? **Exodus 16:22-30**
6. According to the Bible, when does a day begin? **Genesis 1:5**
7. What three things did God do to the Sabbath day? **Genesis 2:2-3**
8. What does God think when we do not have scripture to back up the day we choose to worship but make it our earnest to dedicate it to Him anyways? **Mark 7:7-9**
9. What did Sabbath keepers at Antioch continue in? **Acts 13:42-44**
10. How many Sabbaths did Paul keep in Corinth? **Acts 18:1, 4, 11**
11. May we choose our own day for the Sabbath? **Hebrews 4:4, 7**
12. What is the specific day the Lord wants kept as the Sabbath? **Exodus 20:8-11**

13. What are we to call the Sabbath? **Isaiah 58:12-14**
14. Who does God call a liar? **1 John 2:3-4**

What Is God's Last Day Warning Message?

Revelation 14:7 says, "Worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Why would there be a last day call to worship God who is the Creator when all Christians do worship Him in one form or another? Could it be that the vast majority of Christians today are not worshipping the Creator properly for God pronounces this just before the second coming (Revelation 14:14). In other words, a warning message is not given worldwide when the vast majority are in obedience. It is given when the vast majority are in disobedience.

Now, remember that over 75% of the book of Revelation is made up of verses from the other books of the Bible drawing our attention to those portions of the Bible for deeper understanding. With that in mind, where do the words "made heaven, and earth, and the sea" appear in the Bible? It appears five times in the entire Bible. We read one here and that leaves four other places.

Looking backwards from Revelation, the second

reference is found in Acts 14:15, which states, "And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein." Luke, the writer of this book, is acknowledging that God is the Creator. Although it is true that a lot of Christians are giving evolution a Christian twist, which is wrong, they still acknowledge God as the Creator.

Now the third occurrence is found in Acts 4:24, which tells us, "And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou [art] God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is." Again, this is not a significant event since praising God is Biblical and with the growth of mega churches, Christianity certainly does praise God. In fact, they praise God a bit too much. Reducing the sermon time and increasing the music and singing time is out of proportion, but that is another topic for later.

Our next reference, being the fourth one, finally gets into the Old Testament and is in Psalms 146:5-6, "Happy [is he] that [hath] the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope [is] in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein [is]: which keepeth truth for ever." Once more this is not significant, since most Christians are happy in the Lord.

That leaves just one other location. The fifth reference is in Exodus 20:11, and tells us, "For

[in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Notice that this reference is connected to worship, as Revelation 14:7 told us that in the last days that we need a worship wake up call. More specifically, the verse tells us the day of worship.

Let us look at the reference in full context. Exodus 20:8-11 states, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Notice the first word:

"REMEMBER". Why does God begin this commandment with "REMEMBER"? Is it because people may forget? What a prediction! At the time that God wrote the commandments with His own finger, He knew people would forget it. Not only would stores and businesses open seven days a week revealing that society has indeed forgotten the Sabbath, but for those that do take a day of rest, they seem to be choosing the wrong day.

Now, notice that laboring six days is as much of a command as resting the seventh day. This eliminates trying to keep all seven days holy for in keeping it holy, we are commanded not to

labor.

So, we are not to work on this day like the other six days or have anyone work for us. People work for us in restaurants as waitresses, waiters, etc. Clerks are considered servants in shopping stores. All these and others are not to work for us, meaning we ought to refrain from doing such. And if we are in a position that we have employees working for us, they are not to work on the Sabbath day.

Additionally, the Sabbath day is based upon creation and is not a shadow of things to come as referred to in Colossians 2:16-17, which says, *“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath [days]: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ.”*

A lot of people try to use this verse to declare that keeping the Sabbath day has been done away with, but that creates several problems. First, that makes the ten commandments now only nine commandments, and that does not make sense. Second, Jesus told us *“Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law”* (Matthew 5:18), and removing a whole commandment would definitely be more than a jot or tittle, a dotting of an “i” or the crossing of a “t”, and that does not happen until the “heaven and earth pass”. Third, “a shadow of things to come” means that the Sabbaths referred to in this verse are the Sabbaths that point forward to Jesus Christ. We just read in Exodus 20:8-11 that the Sabbath commandment

points backwards to creation and not forward. So, Colossians 2:16-17 cannot be referring to the Sabbath commandment but to other Sabbath days outside of the commandment.

In reality, these “Sabbath Days” refer to the ceremonial law recorded in Leviticus 23, which was covered in the study called *Nailing It to His Cross*. To apply it to God’s Holy Ten Commandments is to add to God’s Word.

Now before we continue, we want you to be very comfortable with what may be new truth to you. The blame is not on you for worshipping God improperly, but rather, the blame is on the ministers for covering this up.

All ministers are aware of the Sabbath commandment, but they choose to tickle the ear, that is, appeal to the crowds instead of uplifting God’s standards. We do not take that stance. This ministry’s sole purpose is to uplift the doctrines of the Word despite the popular beliefs. The goal is not to create a following of this ministry but to create a following of the Word on an individual basis *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad”* (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Basically, the average person does not want to give up a whole day to God. People want to be able to come and go as they please and maybe once a week pop into a building, sing some songs, hear a message, drop a few bucks in the collection plate, and be on their way. Tradition for centuries tells

the people to do it on Sundays. So, since Satan also has gotten society very busy Friday nights and all-day Saturdays with high school football, college football, yard sales, store discounts, bosses wanting over time, expressing the celebration of the weekend by going out and enjoying some night life, and all sorts of other distractions, no popular preacher would want to tell people to stop enjoying that life and rest. They would not be popular anymore. So, if the people do not hear it from the preacher, people are shocked to find out the error. This is no surprise to us as the Bible predicts that such would be the case. Christians would flock to those preachers that preach smooth things and tickle the ear. *“Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits”* (Isaiah 30:10), and *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears”* (2 Timothy 4:3).

Remember, from the lesson *The Issue That Divides the Entire World* clearly revealed that God’s Ten Commandments would be an end-time issue (Revelation 12:17, 14:12, 22:14). Nowhere does it permit a discount or even a rewording (Matthew 5:18).

What Is Known About the Sabbath?

Here is some interesting biblical information:

- 1) Did you know that the first Sabbath keepers on earth were Adam and Eve who

were associated with no nationality? This means that the Sabbath was not made for a specific people but for all of God's creation, and Jesus confirmed this by saying, "*The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath*" (Mark 2:27).

- 2) What is the significance of keeping the Sabbath? Ezekiel 20:18-20 tells us, "*But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols: I [am] the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I [am] the LORD your God.*" When we keep God's Sabbath, it is a sign that we acknowledge Him as God. If we really love God, we will not give that sign to anyone else. We will keep His day.
- 3) Also notice what Ezekiel 20:12 brings out: "*Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I [am] the LORD that sanctify them.*" The Sabbath is not kept to be saved, it simply acknowledges who saved them. It is the Lord God. That means if we keep another Sabbath day, we acknowledge that whoever commanded that day as the one that saves. Likewise, if we keep no Sabbath, we are

declaring we save ourselves. Both of these options have no future.

- 4) What does God think about us breaking one of His commandments? James 2:10-12 tells us, "*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.*" We need to be careful of what society deems as bad and not so bad. They picture God as not very particular. Here we see that God views each of His commandments with the same importance. Notice that we will be judged by these commandments. If God's judging standards were subject to change, then how would we know what the ground rules were for the judgment?
- 5) Also, remember our study on the *Great Red Dragon*. Satan does not care if you keep the other nine commandments. His goal is just to get you to trip up on one so he can claim you. Of course, Satan is not going to be obvious with the deception, so He uses the most successful method possible – Christianize it. From the beginning, Satan coats his errors in the garb of angel light (Christian garb), and the vast majority of the world is deceived. The question then is, will we

allow the deception to continue or take a stance for a "*Thus Saith the Lord?*" And the biblical reference to this point is that fact that there is no biblical reference to keeping Sunday as the Sabbath.

- 6) Let us illustrate it this way. No right moral Christian believes someone who deliberately commits murder on a regular basis giving evidence that they are not repentant is going to go to heaven, right? But there are churchgoers that actually fit that description and think they are going to go to heaven. They work for the Italian Mafia. So, what is the difference with this and intentionally breaking any other Commandment? None. God says what He means and means what He says. Therefore, when God says, "*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy*" (Exodus 20:8) and "*the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God*" (Exodus 20:10), He means the seventh day!
- 7) Remember, Jesus asked "*If ye love me, keep my commandments*" (John 14:15). Is that just in general, or was He being specific and inclusive of the Sabbath commandment? Exodus 20:6 uses the same words: "*And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*"

When Is the Sabbath?

Many sincere Christians come

back with, "Well, no one knows when the Sabbath is!" If that were so, then we would not know when Jesus died and rose again. The details of these two events are recorded in the Word, not as extra wording, but to establish precise time.

Matthew 28:1 states, "*In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first [day] of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*" Notice the Sabbath just ended and the first day of the week follows the Sabbath. So that means the first day is not the Sabbath because God refers to them as separate days. Most Christians recognize that Jesus rose Sunday, therefore the Sabbath and Sunday are not the same day.

Luke 23:52-24:1 also tells us, "*This [man] went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. Now upon the first [day] of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain [others] with them.*" Notice that the day before the Sabbath is the preparation. Jesus died and was buried on the day that is called Good Friday. He rose the first day of

the week, which people call Sunday. The day in between is the Sabbath. The Biblical Sabbath is not Sunday.

Are we sure? Mark 15:42-16:6 "*And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling [unto him] the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew [it] of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. And Mary Magdalene and Mary [the mother] of Joses beheld where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the [mother] of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first [day] of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was*

crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him." Jesus is laid in the tomb on the preparation day, which is Friday, the Sabbath comes in, and upon the first day of the week being Sunday, Jesus rose. And did you notice that Jesus even kept the Sabbath in His death?

Why did Jesus rise Sunday and not Saturday? Because He would have transgressed the Sabbath by having an Angel do work that could ordinarily have been done on a workday.

Let us also address the group that tries to move the crucifixion to another day so that Jesus is in the tomb for three days and three nights. When Jesus said, "*For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*" (Matthew 12:40), people assume that the heart of the earth means the tomb. That is just an assumption. A hole in the ground is not the heart. A heart beats. Therefore, to sense the pulse of the heart, one must check with the living and not where the dead are.

Psalms 58:2 defines the phrase for us: "*Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.*" The heart of the earth is when wickedness and the hands of violence are unchecked. When did that happen? Well, it certainly did not happen during the three and a half years of Jesus' ministry because every time there was an attempt to take Jesus, it got foiled. John 13:26-27 provides the answer: "*Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I*

have dipped [it]. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave [it] to Judas Iscariot, [the son] of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly." Everything from this point forward was with permission to the wickedness to finally have its way, which led to the crucifixion, burial, having a watch of Roman soldiers set, and then the bribes of soldiers and rulers after the resurrection. Truly for a period of three days, including nights, the wickedness finally had their way with Jesus.

Additionally, if one pieces together each of the accounts provided, we find that the people rested according to the commandment (Luke 23:56) and not a commandment. In other words, "the commandment" refers to the "the Ten Commandments" while "a commandment" refers to one of the Sabbath feast day commands. Besides, the account in Mark 15:42-16:6 is quite clear in the day by day progression. Jesus died, was buried, and rose in successive days. In human calculation, it appears that Jesus spent only a day and a half in the tomb, which makes sense, because if it were 72 hours as some try to suggest, it would contradict other scripture. "Wherefore he saith also in another [psalm], Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Acts 13:35). Lazarus' body stunk in a 96-hour time frame (John 11:39). A period of 72 hours would have Jesus' body decaying by then that "corruption" could be applied.

Now for those that think this is a denominational teaching, in

alphabetical order, beyond the Jews, the Christian denominations that keep the Biblical Sabbath include: Church of God Seventh-day, Living Church of God, various Messianic groups, Seventh-day Adventists, and Seventh-day Baptists who were the first to discover it.

Did the weekly cycle ever change? All we need to look at is the last 2,000 years because if the calendar were changed before hand, Jesus would have surely corrected the mistake. The calendar that Jesus used was known as the Julian calendar, which was instituted in 46 BC by Julius Caesar. That calendar was used all the way until 1582 when the Gregorian calendar was instituted. This is the same calendar we use today. There was only one significant change that took place. People noticed that the seasons seemed to be off by ten days. Therefore, Thursday, October 5 (Julian) was followed by Friday, October 15 (Gregorian) [1996 *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*.] Thursday was still followed by Friday. Only the dates changed.

And before people try to draw attention to the use of the "Lunar Calendar" in which changes the Sabbath cycle, waste not your time as Jesus would have implemented or referenced it. And Jesus simply mentioning the phrase, "there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars" (Luke 21:25) without connecting it to the word Sabbath makes it an insignificant reference to build a whole theology around such.

Will we be keeping the Sabbath in the future? Isaiah 66:22-23

tells us, "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD."

For those who think that the Sabbath is considered a Jewish thing, consider that when God gave the Ten Commandments, it begins with "Remember" and not "I command you." This tells us that it existed before Mount Sinai. Being in captivity for four hundred years caused them to forget the Sabbath and ended up working seven days a week. In fact, scriptures even tell us specifically that God was bringing the Israelites to the realization that they forgot the Sabbath that was instituted during the first week of creation.

Exodus 16:22-30 shows us how God tried to refresh their memories by using manna as a learning tool, "And it came to pass, [that] on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one [man]: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This [is that] which the LORD hath said, To morrow [is] the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake [that] which ye will bake [to day], and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day [is] a sabbath unto the

LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, [which is] the sabbath, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, [that] there went out [some] of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day." But at last, they needed it written down.

Why Is the Biblical Sabbath Seldom Talked About?

According to a prophecy in Ezekiel 22:26, it says, "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed [difference] between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them." They do not call a sin a sin. Notice the same concept is conveyed in the New Testament in 2 Timothy 4:2-4, which says, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they

shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

So, why do ministers shy away from the fourth commandment? Matthew 23:1-10 "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, [that] observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay [them] on men's shoulders; but they [themselves] will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, [even] Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no [man] your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, [even] Christ." Jesus is quite clear about the use of titles, yet many ministers ignore it, just like in Jesus' day. The Sadducees and Pharisees knew that Jesus was the Son of God, but they denied it for fear of losing power. We should not be surprised that the ministers today are repeating the steps of 2,000 years ago. The choice these ministers are making is between themselves being popular or preaching on an unpopular topic. Unfortunately, they are choosing popularity over a "Thus

Saith the Lord."

How Did Sunday Become the Christian Sabbath?

What is the ultimate desire of Satan? Matthew 4:8-10 "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." It is worship. God has His day of worship and for Satan to receive worship, he had to pick another day.

Now, does Satan do his dirty deeds himself? No. He works through various mediums. The most influential one is described in Revelation 13:1-4, which says, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as [the feet] of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto

the beast? who is able to make war with him?" This is the Antichrist power. Notice who is being worshipped. Although mankind thinks they are worshipping God, in actuality, they are worshipping Satan, which is the dragon, hence, the title "*The Greatest Cover-up.*"

What does the Antichrist do? Daniel 7:25 tells us, "*And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*" The Antichrist will think that it has the power to change God's times and His laws. Of all the commandments, which one deals with "time"? The fourth one. So, to say "keeping Sunday holy instead of God's appointed day is no big deal" is to say God is a liar. Why? Because God said that the Antichrist would try to change the Sabbath. Also, anyone advocating the change is expressing the spirit of Antichrist. Additionally, if people believe that it has been changed, even without strong Biblical support, then they are worshipping the Beast even though they may not be directly connected to it.

What Does the Bible Say About the First Day of the Week?

What we are going to do now is examine all of the New Testament verses that contain the words FIRST DAY, which many refer to incorrectly as Sunday. We are looking for a verse that commands a new day

of worship.

Matthew 28:1 says, "*In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first [day] of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*" All that this is noting is who came to the tomb.

Mark 16:1-2 tells us, "*And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the [mother] of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first [day] of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.*" This is another account regarding the visit to the tomb.

Mark 16:9 states, "*Now when [Jesus] was risen early the first [day] of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.*" This just tells who Jesus appeared to first.

Luke 24:1 says, "*Now upon the first [day] of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain [others] with them.*" This just tells who came to the tomb and what they brought.

John 20:1 tells us, "*The first [day] of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.*" This is the same thing.

John 20:19 records, "*Then the same day at evening, being the first [day] of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace [be] unto*

you." What is the reason they are assembled? "*For fear of the Jews.*" That is because rumor had it that the Apostles stole the body of Jesus. They feared for their lives. Besides, they had not yet seen Jesus since he had risen, which is evident in the next verse. John 20:20 "*And when he had so said, he shewed unto them [his] hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.*"

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 says, "*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first [day] of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [God] hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*" Some say that this is a Sunday offering and it constitutes a new time for worship, but wait! What does "*lay by him in store*" mean? It means to go out into the field, collect the excess, and store it up in a safe place. In other words, Paul is commanding the Corinthians to work on the first day and not rest, which is notable because he did not want them to waste any time. The first available day, in other words, the day after the Sabbath, they are to begin collecting.

We have only one more verse to cover. How about Paul's midnight service? It is in Acts 20:7, which says, "*And upon the first [day] of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*" Some say this is the new day to hold church service. Are we sure this was a church service? Well,

there is breaking bread. Does breaking bread constitute a church service? Acts 2:46 *“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.”* According to this verse, then every day is Holy, and we know that is not correct because we are to work six days. Well, there is preaching. The Apostles preached every day according to Acts 2:46.

Is the purpose of Acts 20:7 to identify the new day to hold a church service or is there some other significance? Acts 20:8-13 *“And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing [him] said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted. And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot.”* The purpose of these verses is to record the miracle that happened. Also notice the purpose of the gathering. This is a farewell service. These are Paul's departing words and Paul also knows this will be the last that he will see them, so this is a

very important farewell gathering.

Besides, when is Paul really preaching? Is it on Sunday? According to the Bible, when does a day begin? Genesis 1:5 identifies God's schedule for a day: *“And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.”* God's day begins with the dark part first. That means when the sun goes down, it is a new day. Now remember, Paul is preaching on the first day of the week through midnight. The first day, Saturday night to us, is when he is really preaching. And then Sunday morning, Paul departed. Further, according to Genesis 1:5, the Sabbath is not Saturday but actually begins on Friday at sundown until Saturday at sundown. So, we conclude that any day running from midnight to midnight is not God's Holy day because God's time is based upon sundown and not mid-night to mid-night.

Many refer to Sunday as the First Day of the week yet they are not the same. Sunday was instituted by Caesar around 46 BC. It begins and ends at midnight. God's first day of the week is sundown Saturday until sundown Sunday.

Remember that a characteristic of the Antichrist in Daniel 7:25 says that he will *“think to change times.”* The word is plural meaning, more than one God given time schedule would be subject to the attack of the Antichrist. There are only two *“times”* that God instituted – the day of worship and the daily cycle.

Now some people are taken back by the movement of the

sun downs, meaning, in winter it sets early and in summer it sets later. Actually, this is a blessing. During the winter when people are exhausted by the end of the week, Sabbath comes in early. Praise the Lord! During the summer when people enjoy the outdoors more, as in walks through the woods, the days are longer. Praise the Lord again!

What do people do in places where it is dark for half the year and then light the other half? Typically, they follow a 6 PM to 6 PM schedule.

Does It Matter Which Day We Keep?

Genesis 2:2-3 states, *“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”* Only God can make a day holy. People are just commanded to keep His holy day holy.

Notice what God did to this day. He blessed it; He sanctified it (made it holy and set it apart for a holy purpose); and He rested on it giving an example for that day to be done likewise. And when it states that God rested, note that God did not take a nap nor did He stop all work – just that which can be done on other days of the week such as creating.

But God saw a time when people would worship the sun right inside His church. Ezekiel 8:14-16 says, *“Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the*

LORD'S house which [was] toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen [this], O son of man? turn thee yet again, [and] thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, [were] about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."

What does God think when we do not have scripture to backup the day we choose to worship but we make it our earnest to dedicate it to Him anyways? Jesus speaks those words in Mark 7:7-9: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, [as] the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." One of the greatest traditions that man is following is that of laying aside the fourth commandment of the seventh day and following man's commandment of Sunday. Mark 7:13 tells us, "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." Without a single command, all the reasons for keeping Sunday holy is based on assumptions made hundreds of years ago, clothed in a garb of Christianity, and passed down to our generation. They willfully

ignore the host of verses uplifting God's commandments and ignore all the references to uplifting God's Holy Sabbath by holding to their own tradition.

In the last days, will people be lost over this issue? 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 tells us, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Do not believe the lie that the law is changeable or has been abolished. It is clearly established by God.

Too many times people rationalize and take their eyes off of Jesus. He has spoken to you and you alone. We should not be like the child who says, "Well, Billy's mom let's him do it. Why can't I?" God calls all of us, but remember, only a few are chosen (Matthew 20:16). Will you be that chosen? Will you answer the call? It is not by chance that you are reading this or have attended a live presentation. He asks you to follow His Word. James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Which Day Was Kept After the Cross?

Remembering that the Sabbath was kept since the time of Adam and Eve, did you also know that people kept the Sabbath even after Jesus died on the cross?

According to Luke 23:52-56, it says, "This [man] went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment."

Jesus loved the Sabbath so much that He made a prediction about it, as recorded in. Matthew 24:15-20, which says, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day." Why did Jesus tell them to pray that they would not have to flee in the winter? Because they would starve in the wilderness. Why did Jesus tell them to pray that they would not have to flee on the Sabbath? Because that is His Holy day and He did not want them breaking it. This event happened in August 70 AD [Josephus - 1st Century Historian], which is well after the

cross. If Jesus expected Christians to keep the Sabbath in 70AD, do you think He expects us to keep it today? Of course He does.

And to think, many accuse Jesus of being a Sabbath breaker. If He were, the Pharisees would have had no need of bringing false witnesses in order that they might secure his condemnation and death. They knew that all Jesus was doing was stripping the Sabbath of all the additional man-made requirements and to present the Sabbath in its pure light as originally given. Besides, if Jesus were a Sabbath breaker and was teaching that it would be done away with, how could He have declared, *"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love"* (John 15:10)?

What day did the Apostles keep? According to Acts 13:14-15, it says, *"But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, [Ye] men [and] brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."* And Acts 13:42-44 says, *"And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded*

them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." Notice that these Sabbath keepers are under grace. Keeping the Sabbath does not mean one has fallen from grace.

Acts 16:12-13 states, *"And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, [and] a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted [thither]."* Notice that there was no synagogue, yet on the Sabbath day, they went to a river and had worship.

Acts 18:1 tells us, *"After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth."* What did Paul do in Corinth? According to Acts 18:4, it says, *"And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks."* How many Sabbaths was it? Acts 18:11 says, *"And he continued [there] a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."* That is 78 Sabbaths!

Acts 20:27 tells us, *"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."* There was no Sabbath change otherwise Paul would have taught such. In fact, the Sabbath was considered a strong issue for them at their time. A significant change like that would have been recorded in the Bible.

Who do you serve? Hebrews 4:4-12 answers a lot of the arguments that people create

against keeping the Sabbath: *"For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this [place] again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God [did] from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Not only did God rest after creation but also after redemption. After Jesus went to the cross, He rested in the tomb over the Sabbath. After Christ rose on the first day of the week, He spoke to His disciples on several occasions. Had He wanted the day changed, He would have said so then.

How are we to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus? Luke 22:19 tells us, *"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake [it], and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."* There is

Holy Communion. Romans 6:3-6 also tells us, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of [his] resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." There is baptism, which is the most fitting way to remember Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

When is the Lord's day? Revelation 1:10 says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." From this verse, no one can tell which day is the Lord's day. So which day is it? Matthew 12:8 states, "For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day." Mark 2:28 says, "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Luke 6:5 tells us, "And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."

What Is the Truth?

Remember, truth is found in three locations. The first location is revealed in John 14:6, which says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." What did Jesus do? Luke 4:16 "And 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 for to read." Jesus kept the Sabbath.

Another location to find truth is identified in Psalms 119:142, which says, "Thy righteousness [is] an everlasting righteousness, and thy law [is] the truth." What does the law say? Exodus 20:8-11 states, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Clearly the commandments tell us which day the Sabbath is (seventh day), what to do on that day (rest), what not to do (no work nor have people work for us), what to do the other six days (work), and the purpose of the Sabbath (a memorial of creation). Also, notice the use of the word "the," which denotes specific. God did not command us to keep "a" Sabbath but rather "the" Sabbath.

And the third location of truth is revealed in John 17:17, which says, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." What does the Word say about following man's teachings? Matthew 15:8-9 states, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching

[for] doctrines the commandments of men." God does not accept lip service. All the worship we claim to give God, if we adhere to the commandments of men, it is all in vain.

Which Group Will You Be In?

According to Isaiah 58:1, it says, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." God is calling people to preach loudly and show His people their sins so that they may repent. What specifically is the cry to focus on? Isaiah 58:12-14 tells us, "And [they that shall be] of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the SABBATH, [from] doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the SABBATH a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking [thine own] words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken [it]." People are needed to help repair the breach, which is the fourth commandment. We are called to stop covering up the Sabbath commandment. We are to not do our pleasure but rather that of God's will. We

should call the Sabbath a delight. We should also watch our conversation on the Sabbath.

Now I am not going to give a list of dos and don'ts. That is the trap the Jews fell into where they had hundreds of guidelines and it became a burden.

All I know is that there is a new meaning to "Thank God It's Friday!" In fact, I look forward to not having to go to work. It is a weekly vacation from work and house chores. And I want to enjoy the Sabbath so much that I do not even want to talk about work during that time. Further, I do not care to have others work for me on the Sabbath because I would like them to also experience the Sabbath joy that God provides.

In enjoying the day, God provides many avenues, but so does Satan. Watching the ball game is not keeping the day Holy. We are then doing our pleasure, but rather, enjoy nature, visit relatives, visit people in hospitals, read the Bible, or take a nap, are just a few ideas.

The other group is described in Ezekiel 22:26-28, which says, "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed [difference] between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the midst thereof [are] like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, [and] to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them with untempered [mortar], seeing vanity, and

divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken." God made the Sabbath a Holy day. By attempting to move it to a pagan day of Sunday, which was never made holy, we would be putting no difference between the holy and profane. Notice the untempered mortar that is based on lies. Preachers are saying, "Thus Saith the Lord" when the Lord did not speak thus. The greatest lie in this regard is identified in 1 John 2:3-4, which says, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

The choice is between the truth in the Bible or the traditions of men. When Jesus returns, which will stand?

John 3:19-21 tells us, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Jesus' hand is stretched out. Will you take hold of it and walk with Him?

Some may be concerned about employment. Keep in mind, "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). All I know is that each of us come to a cross, and Jesus says, "If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew

16:24). Further, there are personal blessings in keeping the Sabbath although at first it may appear to be a struggle. Satan wants you to focus on the struggles. Do not let him win. Make a firm decision to keep the Sabbath, and Satan will flee from you. James 4:7 states, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." [You may consider rereading *The Great Red Dragon* with this topic in mind.]

May God bless you and guide you as you determine to keep all of His commandments.