

# Think Red Ink



What did Jesus say?

## On Sabbath

Inside this issue:

Sabbath Quiz	1-2
Answers and Exposition	2-9
Sabbath Points	10
Summary	13
Excerpt from <b>The Questions of Jesus</b>	14
Write to us	16

## The Sabbath

The seventh day, blessed and sanctified by God, was destined from the beginning to become an integral part of living in faith and obedience. Was it intended to continue? Was it to be an “everlasting sign”? Would it be a major factor at the end of time just as it was in the beginning? How does it relate to the life of the modern day Christian? If you are new to the study of Sabbath you will be amazed at how often Sabbath appears in the Scriptures and how deep its roots are.

Nothing has so much enriched my life and relationship to God as has the keeping of the Sabbath day; and nothing has so complicated and strained my relation to the world and those around me. As I became more aware of the calendar and clocks of the Kingdom of our God, I became more of a pilgrim and sojourner on earth. The Sabbath presented itself to me as a line of demarcation, a boundary or a border over which, if I stepped, would open one world to me while simultaneously closing another. The “chalk line” I drew, only a few years ago, has

### An appointment with our God.

“...a sign between you and me...forever.”

since become a looming wall. Some of the stones in this wall I must admit were laid by me, some were laid by those who are loyal to the world’s religious traditions; but some stones, the immovable ones, were laid by the Creator Himself.

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh... 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.”  
(Genesis 2:1-3)

## Take a Sabbath Quiz

Most Christians already have a view of Sabbath. Let’s begin by testing our Sabbath day knowledge.

A True or False quiz.

- 1) True or False –We no longer *have* to keep any of the Commandments because we are now under grace.
- 2) True or False –The Sabbath Commandment is less important than the others.
- 3) True or False –We remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy by remembering the spiritual rest Christ provided through redemption.



(Continued from page 1)

- 4) True or False –If we do keep the Sabbath, we may keep it on any day we wish as long as it is one day in seven and we make that day holy.
- 5) True or False –Jesus did not keep the Sabbath day and thereby provided an example to us.
- 6) True or False –Jesus taught that if you have an “ox in the ditch” you may work on the Sabbath.
- 7) True or False –The Sabbath was changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week in honor of the resurrection.
- 8) True or False –We have no way of knowing which day is the seventh day of the week because calendars have changed over time.
- 9) True or False – Every day should be as a Sabbath day to the Christian.
- 10) True or False – The Sabbath is not re-affirmed (mentioned) as a New Testament Commandment.

How did you do? Let’s look at these questions one at a time and discuss them.



**1) We don't have to keep any of the Commandments anymore because we are now under grace.**

FALSE

This is one of the most tenacious doctrines in Christendom. Paul, in the New Testament, tells us we are no longer *under the Law*. “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law:” (Romans 3:19a) and, “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” (Romans 6:14) What does it mean to be *under the Law*?

The Apostle uses the term “under the law” as a description of our position before Christ’s advent. Before the coming of Christ it would have been our *obligation* to justify ourselves before God by the works of the Law. Paul said that it would be an impossible task to do so. In Romans 3:20a, he says, “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight:” It is improper to try to gain

justification by the Law because the Law **cannot provide justification**. The Scripture goes on to say, “But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets.” We are to live by the Spirit, and let the Law *witness* to our deeds. If we live by the Spirit we will never violate the Law. If we violate the Law we have not been true to the guidance of the Spirit. If we do live in this Spirit we have righteousness imputed to us. It is, therefore, not called “our righteousness” but, more correctly, the “righteousness of God.”

Example: If a man said he was following the Spirit inside himself as best he could and continually found himself in violation of the eighth Commandment, “Thou shalt not steal”, would you counsel him to continue in his leading? The Law does not *witness* to his leading. When his actions are held under the light of the Law, he is in violation and therefore there is no witness to his deeds as good. It is the inviolate actions of the one led by the Spirit that gains witness of the Law and the Prophets. It should be easily agreed upon that we, as Spirit-led Christians, should never steal anything. If we steal, we lose the

*witness* of the Law and frustrate the grace by which we are saved.

To make the point, exchange the eighth Commandment in the example above for the seventh (Thou shalt not commit adultery) and see if you are willing to concede that the man is “led of the Spirit.” Or, put the sixth Commandment in its place (Thou shalt not kill) and think about it. If a man told you that the Spirit of God led him in his everyday life and he was found to commit adultery or murder without remorse, would you counsel this man to continue in his leadings? Is it not obvious to even the newest in Christ using the Commandments as a guide, that this man is not being led by the Spirit of God at all? Do you agree? How did you make that determination? Easy -- by the lack of the *witness* of the Law. The lack of *witness* of the Law and Prophets exposes unrighteousness no matter what source of “inspiration” one may claim.

The Law has not passed away. Indeed it has only been rendered ineffectual to the Spirit-led Christian. However, you will find the Law still exists and is still in full force when you step out of the Spirit’s leadership and goes your own way. “But if ye be

led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.” (Galatians 5:18) How do you know you are not under the law? By being led of the Spirit. How do you know you are led of the Spirit? The Law and the Prophets continually and clearly witness to your life and deeds as good and right.

Back to our subject of Sabbath. Many have trouble placing the same emphasis on this Commandment as the others. If you insert the fourth Commandment into the exercise mentioned above, and remain consistent in your thinking, it can become very difficult for you to ignore our God’s Sabbath Day.

## 2) The Sabbath is less important than the other Commandments.

FALSE

The *importance* of the Commandments is a curious consideration for it *presupposes* a central character—that central character being the one who is making the judgment.

The articulate thinker will quickly ask himself when pondering this thought of importance, “Important to whom?” Can we not assume that the *author* of the Commandments is the central character in this consideration and not ourselves? We cannot assume authorship or editorial rights to the Commandments. It is unfair to place any more importance on one Commandment than another because this forces you to set one Commandment first and another last.

Let’s look at how Jesus handled this situation when it was presented to Him:

*“Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second*

*is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”* (Matthew 22:35-40)

Some think these are *new* Commandments but they are not. Jesus was quoting the Law:

“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

“Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:18)

It was interesting to me that Jesus did not choose from the list given to Him by the young ruler in Luke 10. He chose from *outside* the Ten Commandments. It is clear that His attitude was that the Commandments should remain intact and free from qualifying or quantifying opinions.

*“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 5:17-20 Emphasis Mine)

His usage of the term “least Commandment” is also interesting. Which would you call the “least Commandment?” When asking people their opinions about this, I am usually offered one of three for an answer. In the minds of most, the Sabbath Commandment nearly always is named as the “least” of the Commandments,

followed by the fifth then the tenth. They are, respectively,

Exodus 20:8, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Exodus 20:12, “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”

Exodus 20:17, “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.”

It is amazing how different man’s understanding is from God’s. Men reason that it is really bad to steal, but just to *want* something that someone else has can’t be too bad. They ask themselves, “How could this be an important Commandment?” Yet this is a major point in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. He goes into much detail to stress that there is a way to remain free from condemnation of the Law – by not living so close to it. He teaches us to draw our “borders” far from violating the Law and we won’t break it. To avoid adultery He taught us to avoid lust. To avoid murder we are to avoid hate, and so on. How could the tenth be a *least* Commandment? Contained within the tenth Commandment is the key to keeping them all.

Dishonor shown to one’s parents, though seemingly it carries less than eternal consequences, was a sin punishable by death.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, this Commandment is obviously more important than other Commandments that carried no death penalty, like theft and covetousness, for example.

You see, if we use our reasoning to determine which of the Commandments are most important, our reasoning will only lead to prioritization and, by necessity, the exaltation of one Commandment and the debasing of another. This is not for us to decide. We are not capable.

You will quickly see that to place any Commandment in the category of “least” is a difficult task to perform. Jesus knew this, too. He knew to proclaim a “greatest Commandment” out

of the ten would specify the others as lesser ones. **If Christ Himself would not touch this task, neither should we.**

The words of Christ...

“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Notice that whichever we deem least among these Commandments, if we break it and teach men not to observe it, we place ourselves into a precarious status. How would you like to be called “least” for all eternity? We are not to trifle with His Commandments. Nor are the Commandments to be ranked.

**3) We remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy by remembering the spiritual rest Christ provided through redemption.**

FALSE

Have you ever noticed that the Commandments given at Sinai say little about *how* they are to be accomplished. One of the wonderful things about Christ’s ministry was that He taught not only what our God expected us *to do*, He said (to those with ears to hear) *how this* righteousness was to be accomplished. The Commandments, however, say little about the logistics of obeying them – all except the fourth Commandment, that is. God made this one so plain that it is nothing short of outright rebellion to violate it. He devoted more space and more words to this Commandment than any other -- nearly as many words as all the other Commandments combined! He explains this so fully that it leaves no room for doubt about *how* to carry it out. He explains not only *what* we are to do and *who is to do it*, but even *when, how, and why it*

*is to be done*:

Exodus 20:8-11, “Remember the sabbath day, (what to do) to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day (when to do it) is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, (how to do it) thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: (who is to do it) 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.” (why it is to be done)

Although it is true that in Christ we have rest (and the Sabbath rest mentioned in Hebrews 4:9, “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God” is indeed speaking of that rest) we cannot let that Spiritual truth replace an act of obedience to God’s Law. The technique of “spiritualizing” Commandments is an old ploy used to save the trouble of *actually* having to make any uncomfortable changes in lifestyle. May I apply this “spiritualization” technique to the other Commandments as well? May I spiritualize the fifth Commandment by saying that the honor due to parents only means we should hold *God the Father* in high esteem? How can you argue against this idea? You can easily see the spiritual correlative between your earthly parent and God the Father. Using this method there is no need to *actually* honor any *actual* person or persons on the earth as long as you fulfill the Commandment in a “spiritual” sense. Of course this line of reasoning falls hard on the ear and causes turmoil in the heart – *because it is WRONG*. The parallel, however, does hold true, we should honor our heavenly Father and obey Him, but should the spiritual idea *replace* the physical obedience to mother and father or render the respect for our earthly parents as inconsequential? Should we forsake the lower and lesser physical obedience for the higher spiritual value? If we do so, have we not abolished the Commandment?

What if I taught that the seventh Commandment regarding adultery imposes only a “spiritual morality” and pertains ONLY to “spiritual fidelity”? What if I said that the adultery spoken of in the antiquated Law of yesteryear applies only to the fidelity of the Church to Christ, and therefore the “spiritualization” of the Law leaves us free to actually commit whoredom and adultery? By exchanging the physical and outward obedience for the inward and spiritual truth we could easily make this argument. If we are careful not to profane the Holy name of God (third Commandment) in some *spiritual way*, would that make us free to *verbally* use it any way we wish? **NONSENSE!** None of these ideas even resemble good judgment. Yet, many readily apply this convoluted theory to the fourth Commandment without a qualm.

Taking a strictly spiritual view of Sabbath weakens the argument for keeping it as God intended. It provides us an excuse and bolsters our creaturely (natural) reluctance to keep any of God’s Commandments. This view of Sabbath as an inward and spiritual reality can only be rightly held by those who are wholly compliant to the Commandments outwardly. Think about the credibility that you would give a Bible teacher who is guilty of unabashed adultery while he teaches on the spiritual aspects and applications of the seventh Commandment. This is as ridiculous as someone who teaches that keeping the fourth Commandment is “taking comfort” and “resting” in Christ’s finished work of redemption, and yet lives in flagrant violation of His seventh day Sabbath.

The spiritual aspect of the Commandments is of great value. It cannot be ignored, nor should it be. To ignore the insight that the Lord has opened to you about the Laws and ordinances of the Old Testament would be denying the most valuable asset of the new birth. As believers we cannot be complete without having BOTH an understanding consideration of the spiritual AND obedience to the clear demands

of the Commandment. We cannot justify ourselves by doing the physical Commandment-keeping, nor can we enjoy God's favor by neglecting the Spiritual aspect of these Commandments. It is not a matter of choosing BETWEEN them; it is a decision to choose THEM BOTH.

Although there is a value to be found in the parallel of Christ's finished work, taking of relaxation, and coming aside to rest, the Sabbath can only be remembered and kept holy by the Author's explicit instructions. The instructions are simple, "*Remember the Sabbath day [in order] TO KEEP IT HOLY.*"

**4) If we do keep the Sabbath day, we may keep it on any day we wish as long as it is one day in seven and we make that day holy.**

FALSE

Again the Commandment is clear that we are to remember THE Sabbath day, not A Sabbath day. Too much language and too many words were used in this Commandment to get this wrong. If the intent were to get us to rest one day in seven, the wording would have been like the wording in Leviticus 25:2-4 where the Lord said "*A sabbath.*"<sup>2</sup> This refers to a sabbatical year for the land to rest. There was no particular year for the land to rest, just one in seven, to facilitate crop and fallow field rotation.

God said to remember THE Sabbath day, and keep it Holy. Notice that He did not say to *have a Sabbath* or *make a Sabbath*, He said to *remember* it. The Sabbath He wanted us to keep by remembrance was the one that He blessed and sanctified.<sup>3</sup> Only the Sabbath of creation can be *remembered*.

What would be the difference in keeping Sabbath holy and making Sabbath holy? We may only keep and remember what has already been done, we can only make or create

what has yet to be done. If we make another day our Sabbath, we must also make it holy. God already ordained and sanctified<sup>4</sup> the seventh day as Sabbath and He made it holy. We are to remember it and keep it holy.

The **seventh-day Sabbath** of creation is the only one that we can remember and the only one that God made holy. Whether we ignore the Sabbath or keep it on a different day, the **seventh-day Sabbath** is the only one that will fit into this Commandment without having to go through a myriad of mental calisthenics or require the inclusion of extra-Scriptural authorities to justify what we are doing.

There are some who teach that the Sabbath was *rightfully* changed to the Sun day (the first day), but I would challenge you to discover the truth about this change for yourself. The questions should be asked, "If it was changed, who changed it?" "Why was it done?" Next, the authority for doing so must be questioned. I traveled this road, and found the answers to be a *less than honorable* reflection of religion's past. We will discuss some of these discoveries later.

Here is a thought...even if the Scriptures would concede to your desire of another day, just how do you plan to make holy [sanctify] the day that you have chosen?

**5) Jesus did not keep the Sabbath day and thereby provided an example to us.**

FALSE

Jesus NEVER violated the Sabbath. He is often accused of this, but He is innocent of the charge. The Pharisees and Scribes had, over the years, added (what Jesus called) "burdens" to the Law and made it extremely difficult to live under Jehovah's rule. There were rules that were a part of tradition (not Law) of which Jesus was constantly found in violation. He had no such "burdens," as He

called them,<sup>5</sup> that kept Him from His Father's work.

Once Jesus and his disciples were found gathering corn and eating it out of their hands as they rubbed off the kernels.<sup>6</sup> The Pharisees asked Him why he "did that which is unlawful" on the Sabbath day. He answered and said, "Why don't you question your patriarchs?" "Why don't you look into the past before you invented all these laws and traditions and see the true heart of God?" Then He said, "**But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.**" (Matthew 12:7) Look at what Jesus was quoting when He said this. Hosea 6:6 goes on to say, "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

God desires us to have the knowledge of Him more than all of the offering, sacrifice, and Commandment-keeping. David was known as a man after God's own heart.<sup>7</sup> David was keenly aware of the pleasure and heart of God. He knew somehow that the shewbread was available to him for food, he took it and ate it and gave some to his men. I have searched for David's reasoning in the Scriptures to no avail. He simply knew the heart of God. This is what Jesus knew, too. If you know this, then you will live in His Law and in His right order. You are lost without the Holy Spirit to guide you. Remember, the Law is a schoolmaster to bring you to Christ, so that we might be justified by faith.<sup>8</sup> Jesus lived in this knowledge. (The whole purpose in writing this essay is to compel you, Dear Reader, to know Him in all His fullness.) As the Apostle said, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings..." (Philippians 3:10) The Pharisees knew the book. Jesus knew the Author. The Scribes knew the words. David knew the Word.

We should live in the Gospel Order -- not in contradiction to the Law, but in unison and harmony with **every letter of it**. We cannot do that by knowing the Law in the "oldness of

the Letter,” but in a direct and living relationship to the author of it. Jesus never violated His Father’s Law. Obviously, His actions were misunderstood by “legalists” who made the rules harder than were necessary. We may well find that God’s Law is easier to keep than we have been taught.

**6) Jesus taught that if you have an “ox in the ditch” you may work on the Sabbath.**  
  
FALSE

This is quoted repeatedly as a reason for not keeping the Sabbath day. Unfortunately, for those who quote it, it has no basis in fact. I will list the only appearances of pertinent Scripture for you:

Luke 14:5, “And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?”

Luke 13:15, “The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?”

Matthew 12:11, “And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?”

In each of these instances, Jesus was showing the Pharisee’s hypocrisies. “Which of you” – “doth not each one of you” – “What man...among you” Note that it was their opinion that was the subject of His remarks. He was not saying it was permissible, He was saying that they demanded from others what they were not willing to abide by themselves. The teacher of the Law made evaluations of an ox and a man that were unequal and the ox’s life and well-being was

deemed superior.

Let me emphasize here that Christ was not necessarily saying that they were wrong for pulling out the ox or leading the animal to water, and He was not giving overall license to break the Law for deemed “emergencies.” What the Lord speaks to you personally is between you and Him. **We must be careful not to add to the Scriptures what is simply not there.**<sup>9</sup> We must be at least as careful as the Son of God was not to make editorial decisions on the immutable Law of God.

**7) The Sabbath was changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week in honor of the resurrection.**  
  
FALSE

History tells us that the original first day of the week worship was a worship of the sun god, Apollo. The Emperor Constantine was a worshiper of this god and incorporated many of the signs, symbols, and theology into the doctrine of what was then known to Rome as Christianity. Sometime in the year 321 AD, he moved the day of rest from Sabbath (seventh day) to The sun day (first day).<sup>11</sup> It was then that he issued a law prohibiting manual labor on Sunday and at the same time ordered the playing of games and sports on the Sabbath day.

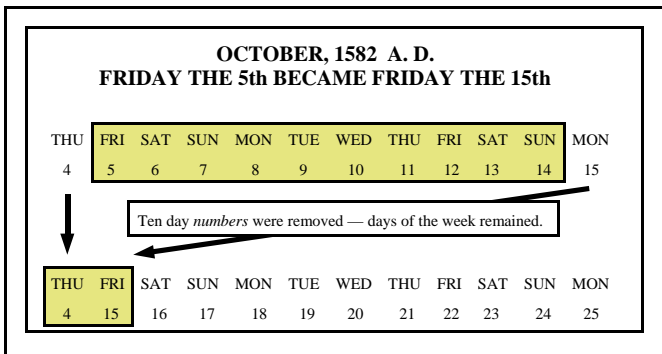
Quoting the book “The History of the Church,” we find that “He enjoined the observance, or rather forbade the public desecration of Sunday, not under the name of Sabbathum, but under its old astrological and heathen title, Dies Solis, familiar to all his subjects, so that the law was as applicable to the worshippers of Hercules, Apollo, and Mithras, as to the Christians. There is no reference whatsoever

ever in his law either to the fourth commandment or to the resurrection of Christ.” (My emphasis)

The idea of first day worship being in honor of the resurrection is a little harder to track, yet still there is NO Scriptural basis for it. As a matter of fact, there is no factual basis for the resurrection occurring on the sun day at all. The Scriptures tell us exactly when it did occur but this fact is nearly never taught.<sup>12</sup> Nowhere to be found is there another day that God set aside for worship and certainly not one other than the Sabbath for rest.

**8) We have no way of knowing which day is the seventh day of the week, because calendars have changed over time.**  
  
FALSE

It is true that calendars have changed over time, but the days of the week have not. For example, when the Julian calendar, from 46 BC was replaced by the Gregorian calendar in 1582, the order of the days was not changed. What took place was that ten days were subtracted from the number of days in the month, not from the number of days in the week, leaving the order intact. (See below)



Men who are expert in these matters (Chronologists) are in agreement that the order of days is the same today as at the beginning of ear-

liest history. The argument became an academic one since it became apparent that the Jewish record and calendars record the days sequentially from far back in history. They don't accurately go all the way back to the creation, but I understand that they do go all the way back to the days in the wilderness when God fed manna to the Children of Israel. When the manna did not fall on the Sabbath<sup>13</sup> it marked clearly which day is the seventh day. I think it is safe to assume that God knew, since creation, which day was the seventh. We also have the many recent testimonies in the Gospels of His Son honoring the Sabbath — we can certainly assume *He* knew which day it was.

From calendars and these markers in time we can project to the present day and be assured that the seventh day, now called Saturday, is indeed the Sabbath day.

### 9) Everyday should be Sabbath day to a Christian.

FALSE

Everyday is not to be Sabbath. The very definition of sanctification is to set apart or aside. Set apart from what? Set aside from what? This is another spiritualization of a pure principle (see question #3 above). Yes, we are to live in and enjoy the “rest that remaineth to the people of God” and that is life “in Christ,” but that does not fulfill the Commandment. We must fulfill the Commandments by accomplishing their demands on us or we are “none of His.” Jesus said in Matthew 5:17, “**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**” How did He fulfill them? By keeping them. This Commandment makes it clear that we are to distinguish the other six days from the seventh. The statement, “Six days thou shalt do all thy work” is as much a part of the Commandment as the command to rest on the seventh day. We

cannot fulfill this Commandment by keeping a Sabbath everyday.

Many say, “We should worship everyday!” Such a statement is unlearned to say the least and wicked at worst. Unlearned because the Commandment says nothing about worshipping only one day in seven. Wicked because its diversion from the truth promotes lawless attitudes that affirm people in their wrongdoing. It sounds very spiritual to say, “We should worship everyday!” but it would be stupid to say that we should refrain from working every day. The Commandment is to refrain from one's work on Sabbath not worship. Many have produced so-called evidence that the early Church worshipped on the first day of the week (supposedly proving a Sun day Sabbath) but is it not peculiar that there is no record that Jesus, the disciples, the apostles or early church fathers, were willing to work on the seventh day? You may worship on any day you wish, but it does not fulfill the Commandment. The Commandment demands that no work be done on the Sabbath. So how can everyday be Sabbath to the Christian or anyone else? If someone is so deluded to think that their worship every day fulfills the fourth Commandment, it is likely because they have never read what that Commandment actually says.

### 10) The Sabbath is not re-affirmed as a New Testament Commandment.

FALSE

Five of the Commandments are obviously reiterated in Matthew 19:18-19, but more than just the fourth Commandment are absent in the New Testament account. Where can we find the Commandment forbidding the carving of images reiterated in the New Testament, or where is the Commandment on having no other gods before Jehovah rewritten

word for word, or when did Jesus say thou shalt not covet? By no means should we condone covetousness or idolatry by the absence of these Commandments, nor should we dismiss any holy Commandment of God because we do not find it printed in the pages of the New Testament.

Of course, some may maintain that the *behavior* of the Apostles and followers of Christ is more than enough corroboration to affirm the continuance of a Commandment — and I would heartily agree. We can be assured that the Apostle John was still honoring the Commandment “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” when we read his words, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” (1 John 5:21) And, is there an apostolic writer who does not mention covetousness being sin even though the Lord Jesus never said it in Scripture?

There are numerous models depicting the *philosophy* and *behavior* of the disciples of Christ (as well as the writings of the Apostles) that affirm and re-affirm the Old Testament Commandments are applicable to the New Testament Christian. Even though recorded history, both secular and religious, confirm that the first Christians set aside the Sabbath as a holy day; there is yet a little known passage in the New Testament (Luke 23:54-56) that stands as a **Scriptural example**, or re-affirmation, if you will, of the fourth Commandment and its adherence by those closest to the Savior.

“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.**” (Author's emphasis)

These women had previously spent the last three years following the Lord Jesus Christ, hearing Him preach, teach, and minister. They heard Him debate the Law with the best of the best in the synagogue. Anyone who believes the “New Tes-

tament Christian” is exempt from these legal forms would have to ask, “Why would these women think that they were compelled to honor this outdated and unnecessary Commandment?” After having accompanied Christ on more than 182 Sabbath days and witnessing the daily and weekly example of the Son of God Himself, why would they feel they were compelled to keep a Commandment that had been “abolished” by the Savior? If the Scripture had only said that they rested the Sabbath day, we could surmise that perhaps it was for some other reason – maybe it was an old habit or perhaps they feared reprisal of the religious leaders. But, we can make no such assumption for the Scripture is clear. Their refusal to do work was “...according to the Commandment.”

You may easily find the righteous acts of those who call Christ “Lord” recorded in Scripture. These actions affirm the Commandments by *example*, but in this passage we can see the *reason* given for that action tied to a Commandment. Here, the *reason* is given for the behavior of these obedient women who knew Christ. There is actually *more* Scriptural proof for the reaffirmation of the fourth Commandment than there is for any of the others.

???



#### END NOTE REFERENCES \_\_\_\_\_ Section One

- 1) Deuteronomy 21:18, “If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:”
- 2) Leviticus 25:2-4, “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep **a sabbath** unto the LORD. Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.”
- 3) Genesis 2:3, “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.”
- 4) Ibid.
- 5) Matthew 23:2-4, “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.”
- 6) Luke 6:1-5, “And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands. And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days? And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him; How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone? And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.”
- 7) 1 Samuel 13:14, “But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.”
- 8) Galatians 3:24, “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”
- 9) Philippians 2:12b, “... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
- 10) This subject is an extensive one and, for the interested reader, I have written a comprehensive essay about my journey through this discovery, entitled, *On Truth*
- 11) His decree also included penalties if violated. He was virtually unopposed as he simultaneously abolished persecution of Christians. The stain of sun worship and the imagination of Constantine are to be found all over and throughout Christianity – from Easter sunrise services to crosses and halos.
- 12) Op.cit. *On Truth*
- 13) Exodus 16:26-27, “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.”

# What's the best tool to defeat the deception of Sunday Sabbath?

## The Truth

*“On Sabbath” answers questions defeating the myths that hold your loved ones and friends in the trap of Sunday Sabbath.*

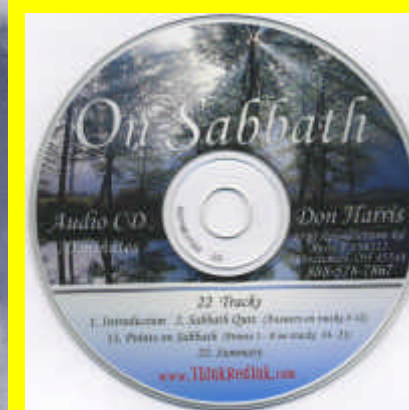
*Use it for information. Use it as a tool. Use it in these last days to introduce the gift of Sabbath, so long withheld from YHVH's people.*

*Everyone should have several copies of this CD ... in the home, at the workplace, in the glove box ... wherever you meet the chosen ones of YHVH who don't know the truth.*

*Its message is no-nonsense, hard-hitting and comprehensive, yet compassionate and empathetic. It leaves the listener with a choice.*

*Many are keeping Sabbath today simply because a friend gave them this CD. Order as many as you wish. As YHVH supplies the need we will supply them free of charge.*

*If you would like to help sponsor the production of these CDs as a part of your personal ministry, write to us.*



**New!**

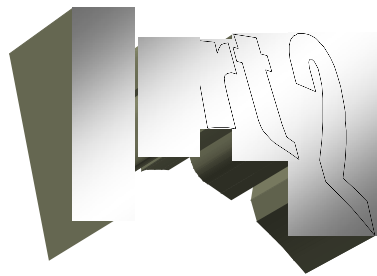
Have you or someone you know decided to keep the Sabbath holy? Are there questions about how to do so? This companion CD is for you. How do you keep the Law yet live “under grace?” When does the Sabbath begin? Are you to avoid all work? Isn't keeping a true Sabbath really impossible?

“On Keeping Sabbath” answers these questions and more.

**Order it Today**



## More Points on Sabbath



- 1) Sabbath was a part of the creation.<sup>14</sup>
- 2) The Sabbath was pre-Noahic covenant, pre-Abrahamic covenant, and pre-Law.<sup>15</sup>
- 3) The Sabbath was an integral part of the Law. Many laws and holy days were based upon and constructed around Sabbath days.<sup>16</sup>
- 4) Sabbath observance was included in the Ten Commandments.
- 5) Sabbath keeping is mentioned throughout Old<sup>17</sup> and New<sup>18</sup> Testament Scripture.
- 6) Jesus mentioned the Sabbath as a factor at the consummation of the age.<sup>19</sup>
- 7) The Sabbath is clearly witnessed by both the Law and the Prophets.
- 8) The Sabbath will be a part of time keeping and worship in the Kingdom of God in eternity.

(Continued on page 10)

## 1) The Sabbath in creation.

In particular, note that the Bible says, “God *blessed and sanctified* the seventh day.” Sometimes I think we miss out on understanding because we don’t pause to understand the words we read. What does it mean to *bless and sanctify*? It simply means to set apart. God set this day apart from all the others. Here’s a poser to think upon: Did God *create* the Sabbath? Was the world created in six days or seven? To answer this we must ask, did God work (create) on the seventh day? After all Jesus said that the Sabbath was MADE for man. No, God did not *create* the Sabbath; He *set it aside* and *blessed* it. He did not create the Sabbath Day any more that He created the eighth, ninth, or tenth day. The subsequent days came about as products of a galaxy already set into motion. Admittedly, they were set into motion by God, but they were not a part of the days of creation. Some would claim that the Sabbath was created on the seventh day. However, the Sabbath was not *created* – it was *set apart*. God *made* it by setting it apart. Had He *created* the Sabbath it would have been further work. The seventh day was a product of His creation that He had already set into motion. The seventh day was the first day the world enjoyed all of its parts intact. This wonderfully beautiful day was a product of God’s planetary system and was first of many to come. As the night was followed by this first light of complete creation, this light shone on all that God had made, and from the Creator’s pleasure arose the first gift of God to man – the Sabbath.<sup>20</sup> It was the first-fruit of His new world. He decided to set this day aside from all the others as a day for man to remember the Creator and to do His pleasure. Creation itself brought about the Sabbath day and God set it apart and gave it, as a gift, to mankind.

Seven days are the contents of one week. God’s pattern of creation and rest was to be used by man as a pattern for his own activity. Look at

the fourth commandment and notice how He harks back to the days of creation.

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 ... 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.”

So, from this we get the basis of our seven-day week *and* the basis of our work and rest cycle. Have you ever considered that there is NO REASON WHATSOEVER for a seven-day week except for the Bible’s record of creation? Why not a five day week — or ten? This same creation record that declares that the world will operate on a seven-day cycle also declares the Sabbath to be an integral part of that week. In our day, where science (falsely so-called) and theories of evolution make every attempt to remove God from life’s equation, it is the Sabbath that serves as the last vestigial sign of God as Creator in the earth... and some would deprive Him of that.

## 2) The Sabbath as a Commandment.

Some will be surprised that the famous appearance of the Ten Commandments is not where Sabbath keeping makes its debut. It actually happened just before the Commandments were given at the manna incident. It was given as a test of obedience to the children of Israel. I have included an abridged version here.

*“Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven<sup>21</sup> for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they*

*bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. ... 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 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.”*

Exodus 16:4-30

The event in this passage occurred, chronologically, just before the Ten Commandments were given in Exodus 20. God was feeding His murmuring people. But, as is His way, He adds a caveat – a right ordering or proviso. This Sabbath exercise was His “pop quiz” before the test. Note that He said, “...that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.” His demands were not great or impossible. All He asked was that they do things His way. Unfortunately, the story ends with the failure of the people to do as God commanded, and He says, “How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?”

God wanted men to stay “in their place” on the Sabbath. This obviously indicates inactivity. He 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. He is saying plainly to cook only what you will eat today and lay up, (unprepared and in its original

form) that which you will eat tomorrow. Here, preparation was expected, eating was expected, but gathering certainly was not.

We cannot help but wonder if the Sabbath is, yet today, a test of obedience.

### 3) The Sabbath was an integral part of the Law.

Many Laws were based upon and constructed around Sabbath days.

The Feasts and Holy Days of the Old Testament were replete with mentions and additions of Sabbath days. Some feast days could have up to three Sabbath days *inside of a week's time*. All of these Sabbaths had distinction one from the other. The "sabbaths and new moons" spoken of in the statutes and ordinances (and in the New Testament)<sup>22</sup> were altogether different than the weekly Sabbath. They were to be observed and kept to the letter before Christ came and fulfilled them in His exemplary life. Nevertheless, the calculation of and familiarity with Sabbath was an integral part of the Law and without it obedience to the Law would have been impossible.

I submit that keeping the Sabbath is still a part of the Law that God has written in our heart.<sup>23</sup> Without a working knowledge of it you will find your walk with Christ incomplete and yourself less than obedient to the Guide within us.

### 4) Sabbath observance was included in the Ten Commandments.

This is a clear point of importance. The inclusion of Sabbath in the Ten Commandments creates a wholly different set of arguments for and against its practice in the life of a modern-day Christian. If it were not a part of the Commandments, I would be more easily persuaded to believe it is of less moment or importance today.

Example: Phylacteries were commanded, but they were not part of the Ten Commandments. If someone told me that you were not living up to the pleasure of God because you don't wear phylacteries, or borders on your garment, or because you are shaving off the "corners of thy beard," I may argue as to the pertinence of such a Commandment. But, if you are breaking one of the Ten Commandments, I would have a hard time seeing you as obedient to the Spirit that originally wrote the Commandments and sent them forth. Remember that we are talking about the ONLY document written with the finger of God, and one of the only things that we can say contains God's words *purely*. It is inconsistent, to the point of hypocrisy, to preach and teach that the Bible is an immutable document, but the words actually written by God Himself are changeable and impertinent. He chose to include Sabbath observance as part of the Ten Commandments. He chose to write it in stone and enforce it for centuries. Who are we to say, "It's not for us today"? Isn't it odd that more modern-day Christians are willing to embrace a book of their own era to be the inspired, infallible and immutable "Word of God" than there are those willing to accept the words that our God *actually* wrote in stone with His own finger as unchangeable and pertinent?

### 5) The practice of Sabbath is mentioned throughout Old and New Testament Scriptures.

The references cited here could be extensive. Suffice it to say that the Sabbath was a practice of the true worshipers of God in the Old Testament and is an uncontested fact for any Bible reader, but how does that relate as pertinent to the present-day believer? Was the Sabbath laid down or set aside in the days of Christ, or the days of the Apostles, or the days of the early Church?

There is no evidence that the Sab-

bath was ever even considered for change until the Emperor Constantine changed it to conform to his own heathen custom of sun worship. All I have ever read about his dubious "conversion" has left me wondering why we have all been taught that he was a Christian and a friend of the Church. He single-handedly adulterated the pure faith of the Church into the superstitious magic act it resembles today in Catholicism. A study into this metamorphosis of the body of Christ by the Emperor will make anyone wonder what truth is left in this poor ravaged shell of the "faith once delivered to the saints." You will be hard-pressed to find any resemblance to the faith and practice witnessed in the New Testament.

We have been sold a valueless bill of goods. It is the duty of us all to find the right path, forsaking all tradition and familiarity and mustering courage to walk in the way shown to us. A jaundiced eye should be used in evaluating the old ways, doctrines, and traditions handed us by this nemesis church. In addition to Sun day worship, look at the list of errors taught to us as truth, including infant baptism, transubstantiation, purgatory, priesthood, saint worship, mediation, affection for idols, icons and symbols... ad infinitum. One must be willing to go farther back than St. Augustine or Origen to discover the truth of Sabbath. The seventh day Sabbath is the "old path" that history confirms, the Scripture supports, and to which the Spirit in us witnesses boldly.

Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."

### 6) Jesus mentioned the Sabbath as a factor at the consummation of the age.

I feel that one of the greatest proofs of the permanence of the Sabbath day is its mention by Christ in

Matthew 24:20, “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:” You may speculate about this verse as to the reasons *why* it was said, but one thing is clear, IT IS A FACTOR. The Sabbath will have some effect on the situation or it would not have been mentioned. If the Sabbath will not be a factor, if it is or was an insignificant or antiquated relic from historical Jewish worship, it could not be a point of concern to those last-day Christians preparing for great tribulation. If the idea of Sabbath-keeping is truly of no concern to us as New Testament Christians, then of what possible consequence could it be to the Church in the last days?

Jesus mentioned it because it is as it always was: The seventh day of the week, set aside as a day of rest, to honor God and do His pleasure.<sup>24</sup> A violation of which places us in direct opposition to the Commandment of God.

### 7) The Law and the Prophets are witnesses to the Sabbath.

Look at these Scriptures for a moment:

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)

“On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:40)

“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.” (Luke 16:16)

“Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (John 1:45)

“And after the reading of the law and the prophets...” (Acts 13:15)

“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets...” (Romans 3:21)

On the mount of transfiguration Moses and Elijah symbolized the Law and Prophets. When Christ introduced the “Golden Rule” He gave it credibility by showing it was supported by the Law and the Prophets. The Apostle Paul argued convincingly that he was not a heretic, that he believed “all things which are written in the law and in the prophets.”<sup>25</sup> Can you imagine any Apostle in the new Testament nullifying, holding in disrepute, or setting aside the writings of the Prophets by stating that any of them are not applicable or some of them are inaccurate? It would be incomprehensible that anyone, led by the same Spirit who spoke and wrote through these men, would later deny their message. Yet, when the Law of God,

written by the finger of God, immutable and an inseparable brother to the Prophets, is set aside, negated, antiquated, and made into a pick and choose smorgasbord, no one flinches. **Can you say, with the Apostle, that YOU believe all things written in the Law and the Prophets?**

### 8) The Sabbath will be a part of the Kingdom of God in eternity.

“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.” (Isaiah 66:22-23)

It is obvious that the concept of Sabbath as a sanctified day is to continue throughout eternity. Are we to believe that the Sabbath *was* for the Children of God in times past and *will be* in the future but is not for us today? The new heavens and earth will mark days, times, months and years just as we do now and always have. The moon will continue to mark months and the days will continue to be counted in sevens. The Seventh day will be the same in eternity as it is now in our time – the Sabbath.

???

14) Op.cit. Genesis 2:1-3

15) Exodus 16:4-35

16) The ideas of Sabbath rest and special days of Sabbath are throughout Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

17) Nehemiah 10:31, “...we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day...”

Nehemiah 13:15, “In those days saw I in Judah some treading ... on the sabbath day: and I testified against them ... What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath...”

18) Mark 1:21, Mark 6:2, Mark 16:1, Luke 4:16, Luke 4:31, Luke 23:56, Acts 13:14, Acts 13:44, Acts 17:2, Acts 18:4

19) Matthew 24:20, “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:”

20) Mark 2:27, “And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:”

21) New Testament connection:

John 6:31-41, “Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world... And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life... For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me... The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.”

#### END NOTE REFERENCES Part Two

## Summary

The Sabbath can be found as early as the seventh day of creation, as late as the days of antichrist in our time and is projected well into eternity by prophecy. It should humble you to think that mankind itself is only a few hours older than the Sabbath and the Sabbath will be here long after we ourselves are gone.

The Sabbath is a pivotal doctrine in the Bible. Practiced by the fathers of our faith, it is the forerunner to the disciplines of self-control and self-denial found in the New Covenant. It speaks through every gift of the Spirit manifesting itself as rest and peace and having a meek and quiet spirit. It is a sign between God and His people forever.<sup>26</sup>

It is obvious to me that the Sabbath is neither subject to the legitimate Church, nor is it brought to heel by religious zealots creating and erasing doctrine at their own wills.

A “spiritualized” view of Sabbath weakens the argument for keeping it as God intended and bolsters our creaturely (natural) reluctance to keep God’s Commandments. To avoid hypocrisy, this view should be held and considered only as we find ourselves wholly obedient to the Commandment itself.

I believe the Sabbath is remembered and kept holy by acquiescing to the vivid outlines revealed in the Scriptures for doing so. It is not subject to change or alteration by anyone in the slightest degree – nor need it be to comply and be in perfect harmony with New Testament living.

I would challenge everyone to consider their habits, beliefs, and practices in this matter and determine the reason for doing what they do, and *when* they do it. We should be ashamed to find that tradition or personal preference has overridden God’s expressed Commandment.

In short, the Sabbath has stood as the sign between God and His people (Spiritual Israel)<sup>27</sup> for centuries, and I believe it still stands.

Now read Exodus 31:13-18 again, as if for the first time...

“... Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you... Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD... to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. **It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever:** for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. And he gave unto Moses... tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”

Whereupon He engraved...

***“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”***

22) Colossians 2:16-17, “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.”

23) Jeremiah 31:33, “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

24) Isaiah 58:13-14, “If thou turn away ... 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 ... for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”

25) Acts 24:14, “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets.”

26) Exodus 31:13, “Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.”

27) Romans 9:6-27, “For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but **the children of the promise are counted for the seed.** ...not of the Jews only, but **also of the Gentiles.**...I will call them my people, which were not my people... there shall they be called the children of the living God.” (My emphasis)

The following is an excerpt from  
the book  
“The Questions of Jesus”  
by Don Harris.

### ***Is it lawful on the Sabbath days to do good?***

*“Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; **Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?**”*

**W**hen a person decides to keep God’s Sabbath Day, seemingly out of the woodwork comes everyone to offer opinion, criticize, scrutinize, or in some cases, open their denomination to you for membership. If the subject of Sabbath comes up in discussions, we are apt to hear stories about how impossible it is to keep the Sabbath and how “Jesus changed all that Sabbath keeping stuff.” It is not a subject for the unprepared as the passions are deep and various.

Some have chosen to avoid the subject altogether. I cannot blame them. It is unfortunate that such a pleasant thing as Jehovah’s ordained rest should be so tiresome. It is equally unfortunate that God’s gift of the Sabbath Day should become a matter of debate and division. But so it is when men confuse and convolute the simplicity that is to be found in Christ.

Let us begin with the apostle’s words in 1 John 5:2-3, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” How sad that the Commandments of God are grievous to many who claim to be Christ’s.

To some, giving God one day of their seven is as though they are being asked to give up something to which they are entitled, something that they own, or something that is owed them. How can those who seek communion with Christ neglect the time He has set aside for that communion? How can we consider it a grievous task to come aside and rest awhile? It is because man has added to the Commandment and made it into a chore of duty and drudgery. He has done this OUTSIDE of the Scriptures, yet we still consider man’s words over the Scriptures of truth.

The Jews created documents that, with the intention of keeping the Commandments, made them more difficult to keep. The “Sabbath day’s journey” is a good example. The Sabbath day’s journey was intended to place an explanatory, or definitive framework around the Scripture. The Law they refer to only says, “See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath... abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.” (Exodus 16:29)

The questions in red letters became a curiosity to me because of their depth and scope, but more so, because of who asked them. Albeit some of the questions asked by Jesus Christ were rhetorical, that is, asked for effect, or asked more to provoke thought than to solicit an answer, some questions Christ posed were asked merely because He wanted an answer. For some, it makes them uneasy to think that Jesus did not know the answer in advance. We have been taught that “Jesus knew everything” as if He were some sort of mind reader or telepathic. The Scriptures do not support this idea; it is therefore only conjecture. Poor conjecture, in my opinion. When the Scriptures state, “... Jesus knew their thoughts...” (Luke 6:8 – Matthew 12:25) they simply speak of perception. Jesus was infinitely wise and extraordinarily perceptive and He knew mankind better than they knew themselves. As John states so perfectly, “But Jesus ... knew all men... for he knew what was in man.” (John 2:24-25)

It is Christ’s keen perception and His unique wisdom that shines from His questions. Whatever the reason Jesus asks His questions, in all our conversational encounters with the Savior, it will be His wisdom that beams, His glory that shines, and His Heart of love and compassion that is laid before us. Your answers to His questions will sometimes make you uncomfortable and lay your heart open to Him in return, but to whom, save Christ, could you trust your candid answers and confessions, and before whom could you lay your condition in forthright display in full assurance of acceptance? Who is able to open your life for examination in pure love and unfeigned truth as Jesus can? What a Preacher He was, what a Teacher, and what a Friend we have in Him.

As you hear His questions and consider your own answers, you are thrust into His time and He into yours. By quiet contemplation, words on a page become a live conversation. In meditation, ink and paper can become living words in your ears, and it is then that the words of God become The Word of God. It is then that you will experience more than the mere reading of history; you will become part of a verbal exchange, a part of the repartee, banter, and even argument with our Lord Jesus Christ! If you will only answer His questions honestly and with sincerity, you may

Somehow, Jewish leadership decided how far it should be that a man can wander “from his place” without breaking the Commandment. They came up with 2000 paces or yards, how they arrived at this distance is unclear.

Nevertheless, we find that many think to travel farther than “a Sabbath day’s journey” on the Sabbath is a violation of the Commandment and therefore, sin. But, the Scriptures make no such assertion. When we read the Scriptures pertaining to Sabbath we will find that Sabbath is not a grievous restriction, nor a calculated observance, but a day set aside, sanctified, and made holy by voluntarily ceasing from our labor and honoring God’s request to remember Him.

### The Sabbath Is a Gift

When you read, for yourself, the Scriptures that pertain to Sabbath, you will find that the Commandment is not a grievous one, nor one that requires more than you can do, but a Commandment of love and promise. It is a Commandment that bears a gift from God.

In the days of old, the Bible records an execution associated with the breaking of this Law. A man was found gathering sticks on the Sabbath and for that, he lost his life. Without understanding, we may find it hard to take comfort in a gift that we are forced to receive. But it was not the lack of acceptance of this gift that caused his death; it was his despite of God’s Commandment.

The gift is not the Commandment and the Commandment is not the gift. The gift is to be found in *obedience* to the Commandment. When we place our own interests above the Commandment, are we not placing ourselves above our Lord? As says the Lord Jesus, “**Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.**” (John 13:16-17) The operational phrase is, “**Happy are ye if ye do them.**” The happiness, blessedness, and the gift are to be found in the doing.

When we submit to God’s Law we will find, in our obedience, that the Law is not grievous. When we go only to the Scriptures, we will find that the Commandments are not difficult either. The Jews of Jesus’ day (and the naysayers in our day) made the walk of faith into difficulty and impossibility. “We can’t do this on Sabbath day and we can’t do that” say they, while the blessed Scriptures may be completely silent on that particular subject.

We need to take our cues from the words God has spoken in our heart, and our conscience, and forget the traditions of men. We make living by our faith impossible when we add to or take away from what God has plainly said. When you ignore the Word of God within you, your conscience and Guide, and hold to traditions of men, you make “**the**

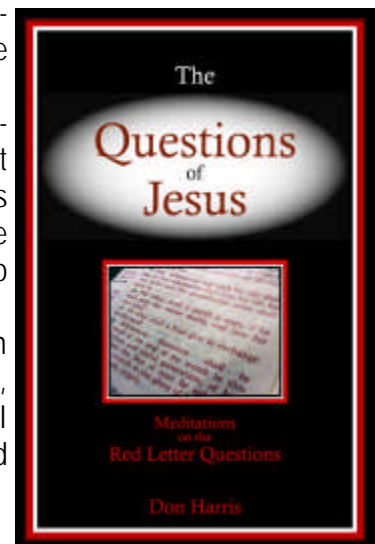
(Continued on page 16)

well peer into depths of your own soul and purpose, heretofore undiscovered and unknown.

Ours is a quest to learn of our Messiah and His Father, YHVH. Jesus asked questions of the people in the Bible’s stories to fulfill the will of God, and that was (as it remains with us) to bring the chosen ones closer to His Father. With this devotional, you can experience a daily exchange of thought with the Christ of the Bible, leading you closer to Him, revealing His ways, His thoughts and eventually, if He wills it so, His Father. As He said in Matthew 11:27-28, “All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”

Take one question at a time. Read it and contemplate it quietly for a while; allow time for the Lord to speak to you. Resist the temptation to push through to the next question. Each question takes only approximately ten minutes to read, take again as long to sit quietly and then perhaps add notes of your own impressions. Sometimes the message of one question will be on your mind all day. These are times when Truth is to be revealed many hours after devotional time has ended. Take your time.

What a wondrous journey writing this was for me. Each devotional was written during and after my early morning hours of meditation as the Lord opened them to me, one question at a time. It was always a joy to discover a new question and explore it. I am happy to share these devotionals with you. I would love to know that you received them in the same richness of Spirit that I did.



To order, call, write or visit the website [www.ThinkRedInk.com](http://www.ThinkRedInk.com)



## Think Red Ink

*What did Jesus say?*

3590 Roundbottom Road

Suite F-158512

Cincinnati, Ohio 45244-3026

Phone: 513-207-9404

Email: [ThinkRedInk@aol.com](mailto:ThinkRedInk@aol.com)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
FIND MORE WRITINGS AND  
AUDIO TEACHING AT  
[WWW.THINKREDINK.COM](http://WWW.THINKREDINK.COM)**

*The message of "Think Red Ink" is simply that Christ has come to teach His people Himself and needs little assistance from the clergy or teachers to do so. We do not intend to teach beyond the universal calling to learn of Christ Himself through His Spirit. We believe that Christ is alive and living within all who honestly acknowledge and follow His leading in all good conscience. There are not many shepherds, but One. There are not many teachers, but One. "Think Red Ink" intends to only publish the true Word of God and His Message.*

*(Continued from page 15)*

**word of God of none effect through your tradition.**" (Mark 7:13) When you ignore the Commandment and hold to tradition you bring to life the word of warning Jesus gave to the Pharisees, **"Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."** (Matthew 15:6)

Jesus was astounded that these well-learned men, these scribes and Pharisees, could not see the clear intent of Sabbath day. These men, along with everyone in their tow, had ceased to worship ON the Sabbath and had begun to worship the Sabbath itself! They were accusing Him of violating and desecrating their "god sabbath" by healing a blind man!

There are those who struggle with Sabbath worship even today. Mankind always seems to teeter and totter back and forth across lines and boundaries, words and laws, definitions and excuses. He never seems to get it right; he never seems to be able to balance himself. Should we go for a walk? Should we make a sandwich, should we feed the homeless on Sabbath? Should we use electricity, city water or phone service? Because, by using these services we are causing others to work on our behalf on Sabbath day (neither thy manservant nor maidservant). The arguments and explanations are seemingly endless.

The sad fact is that this Commandment can be easily kept and held in reverence, perfectly and completely by anyone wishing to simply honor God's will over their own. There is no need to wonder if you are breaking the Commandment if you are getting your information from the Scriptures and living in such a way as not to grieve the Holy Spirit or violate your conscience. The Holy Spirit will guide you; He will not allow you to break God's Commandment, even in ignorance. No one is better equipped to keep God's Commandments better than the "New Testament" believer.

There is no need to create rules, set up boundaries, write down lists of acceptable unacceptable behavior; you have within you the Author of the Commandment, promising to lead you and guide you into all Truth. He will not let you violate the Scriptures, He will not let you sin against God, but you must obey Him.

I recently met someone who felt there was a conflict with the Sabbath when they worked in a homeless shelter feeding the indigent. They spoke of all the work they had to do, cooking, cleaning, washing up, and wondered why God would hold them accountable for breaking His Commandment. I submit that they were letting the commandments of men take the place of the Commandment of God. No Commandment forbids doing good on Sabbath. Contrarily, it is a wonderful day for it, a wonderful day indeed!

**"Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?"**

For more information or to order the book *The Questions of Jesus*, or the radio show of the same name, write to:  
Don Harris, at the address above, call 1-513-207-9404 or visit [www.ThinkRedInk.com](http://www.ThinkRedInk.com)