

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE SABBATH

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I suppose it is time I put in writing the scriptural teaching of the Sabbath in respect to New Testament believers. I have taught and preached on this many times, but I have not written any paper until now. This writing is provoked by the unbelievable perversions of scripture by those who want to impose the Sabbatical laws on New Testament Gentile believers, or those who make Sun-day a HOLY DAY of worship in place of the Sabbath. It also appears to me that many believers are confused on this issue. I hope to settle that now.

First, I want to say that I love the Lord Jesus Christ and the King James Bible. Those who attack this version are attacking the word of God. Many do it out of ignorance, corrupted teaching by bible critics, or they have an agenda to discredit the word of God and weaken believers. Secondly, I thank God I am independent Baptist. I am continually surprised by what certain groups teach for doctrine, and the knuckle-heads who follow. Baptists are not perfect, but they are the true church Jesus built (Matthew 16 and 18) and the pillar and ground of the truth (I Timothy 3:15). Thank God we are taught in the precepts rightly and from there take the New Testament scriptures as the only rule of faith and doctrine. It is amazing how far off truth some people are. The other day I read where one actually taught that since we have no other name given among men to be saved (Acts 4:12); and since the word “Jesus” is not the actual Hebrew name given to the Saviour (“Jesus” is an English translation of Joshua or Jehoshua), that we need to confess the Hebrew name of Jesus to be saved (besides observing a bunch of Jewish laws and traditions). This may sound logical to the uninformed, but if this were true, countless brethren are assumed to be lost (this author included) because they did not believe on “Jehoshua” specifically? Thanks God for the gospel – the Power of God (Romans 1:16) – and not the so-called “wisdom” of men.

PULLING DOWN OF STRONG HOLDS

There are “strong holds” in people’s minds – including true believers – that are torn down with truth (II Corinthians 10:3-6). The worldly or Roman programming is strong, but unless and until each believer considers the truth diligently, and searches out the truth for themselves, he will not be free. My hope is that each true believer seeks out this truth for himself, and give it his “amen” regardless of whose his associates are. Too many times God’s people embrace error to fit in or to not offend. We ought to obey God rather than men; and “let God be true, but every man a liar” – Romans 3:4).

The truth will make you free (John 8:32), Jesus said. As I grow older in the Lord I have made it a practice to filter all assumed truth through the word of God. Some things we Baptists have taken for granted are not actually true when compared to scripture. As pastors and teachers, if we are going to show ourselves “approved unto God,” we need to teach rightly what is indeed **Bible truth** and what is tradition or leaven.

MANY SPEAK WITHOUT THINKING

I think it is a common thought and saying among New Testament believers that reads, “I believe in the Ten Commandments,” or something like that. We have the Ten Commandments recorded in Exodus 20, but most believers can’t even list them in order. Again, many are quick to say he believes in the Ten Commandments, but really, most **ONLY** believe in nine of the Ten Commandments. Of course, it sounds really awkward to say, *I believe in nine of the Ten Commandments*, but that is the real truth for most of our brethren.

Regardless, the Ten Commandments are part of **Old Testament Law**, given by Moses from Mount Sinai. *I think many believers think they are bound somehow to obey the Ten Commandments, and hence are confused on what to do with the Sabbath.* I think, because God-fearing people highly esteem the Ten

Commandments, we somehow think we should obey them. But, is it incumbent upon New Testament believers to obey the Law? Are believers bound to follow the Ten Commandments? Do New Testament believers have to observe the Sabbath? That is the purpose of this paper, and it will be addressed fully later.

THE LEAVEN OF ROME

For those who have read books like Hislop’s *The Two Babylons* or have done research on pagan religions, you have realized that, first, Roman Catholicism is *NOT* Christian, but a mixture of pagan Babylonian religions with “Christian labels” slapped on to make it *appear* Christian. Secondly, Mystery Babylon and the Great Whore in Revelation apply to Roman Catholicism (even by their own admittances). And thirdly, the Old Testament enemies of Israel with their ungodly paganism (child sacrifices, worship of the various false gods, idolatry, practices, groves, priests, images, etc.) are still alive and well in the world. Many of these pagan practices are so engrained in our thinking and culture we tend not to notice. This leaven of Rome has not only infiltrated most mainline denominations, but many good Baptist brethren ignorantly fall for the paganism and some even teach it. My purpose is not to insult or condemn anybody (except those purveyors or false doctrine), but simply call to our attention how we as God’s people are so programmed by Rome. Keep in mind that from the beginning of time pagans had the tendency to worship the sun, moon and stars, and the creation rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25).

For example, please note the list of Roman influence (read pagan) we allow and many live according to:

Practice	Pagan/Roman Leaven	Bible/God’s method
Days of the Week	Sun-day (worship of Sun), Mon-day (worship of moon), Tuesday (worship of Mars), Wednesday (worship of Mercury), Thursday (worship of Jupiter), Friday (worship of Venus), Satur-day (worship of Saturn).	First day of the week, second day, third day, fourth day, fifth day, sixth day, Sabbath.
Months of the Year	January (Janus, the two-faced God), February (Februa – purification) – Caesars were considered gods (like the pope today), March (Mars, the Roman God of war), April (Aphrodite – love and beauty), May (Maius – goddess of Spring), June (Juno, Junius – goddess of Pantheon, wife and sister of Jupiter), July (Julius Caesar), August (Augustus Caesar), September (Seventh month from March, or the Seventh War month), October (eighth), November (ninth), December (tenth).	Nissan, Iyar, Sivan, Tammuz, Av, Elul, Tishri, Cheshvan, Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, Adar, or Abib, Ziv, Ethanim, Bul. Etc.
Calendar Years	2010 from “Birth of Christ.” Actual Study will show Jesus was born 5 BC and crucified in 33 A.D. at approximately 38 years old. Once he turned about 30 years old he did not age as he is perfect and without sin. Unless Jesus “gave” his life and “became sin for us”, he would have never died and would be walking among us today, looking like a 30 year old perfect man. Solar Calendar (follows the sun – 365.25 days per year)	God counts from different events. Lunar Calendar (360 days)

Planets	Helio-centricity – sun is the center of the Universe, and the earth rotates around the sun.	Geo-centricity, the earth is center of God's creation. According to Genesis 1 God made earth before he made the sun, moon, and planets.
Hours of the Day	Day starts at midnight.	First hour is 6 o'clock our time. Day starts at sundown (Gen 1). There are 4 watches in the night.
Musical Notes	Current scale used by musicians	The Bible notes are different.
Holidays/Holy Days	Christmas (pagan winter solstice), Easter (goddess Ashtoreth) Valentines Day (sexual promiscuity In order to have children born by end of the year for sacrifice to Molech). Christmas was the turning point where days became longer rather than shorter. Easter was when the day lasted longer than the night Both are pagan sun worshipper holidays.	6 Jewish feasts and Sabbaths Passover
Signs and symbols	Christmas trees (phallic symbol), wreaths (female symbol), Santa, Star of David, Birthdays and cakes (born under signs) Zodiac or Horoscope,	Read Jeremiah 10, cakes made to Queen of Heaven, etc.
Ecclesiastical	Priests, hierarchial rulers, bishops, popes, Cardinals, etc. Jewish Pharisees, Saduccess, Gnostics, etc. Sacraments Sacrifices, Masses	Pastors, teachers, elders, bishops, deacons, presbytery, priest, apostles, etc. Commandments Sacrifices
Medicine	Pharmacaia, synthetic drugs, doctors, Radiation, amputation, poisons	Prayer, elders, oils, wine, doctors, herbs, foods, etc.
Religions	Many religions, pantheism, sun-worship, Paganism, worship of stars and creatures	One God Jehovah, New Testament Jesus is God manifest in Flesh
Science	Evolution, confusion, Big Bang, etc.	Genesis Chapter 1

We, as true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, need to identify and understand how we are continually duped by Roman Leaven. Unfortunately, some we have to live by, but other things we can and should avoid. God's people are destroyed by lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Come out from among them and be ye separate, God says (II Corinthians 6:17).

LAW AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

Included in the Law of Moses were many things – holy days and feasts to be observed, sacrifices, how to let the land rest (the reason for the Babylonian captivity), idolatry, certain civil laws, etc. Jewish Rabbis have stated there are 613 Old Testament laws, but keep in mind their counting method (and I have read how they count them) is arbitrary. They wanted to get to the number 613 for various reasons, which we will not go into here. Suffice it to say that there are hundreds (600 – 700) of commandments in the law. Shall we endeavor to pick some to impose on Gentile believers and ignore others as if they carry no

weight? And let's say some choose to do this, to impose upon New Testament believers certain laws of Moses – who is to say which ones? Shall we not impose it all?

In Acts 15 the Judaisers wanted to impose circumcision (ouch!) on the Gentile believers. Both Paul and Peter showed this to be wrong. Circumcision carries a lot of weight in the Old Testament and among Jews, considering it was in effect in Abraham's time (before the Law – not like the Sabbath), during the Law, and even in the New Testament times (for Jews, that is). In the New Testament, we Gentiles are told that we are children of Abraham by faith (see Romans and Galatians); and Paul even circumcised Timothy (a half-breed Jew) so he could enter the synagogues with Paul. It would appear there are more arguments for imposing circumcision on Gentile believers than there are for imposing the Sabbath keeping. Timothy, having a mother who was a Jewess and a Gentile father, was still considered a Jew. Paul, therefore, could circumcise Timothy without violating the liberty we find in the Gospel (i.e., Jews are allowed to hold to the Jewish traditions). This was expedient for Paul and Timothy because Timothy could now enter into the synagogues and participate in the services.

In contrast, Paul refused to circumcise Titus (who was a Greek Gentile – see Galatians) because this sends the wrong message and is contrary to the Gospel. Of course, the Jewish believers would have loved Paul for circumcising Titus. But Paul defended the truth of the Gospel. He said that he would not have suffered persecution if he had still preached circumcision. Preaching circumcision is equivalent to mandating that Gentile believers enter the Jewish path with all the requirements of the Law. Paul knew this was contrary to Grace. You see, it is not that we Gentiles are saved after the manner of the Jews, but rather that the Jews are saved after the manner of the Gentiles – by Grace through Faith (see Acts 15, Ephesians 2:8-10).

Next to circumcision, probably the Sabbath is next in line for what Jews would impose on Gentiles. God did not record *specifically* in Acts 15 that those Jews were wrong who wanted to impose the Sabbath on the Gentiles, because the bigger issue was circumcision. However, in Acts 15:5 they also wanted to impose the Law of Moses, which would have included the Sabbath, no doubt, along with the Ten Commandments.

Acts 15 was before the New Testament was completed, and that council in Jerusalem debated what burdens should be placed upon the Gentile believers. Until that point, generally it was Jews being converted. God used Peter (Acts 10) to witness and testify to the fact the conversion of Gentiles was now in God's plan. Some Jews wanted to impose Circumcision and the Law of Moses on these Gentiles. Paul debated vehemently that Gentiles are free from the Law. In the end, only four things were imposed on the Gentiles – that they should abstain from meats offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from fornication – see Acts 15:23-29.

Peter and Paul and the elders of Jerusalem determined that Circumcision and the Law should not be burdened on the Gentiles.

The Law contains commandments. Sin is the transgression of the Law (I John 3:4). According to Paul – a converted Pharisee (and the one who zealously defended us New Testament believers from adding the Law to Grace) – in Romans 7:12, the Law is holy, just and good. However he said to Timothy that the Law is good if one use it lawfully (that is, to show one's sin). Simply put, Paul said in Galatians 3:24 that the Law is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Once we are under Grace we are **NO LONGER UNDER THE LAW** (Romans 6:14). That should be sufficient for us. The Sabbath is part of the Law (Exodus 20) and we are not under the Law. That means simply, we saved Gentiles do NOT have to keep the Sabbath, neither the Ten Commandments of Moses.

Now, I admit this statement sounds like heresy to some, but it is the truth.

Brethren, we live under the *New Testament commandments* – not the Old Testament commandments.

Jesus commanded in Matthew 28 in the Great Commission (after saying all power is given unto him) that we are to "...observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...." Again, simply stated, we are bound

to obey the New Testament commandments of Jesus rather than the Old Testament Law and commandments of Moses.

Now, this will help: the New Testament does teach that we New Testament believers under Grace should observe **nine** of the Ten Commandments. Or, stated otherwise, nine of the Ten Commandments are reiterated and reinforced in the New Testament by either Jesus or the apostles. The only one that is left out is the Sabbath Day observance. In fact, that issue of the Sabbath caused Jesus grief from the Pharisees – healing on the Sabbath, having a man carry his bed on the Sabbath, plucking grains of wheat on the Sabbath, casting out devils, etc. – were all seen as breaking the Sabbath. Imagine what we would have to live with today? Jesus, in response, said the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8). Jesus said he was Lord of the Sabbath.

Note here how each of nine commandments from Exodus 20:3-17 are reiterated in the New Testament:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Matthew 22:37
Ephesians 3:21
Colossians 1:18

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

I John 5:21
I Corinthians 8:4
Colossians 3:5
I Corinthians 10:14

3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Matthew 12:13

4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

There is NO New Testament commandment, teaching, practice, or type that supports this Old Testament commandment, but rather these:

*Colossians 2:16
Matthew 12:1-8
Mark 2:27
Luke 6:5
John 9:16 (not that Jesus indeed broke the Sabbath)*

5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Ephesians 6:1-3

6. Thou shalt not kill.

Romans 13:9
I Timothy 1:8-11

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Romans 13:9
Hebrews 13:4

8. Thou shalt not steal.

Romans 13:9
I Thessalonians 4:16

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Romans 13:9

Revelation 21:8

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Colossians 3:5

So, we Gentiles do have a responsibility to keep nine of the Ten Commandments, but we do it because the New Testament teaches those commandments, not because Moses did.

Paul taught we should not compel Jewish believers to live as Gentiles, but neither should we compel Gentile believers to live as Jews (Galatians 2:14).

SABBATH AND THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVER

The Sabbath day observance was first commanded at Sinai by God through Moses. Before the Law, from Adam to Joseph, God did **not** command his people to keep the Sabbath day holy. Indeed, God rested on the last day of creation, and hence gives us a day of rest as a pattern; but the commandment was not given until Moses.

John 1:17 says the Law was given by Moses, but Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ. Now, choose one.

Here is the logical progression for believers to understand: The law contains commandments. The Sabbath observance is part of the Law. Sin is the transgression of the Law (I John). We all break the Law; we are all sinners (Romans 3:23). We need to go to Jesus for forgiveness (Romans 6:23). The Law is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24, 25). We who come to Christ are under Grace. We who are under Grace are no longer under the Law (Romans 6:14). By the works of the Law is no man justified in the sight of God (Galatians 2:16). We believers are called unto Liberty (Galatians 5:13) and to bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23). We believers are commanded to obey the Commandments of Christ (i.e., the New Testament Commandments) in Matthew 28.

There will be some who say we are bound to observe the Sabbath. That is not for New Testament believers. Paul said in Colossians to let no man judge you in this thing (Colossians 2:16). Paul, as a Jew, preached in the synagogues on the Sabbath days, as that was the best opportunity to preach Jesus to “the Jews first,” (Romans 1:16) but he was not commanding by this action that we must observe the Sabbath.

Why have men from the days of Jesus been so dedicated to forcing the Old Testament Law upon New Testament believers? From Paul’s writing in Galatians to the Council in Acts 15, from Jesus’ dealings with Pharisees over the Sabbath to the Jews wanting to kill Paul; there are certain men crept in unawares who seek to destroy our liberty in Christ. They want to make proselytes of believers and teach us “another gospel” – one that is accursed and brings a curse (read Galatians 1 and 5).

SUNDAY WORSHIP IS A MARK OF ROME

Some have been taught that indeed the Sabbath is for Jews and Sun-day is for Christians. The second part has no substance in scripture. God would have us live every day for him and his glory. We are to be a living sacrifice according to Romans 12. Sun-day worship law is Roman, and not of God. I know this will anger a bunch of folks; however, it is the truth. Sun-day is not for Christians, but for Sun-worshippers (i.e., Catholics). Sun-worshippers worship the sun. They do it on Sun-day. They desire Sunday Blue Laws, and enforce it as a Holy Day and a Special Day of Worship.

The Roman Emperor Constantine – i.e., the first pope – organized aposticized churches under the Roman state and declared himself the head. Constantine created a union of church and state under a Roman emperor, and made use of the power of the state to further their religious aims (see Neander’s *General History of the Christian Religion and Church*). This was the beginning of the “Holy Roman Empire” and Catholicism. Constantine’s edict of 321 A.D. ordered “judges and townspeople and the occupation of all trades rest on the venerable day of the sun.”

There are a lot of good writings on this subject if one desires to research the subject. Unfortunately, the agenda of most of these writers is to impose upon Christians Sabbath worship instead (especially the writings of the Seventh Day Adventists), which is equally incorrect.

SUNDAY IS **NOT** THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

The first day of the week is mentioned a few times in scripture, and important to this study are these:

Mark 16:9 – Jesus rose early the first day of the week

John 20:19 – Jesus appears to the disciples in the evening of the first day of the week

Acts 20:7 – the disciples came together to break bread

I Corinthians 16:2 – Paul instructs Corinthians to lay by him in store on the first day of the week

Some may see a pattern, but I see no **commandment** to meet. Some may see a good reason to meet, but I see no teaching this is the “Christian Sabbath.” In fact, the four events mentioned above are fairly few to establish a law for Sun-day Worship. I see more of the Sabbath meetings in the New Testament than the First-Day meetings, and we addressed that idea already. I see the disciples “continuing daily” (Acts 2:46). Jesus and the Apostles taught “daily” in the temple and synagogues, and in the market place and in schools and from house to house. But there is no Sun-day being the day of worship or an holy day or a “Christian Sabbath.” It is not in the Bible.

So where does the idea of Sun-day being the Christian Sabbath come from? Not scripture. It comes from Rome.

But one will say, what about the Lord’s Day?

The “Lord’s Day” has no scriptural support to being Sun-day. Rome tries to make the connection and many believers swallow the line – “Sunday is the Lord’s Day.” But give me chapter and verse. You will not find it. John was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day (Revelation 1:10). That is the only reference. How can one prove what day of the week that was? I should say there is probably more evidence it was the Sabbath than Sun-day (because Jesus said he is “Lord of the Sabbath); but I would not claim that to be so.” He never said he was Lord of Sun-day.

CONCLUSION

In the New Testament, we see Paul preaching in the synagogues on the Sabbath, we see Jesus reading and preaching in the synagogues on the Sabbath. We see Jesus rise from the dead on the first day, and we see the disciples meeting on the first day, but also daily. However, we see no holy days. We see no commandment or event that makes Sun-day a holy day. We do not see the brethren or church making Sun-day any special day. To see otherwise is *adding* to scripture.

When in Israel, our Baptist missionary held service on Saturday, but not Sun-day. Sun-day in Israel is like a Monday – very busy and many going to and from work and business. I have no problem with this.

Our church meets on Sun-day – not because it is a holy day or a Christian Sabbath – but because of convenience and culture. We meet on Saturday evening, too. Not because it is the Sabbath (and technically at sundown it is no longer the Sabbath) but because we found it is a blessing. We meet various nights a week, as many churches do.

If we decided to meet on Monday and not on Sun-day, and it was conducive to the church, I would have no problem doing so.

If I need to work or travel or eat or buy on Sun-day, I do not feel guilty. I do not teach that Sun-day is *the* day of rest, as there is no scripture that supports that (chapter and verse?). I do rest on Sun-day though. Why? Not because I am bound to, but because it is convenient.

Beware of good-meaning brethren who read in scripture “principles” or “types” or “patterns” and then go the next step of magically converting them into COMMANDMENTS, and then in turn impose them upon your liberty in Christ. Brethren, if something is indeed a commandment, the scriptures will make it abundantly clear. You will be able to place your finger on that exact verse that teaches that. Otherwise, you are being put into bondage. That is what the Pharisees did. They took a commandment and from that developed a multitude of do’s and don’ts and imposed them as law and commandments upon God’s people. That spirit has not gone away. Some people love to rule over others’ souls. Traditions of men make void the commandments of God. We ought to be diligent obeying what God *did* command in the New Testament, and not invent commandments. Beware of those who would take your liberty (Galatians 5:1).

But more importantly, remember, do not make your brother stumble. Do not judge harshly those who tend to observe days (see Romans 14:5, 6, and whole chapter). We need to carefully instruct those who desire this bondage (Galatians 4:9, 10) but not offend or cause them to stumble. We ought to instruct with grace and patience, and allow people time to grow. God allows this, and so should we.

This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

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