

Study of the Sabbath

An important but sometimes debated subject concerns the proper day for worship. Of course, we are to worship God every day. Also, this is not an area to be dogmatic and judgmental about (Romans 14:5-6). We must also remember Mark 2:27-28, where Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore, the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." However, we should seek to be biblical and obedient to God in all things so the following are nine reasons I believe that Sunday, the Lord's Day, and not Saturday, the Sabbath, is the primary and proper day of worship for Bible-believing Christians.

- (1) The Sabbath is for the Jews (Exodus 31:12-17) while the Lord's Day is for Christians. Exodus 31:13 makes it very clear that the Sabbath is for the Children of Israel. It is different for the Church.
- (2) Jews worshipped in the Synagogue on Saturday while Christians worshipped in the church on Sunday. The Sabbath is the symbol for the Jews and the cross is the symbol of Christianity. Jesus was raised from the dead on Sunday, and Christians commemorate that event when gathering to worship. Also, the Lord's Supper replaced the Old Testament observance of Passover, and the high priesthood of Christ replaced the priesthood of Aaron.
- (3) The Sabbath celebrates God's creation of the world (Exodus 20:8-11) while the Lord's Day celebrates Jesus' redemption of the world.
- (4) The New Testament pictures the disciples meeting together on the 1st and 2nd Lord's Days after the Resurrection (John 20:19, 26), the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost which would have been a Sunday (Acts 2:1), the disciples at Troas gathered for worship (preaching and Communion) on Sunday [Acts 20:7-12], Paul commanded the church at Corinth to take an offering on the 1st day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:2), and the Lord spoke to John on the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10).
- (5) We are not to judge someone about observing the Sabbath because it is just a shadow (picture) but the substance (reality) is Christ (Col. 2:16-17) so keeping the Sabbath does not apply to Christians.
- (6) The Sabbath is connected to the ceremonial law and the sacrificial system which does not apply to Christians because of being fulfilled by Christ (Book of Hebrews) (Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 28:9-10)
- (7) It also is part of the national Law of Israel. We are not capable of doing some of the things commanded in their law because our laws are different today. It is not consistent to partially observe what the Bible teaches about the Sabbath and claim to be biblical.
- (8) It is the only one of the 10 commandments that is not repeated in the New Testament. Thus, I believe it is not part of the moral law of God but the ceremonial law and national law of Israel.

(9) It is sometimes argued that this change was instituted by the Roman Catholic Church. However, there is historical evidence that indicates otherwise. Gleason Archer shares from the Syriac *The Teaching of the Apostles*, which dates to the second half of the third century. It relates, “The Apostles further appointed: On the first day of the week let there be service and the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and the oblation: because on the first day of the week our Lord rose from the dead, and on the first day of the week He ascended up to heaven, and on the first day of the week He will appear at last with the angels of heaven.”