

THE SABBATH WAS A SHADOW

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THE SABBATH WAS A SHADOW

We hereby add some helpful words to the above testimony. A sister sent us a paper called "Present Truth." We answered her saying, "That paper which you sent us does not show the Truth; otherwise, it would not mix law with grace. Why do you try to keep a shadow, the sabbath, since the living Substance, Christ, has come to keep you?" To my answer, she made the following reply.

"No one is saved, or ever was saved, by keeping the commandments. That was not God's plan. We are saved by grace. We are saved because Jesus died for us. We cannot save ourselves. But, if we love God, we will love His Word. We will love His commandments. We will keep His commandments, and they will not be grievous to us. I am tired of hearing the professing children of God talk about the commandments of God being a yoke, a bondage. Any transgression of the law is sin. It is sin that burdens us - not obedience, but disobedience. We should believe what God says - "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" - Exodus 20:8. The sabbath day is from sundown Friday evening to sundown Saturday evening."

No doubt, the lady was sincere in writing the above, as others also are; but, many people are sincerely wrong, because they are woefully ignorant. The commandments of Jesus and those given by the apostles have no reference to the ten commandments which Moses gave to Israel. Therefore, the exhortation to "remember the sabbath day to keep it holy" is not addressed to the Church. The sabbath day is classed with the shadows, which had their fulfillment in Christ. Hence, Paul 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" - Col. 2:16, 17. He also terms these ordinances, "weak and beggarly elements" or "rudiments" - ¹Gal. 4:9-11; ²Col. 2:20. He inquires of the Galatians, why they turn back to them and desire to be in bondage to them. If Christ died for us and we died with Him and we were raised with Him to walk in newness of life, why turn back and be subject to shadows? Why turn away from the Substance, Christ, and expect any help or comfort from a shadowy ordinance?

SABBATH-KEEPING IS WEAKNESS

In tender compassion, the apostle made provision for such as try to keep the sabbath or be subject to ordinances. But he pronounces such saints, "Weak in the faith." Study Romans 14:1-7. Why are they "weak in the faith"? Because either they do not understand the word of grace or, if they do understand, they refuse to accept it. Some people seem to prefer bondage to freedom. "So then Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" - Romans 10:17. A heart knowledge of the Word shows us our place in Christ; so that, as we were saved by grace through faith, we also live every day by grace through faith. We "walk in the Spirit," and do "not fulfill the lust of the flesh" - ³Gal. 5:16. We do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Christ is our Life, our Sabbath, our All. To the Hebrews, Paul said, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" - Hebrews

¹ **Galatians 4:9-11** - But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

² **Colossians 2:20** - Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

³ **Galatians 5:16** - *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

4:9. "We which have believed do enter into rest, as He said" - ⁴Hebrews 4:3. Therefore, instead of enduring an outward shadowy rest one day in the week, we now enjoy seven days of inward rest. We enjoy seven "sabbath" days every week. Jesus said, "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" - ⁵Mark 2:27. Likewise, Christ came to give rest or be the true Rest to all who accept Him. "Come unto Me, all ye that labour (to be saved, or keep saved) and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" - Matthew 11:28.

SEVERAL QUESTIONS ANSWERED

How do we know that Saturday is the last day of the week? If it is, why then do we not worship God on the seventh day as He commanded? Did Christ change it? If not, what right have human beings to do so? Did not Peter and Paul worship on the sabbath? Were not the Catholics the first ones to observe Sunday as the day of worship? To these queries, we give the following answers:

First. In the Scriptures, the days were distinguished as the first day of the week, the second day of the week, etc. Only the seventh day had a name. It was called "Sabbath," from the Hebrew "shabbath" meaning "cessation." Since Jesus came, men have named the days after certain planets or heathen gods. Sunday, or day of the sun, is the first day of the week. Monday, named after the moon, is the second. Saturday, named after Saturn one of the major planets, is the seventh. For convenience, Christians have adopted these titles.

Second. The Hebrews called the seventh day of the week the "Sabbath." They were instructed to keep the seventh or sabbath day free from toil - "keep it holy" - as we saw before, in memory of God's natural creative work which He finished on that day - ⁶Genesis 2:2; ⁷Exodus 20:8-11. He rested from all His work on that day, counting His work "very good." But His resting was typical of a spiritual rest for man - a rest of soul - to be obtained by faith in Jesus Christ. Study Hebrews 4:4-11.

Third. Keeping the sabbath was enjoined on Israel only, and that only until the promised One should come. It was never required to be kept after Jesus came, because He is the believer's Sabbath or Rest. He exclaimed, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour (to be saved, or kept saved) and are heavy laden (with religious rites), and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke (of grace) is easy, and My burden (or load of blessing) is light" - Matthew 11:28-30. Indeed, believers are instructed NOT to observe days and months, etc., which the Holy Spirit terms "weak and beggarly

⁴ **Hebrews 4:3** - For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

⁵ **Mark 2:27** - And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

⁶ **Genesis 2:2** - 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.

⁷ **Exodus 20:8-11** - 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.

elements," the observance of which is bondage - ⁸Gal. 4:9,10. Those were but "a shadow of things to come," which were fulfilled in Christ and unto which we died with Christ - Colossians 2:16-23. Those shadowy ordinances were all nailed to the Cross in Jesus' death for us - ⁹Eph. 2:13-15. They who are in bondage to Old Testament rites, as eating and observing days, are called "weak in faith" - Romans 14:1-8. Why are they weak? Because they fail to realize that they are a heavenly, a spiritual people - living by the life of Christ; and not by keeping anything, or doing anything, or not doing anything - ¹⁰Gal. 2:21. Sabbath-keeping and all the shadows under the Old Covenant ended with the coming of Jesus Christ - "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" - Romans 10:4.

Fourth. Christ arose from the grave on the first day of the week, and became the Head of a new creation - ¹¹Mark 16:9. The Holy Spirit descended exactly fifty days later, on the first day of the week. Compare ¹²Leviticus 23:15,16 with ¹³Acts 2:1. After Christ's resurrection, the disciples met on the first day of the week - ¹⁴John 20:19; ¹⁵Acts 20:7; ¹⁶I Cor. 16:2. The only times they went to a place of worship on the seventh day was when they sought opportunity to give the Jews the news that their Messiah had come - Acts ¹⁷13:14, ¹⁸42; ¹⁹17:2; ²⁰18:4. The women who were accustomed to praying on the sabbath, with whom Paul and Silas met, were Jewish worshipers - ²¹Acts 16:13. Their hearts were closed to the New Covenant truth until the apostles came their way. For these various reasons, Christians from the beginning have never worshiped on the seventh day as being

⁸ **Galatians 4:9-10** - But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

⁹ **Ephesians 2:13-15** - But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

¹⁰ **Galatians 2:21** - I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

¹¹ **Mark 16:9** - 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.

¹² **Leviticus 23:15-16** - And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

¹³ **Acts 2:1** - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

¹⁴ **John 20:19** - Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

¹⁵ **Acts 20:7** - 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.

¹⁶ **1 Corinthians 16:2** - 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.

¹⁷ **Acts 13:14** - But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

¹⁸ **Acts 13:42** - And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

¹⁹ **Acts 17:2** - And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

²⁰ **Acts 18:4** - And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

²¹ **Acts 16:13** - And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.

different from other days. Of course, the Catholics did not change the day. There were no Catholics until after the fourth century.

Fifth. It is interesting to know that the followers and successors of the apostles and disciples testified that they gathered for worship on the first day of the week, the day on which Christ was raised from the dead. The sabbath, together with the Old Testament ordinances, ceased to be observed. The witness of Justin the Martyr, 140 A.D., is too rich to pass by. Speaking of the Jews, he said, "As their circumcision began with Abraham and the sabbath with Moses, so it was necessary in accordance with the Fathers will that they (circumcision and sabbath-keeping) should end in Him who was born of a virgin. Upon the day called Sunday, all that live in either city or country meet together in the same place. Upon Sunday, we all assemble, that being the first day in which God set Himself to work upon the dark void in order to make the world and in which Jesus Christ our Saviour rose again from the dead."

Sixth. We wish to correct another error here. The first day of the week is not the Christians sabbath, as some teach. Christ is our Sabbath, or Rest, as we noted before - ²²Matthew 11:28-30. Therefore, we enjoy seven days of rest in the week. Neither is the first day of the week "the Lord's Day" - ²³Revelation 1:10. That day, called also "the day of Jesus Christ" (²⁴Phil. 1:6; ²⁵II Thess. 2:2) and "the day of the Lord" (²⁶Joel 1:15), means the period of Christ's reign for a thousand years. That will be a Sabbath of great joy to our heavenly Father of which His rest in the beginning was a shadow - ²⁷Genesis 2:2. He will glory in the Millennial reign of His well-beloved and deserving Son.

Finally. Let us ever bear in mind what is written - "There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest hath himself also rested from his works (of keeping sabbaths, and other days, and all religious rites), as God did from His. Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, that no man fall after the same example of disobedience" as was manifested in the wilderness - ²⁸Hebrews 4:9-11 Revised Version.

²² **Matthew 11:28-30** - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

²³ **Revelation 1:10** - I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

²⁴ **Philippians 1:6** - Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

²⁵ **2 Thessalonians 2:2** - That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

²⁶ **Joel 1:15** - Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

²⁷ **Genesis 2:2** - 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.

²⁸ **Hebrews 4:9-11** - 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.