

# Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

June, 1998

Dear Readers,

*"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 1:3) Thank you all for taking the time to read these papers. We appreciate all the kind letters and calls that we have received. We request that if you have any comments, whether good or bad, please write or call and let us know. Thank you!

## The Law of God

There are varied opinions regarding the law of God that are circulated among Christians today. Some say that the Ten Commandments have been done away with, while others maintain that they are still in effect. This study is designed to examine what the Bible says concerning this issue.

Let's consider the giving of the Ten Commandments at Sinai. *"And God spake all these words."* (Exodus 20:1) God did not entrust the giving of the Ten Commandments to any man, but spoke them Himself. *"For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?"* (Deuteronomy 5:26) It was an awesome thing for humans to hear the voice of the living God.

What does God say concerning those things that have come out of His mouth? *"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."* (Psalm 89:34) God says that He will not change anything that has gone out of His lips. More specifically God says that He will not alter the Ten Commandments. *"The works of his hands are verity and judgment; **all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.**"* (Psalm 111:7, 8)

*"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."* (Ecclesiastes 3:14) Whatever God does, it will last forever. Man is not permitted to add anything to it or take anything away from it. *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any*

*man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."* (Revelation 22:18, 19) *"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."* (Deuteronomy 12:32) It is a very serious thing to attempt to alter those things which God Himself has spoken.

Did the Lord change His mind after He spoke the Ten Commandments at Sinai? *"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."* (Malachi 3:6) God does not change. Man may go to great lengths to prove that God has changed His mind concerning the moral law which He spoke at Sinai, yet the Scriptures say that God does not change.

## Did Christ Change the Law?

As we have seen, God the Father did not change His law which He spoke at Sinai, but did Christ change the law? Prophesying of Christ's mission on earth, Isaiah wrote the following: *"The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable."* (Isaiah 42:21) Christ's mission did not include changing the law of God for it is written that He will *"magnify the law and make it honourable."*

Jesus said, *"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.” (Matthew 5:17-19)*

According to Jesus the law of God is to stand until “*heaven and earth pass.*” Obviously this has not occurred yet, so naturally the law has not been done away with. Jesus went on to say that it was a dangerous thing to teach men to “*break one of these least commandments.*” It is very plain that the law, which Jesus was referring to, is the Ten Commandment law for the rest of the chapter deals with Jesus expounding on certain points within this law.

The testimony of Jesus agrees with that of Solomon. “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14)

Not only does God require us to keep His commandments, He also makes it clear that if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven we must “*do his commandments.*” “*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*” (Revelation 22:14)

God will have a group of people in the last days who will keep His commandments. “*And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” (Revelation 12:17) “*Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*” (Revelation 14:12)

“*The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.*” (Zephaniah 3:13) Speaking of God’s remnant people John wrote, “*And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.*” (Revelation 14:5)

As we can clearly see, God will have a group of people in the last days who will keep His law. What is the biblical term for those who break the law? “*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law.***” (1 John 3:4) Consequently, one who transgresses the law of God is called a sinner.

What does the Bible say will happen at the time of the second coming, to those who transgress His law? “*Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.*” (Isaiah 13:9)

That is a very solemn warning. It is no wonder the Lord says, “*prepare to meet thy God.*” (Amos 4:12)

Certainly there are some who will quickly protest, claiming, “We cannot keep the law of God, we can never stop sinning.” It is true that we cannot keep the law of God in our own strength. “*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*” (Romans 8:7) Yet the Lord has told us that we must keep the commandments to enter into the kingdom of heaven. Surely there must be some remedy for sin.

“*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.*” (Romans 3:24, 25) Praise God that He has made a way of escape! God, through His infinite wisdom, has designed a way in which we can be forgiven of our past sins. That is wonderful! Notice that the verse said that we can have “*remission of sins that are past.*” Nowhere in the Bible is there any indication that we can be forgiven of sins that are yet future. In fact the Lord has made it clear that once we are forgiven we are expected not to continue in that sin. “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*” (Romans 6:1, 2)

Suppose a known thief comes to your church seeking membership, claiming that he wants to give his life to the Lord and asking for prayer that he might give up his habit of stealing. Suppose the pastor tells this man, “My friend, you have it all wrong; don’t you know that we can never stop sinning? Just accept Jesus as your Saviour and everything will be okay.” Certainly any conscientious individual would immediately see that the pastor’s reply is wrong. Yet many pastors make similar statements without raising the slightest suspicion in the listeners. If it is true that we cannot stop sinning, then where do we draw the line? Is it only that we cannot stop sinning when it comes to seemingly small sins such as lying and coveting, or would we say that we cannot stop sinning when it comes to such sins as adultery? One may say that these sins cannot be avoided. Why stop there?

If it is true that the compulsive liar cannot give up lying, then it must also be true that the murderer cannot give up murdering and the thief cannot give up stealing. If this were the case then this world would be filled with nothing but the vilest of criminals. It is very obvious that the assertion “we cannot stop sinning” is completely contrary to common sense, but is it contrary to the Bible?

“*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with*

*the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*" (1 Corinthians 10:13) Praise God! He has promised us that there is no temptation that will ever come upon us from which we cannot escape. God always provides a way out of sin. Thank God that Satan cannot force us to sin.

### *What shall I do when I am tempted?*

*"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."* (Psalm 50:15) If we will call upon the Lord when we are being tempted, He will give us the victory over every temptation. *"For in that he [Christ] himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour* [Greek: βοηθησαι "to run to the cry of those in danger." Thayer's Greek Lexicon] *them that are tempted."* (Hebrews 2:18) If we do not call upon the Lord when we are tempted, He will not help us and we will be left to our own strength. When we call upon the Lord at the time of our temptation it does not have to be in an audible voice, but cry unto Him in your thoughts. Silent prayers are heard by Him who *"searcheth the hearts."*

Some say that it is a grievous burden to keep God's commandments. We are assured that His commandments are not grievous. *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* (1 John 5:3)

### *Answering Some Objections*

*"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."* (Colossians 2:14) Some claim that the above verse proves that the law has been nailed to the cross. Is this really what Paul was saying? Paul said this concerning the law: *"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good."* (Romans 7:12) This agrees with the testimony of David. *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."* (Psalm 19:7)

So what was Paul talking about when he said *"the handwriting of ordinances"* was nailed to the cross? *"And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever."* (Exodus 12:14) The Jewish Passover, the sacrificial system, and the priesthood, which were a shadow of things to come, were called ordinances. This is what Paul was referring to which was done away with. God's moral law, known as the Ten Commandments, was not *"the handwriting of ordinances that was against us."*

*"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law."* (Hebrews 7:12)

*"For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof."* (Hebrews 7:18) Paul is referring to a law that is weak and unprofitable. He said that since the priesthood has changed there must also be a change of the law. It is obvious that the law Paul was referring to was not the Ten Commandments, for they had nothing to do with laws concerning priests. Moreover, the Ten Commandment law is not weak and unprofitable, but *"holy, and just, and good."* The law that was changed due to the changing of the priesthood is the ordinances concerning the sacrificial system, the priests, and the sanctuary service, for they were unprofitable.

*"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions,... Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."* (Galatians 3:19-25) The law of God speaks only to them who have broken that law. *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."* (Romans 3:19) Once we have come to Christ and have been justified (literally made innocent), the law has nothing to say to us for we stand before God as if we had not sinned. Hence we are no longer in need of a schoolmaster. The moment we again break that law, the law is there to testify that we are a sinner. Hence we again need that schoolmaster to bring us back to Christ. If there were no law to tell us that we have sinned, we would continue in a deplorable condition.

*"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."* (Romans 7:7) Thank God for His law, for without it we would be liars, thieves, murderers, and such like.

*"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."* (1 John 2:1) God wants us to cease from sin, which is transgression of the law. If the law has been done away with, I confess to you that it is not possible for anyone to sin, for how can one break a law that does not exist? If the law was done away with, it is perfectly just and right to murder, steal, commit adultery, etc. It is clear that God's moral law is still in effect, and those who violate God's law are sinners.

*"Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God."* (1 Corinthians 7:19)

*Lynnford Beachy*

## Is The Sabbath Part of the New Covenant?

In today's society we as Christians are caught in the middle of the great controversy and are faced with making a big choice: will we be obedient to God's law, or will we try to justify our stand of not being obedient to God's law? All the while we must remember that the law, in and of itself, cannot make us righteous.

*"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference." (Romans 3:21, 22)* Righteousness comes through our faith in Christ's death and resurrection, but we cannot make void the law because of Christ's death. *"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." (Romans 3:31)*

When the Son of God walked this earth he said, *"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." (Matthew 5:17, 18)* The fact is clearly seen that the law would not and could not be changed until heaven and earth pass away and all is fulfilled.

### Have heaven and earth passed away?

Many people are falsely taught that the law of God (Ten Commandments) was nailed to the cross. This would be a contradiction of what Jesus said in the first half of the verse. *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law...."* Those who teach that the New Covenant is the nailing of the Law of God to the cross say, "The Law (Old Covenant or Ten Commandments) is done away with." The law alone was not the covenant. The law was given by God; the covenant was the people saying, "We will do it." Upon their keeping of the law of God, He in turn would bless them. (Exodus 19:8, 24:3)

### What is the New Covenant?

To remain focused, we will not go into the New Covenant in depth. Our focus is on the law of God; do we need to be obedient to it, or not? *"But now hath he [Jesus] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second." (Romans 8:6, 7)* Christ is the mediator of a better covenant, for in the first covenant there was found fault. With whom was the fault found—God or man?

*"For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new cove-*

*nant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord." (Hebrews 8:8, 9)*

The fault was found with the people. They did not uphold their end of the agreement. Yet God in His mercy has made a New Covenant with His people. (See Jeremiah 31:31-33.) We know the fault was not with God for David wrote: *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." (Psalms 19:7)*

*"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." (Hebrews 8:10)* The New Covenant that God has made for those who want to receive it is, He will cleanse us from our sins by faith in the death and resurrection of His Son. When we receive it, He will put His laws into our minds and write them in our hearts. If the Ten Commandments were done away with at the cross, why is God willing to write them in our hearts as part of the New Covenant?

*"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." (Romans 7:4)* This passage of scripture is easily misquoted when taken out of context. Some have said it means we have died to the law, and we no longer have to keep the Ten Commandments.

The first point that needs to be brought out is what this scripture is saying. We are dead to the law by the body of Christ. This scripture, when taken in the proper context, is reaffirming the New Covenant promise. We are dead to the law! but which law? *"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:23-25)*

Paul understood our carnal tendencies and the nature of sin. Within each of us there is a war raging. Satan, through sin, is striving to be the master of us all. "How?" one might ask. *"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and*



*I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”* (Romans 7:7-12)

Paul states that the law is holy; the commandment is holy, just and good. Now because of the deceitful ways of the devil, he is able to take that which is holy, just and good, and trick you and me into going against it to receive lustful pleasure. This is the law of sin and death to which we are to be dead. (See Romans 8:2-4.)

Another argument is found in Galatians 3:10 which reads, *“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”* Several points need to be made here. This verse is referring to the Jews of Galatia who had gone back to the bondage of the works of the law.

## *What are the works of the law?*

The works of the law are simply the Old Covenant. The children of Israel entered into an agreement with God, summed up in Deuteronomy 6:25, which reads, *“And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.”*

Are the Ten Commandments contained in the works of the law? Yes, they are. Any law that you or I would keep, thinking to become righteous by it, is of the works of the law. Righteousness only comes through our faith in Christ. *“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”* (Galatians 2:21) *“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.”* (Galatians 3:21)

When reading Galatians 3:10, we must keep this scripture in context with the rest of the book. If you read on to verses 4:9, 10; & 5:1, 2; you can see what Paul was dealing with. The people had come into bondage to the feasts and ceremonies of the Old Covenant. They actually wanted to be circumcised, thinking that would make them righteous before God.

Some people teach that God did not have a law or, shall we say an order, as to the way things should be done until it was given to Moses at Mount Sinai. We know this is not true, otherwise there would not have been sin until after the law was given to Moses.

## *Was there sin before the law was given to Moses at Mount Sinai?*

Did Adam sin? *“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after*

*the similitude of Adam’s transgression....”* (Romans 5:14) How could Adam have sinned if there was no law? Obviously there was a law in Adam’s time.

What is sin? *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”* (1 John 3:4) *“For the wages of sin is death....”* (Romans 6:23) After reading these scriptures one would have to conclude that there was a law given prior to the one given to Moses at Mount Sinai, for Adam had transgressed the law. What about Cain? He slew his brother Abel, and he was dealt a difficult judgment—more than he could bear. What law did he transgress? In Genesis 26:5 it is recorded of Abraham; *“Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”* What commandments and laws did he keep?

The point being made is; God’s laws existed before the time of Moses. If we were to ask those who say that we no longer have to be obedient to the Ten Commandments whether it is okay to steal, lie or kill, what do you suppose they would say? They would say, “Of course not!” What if you asked them, “Is it okay to covet, or commit adultery? What about taking the Lord’s name in vain and worshipping other gods?” They would say, “Of course not!” Now suppose you went on to ask them, “What about not working on Saturday and assembling to worship God on the seventh day?” They would respond, “Well, that’s been done away with.” Has it?

## *What does the fourth commandment say?*

*“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.”* (Exodus 20:8-11)

Why did God create the Sabbath day? *“And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”* (Mark 2:27) God, in His mercy made a day in which we could come apart from the things of the world to rest and reflect on His wonderful works—just as He did after He made all things.

## *What day is the seventh day of the week?*

Definition: “Saturday = The seventh day of the week.” (Winston’s Simplified Dictionary)

Does one really believe that because of the death of God’s dear Son for our transgressions, there is now no law to govern us human beings in our worship to God

and our relationship to our fellow men? Some people actually say that there is no command given in the New Testament for us to keep holy the Sabbath day, therefore justifying their unfaithfulness to the Creator.

*“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.”* (1 Peter 2:21, 22)

According to the above scripture, Christ left us an example that we should follow in His steps. His example was that He did no sin. Sin is the transgression of the law. If the example that Jesus left us is not to sin, then there must still be a law that governs what sin is, or we would not know what it is. Let’s look at some of the examples that Jesus left us in regard to the Sabbath.

*“And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.”* (Mark 1:21) *“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”* (Luke 4:16) *“And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days.”* (Luke 4:31) *“And when the Sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue....”* (Mark 6:2)

The custom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is clearly seen. He abstained from those things prohibited on the Sabbath and went into the synagogue on that day, and He is to be our example. What specifically did He do there? He taught the people. What an example!

*“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”* (Hebrews 5:12-14)

Paul states here that the people of God should be teachers, but they were in need of being taught again the first principles of the oracles of God. They were unable to digest strong meat; therefore he fed them with milk. Strong meat, he said, belongs to those who have exercised their senses to discern both good and evil. If God’s law was done away with, why would there need to be discernment between good and evil? What is the standard by which good and evil are judged?

Again I must say, God never intended for His law (Ten Commandments) to be done away with. As far as the law making us righteous apart from Christ, that was never a part of God’s covenant. God says, *“I will put my laws in their hearts and in their minds will I write them.”* In so doing God gives us His righteousness.

## *Did the Apostle Paul follow the example that the Son of God left us?*

*“But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and sat down. And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.”* (Acts 13:14, 15)

*“And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.”* (Acts 13:42) *“And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.”* (Acts 13:44) *“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.”* (Acts 17:2) *“And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”* (Acts 18:4) Yes, Paul did follow the example that Jesus left us. He also taught concerning the Sabbath in the book of Hebrews.

*“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”* (Hebrews 4:1, 2)

In the above passage of scripture, Paul is identifying the Sabbath rest with the Gospel. If you have the time to read the third chapter of Hebrews, you will see that many people in Moses’ time did not enter into the Sabbath rest because of the hardness of their hearts and unbelief. Paul, in this first verse, is exhorting you and me not to follow in their example of unbelief. He goes on to say, *“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. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.”* (Hebrews 4:3, 4)

Paul is stating that those who believe enter into rest and have ceased from their works as God did from His when He created all things at the foundation of the world. Thus reaffirming that God’s law existed before Moses’ time.

Paul’s exhortation goes on to say, *“And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”* (Hebrews 4:5-7)

Paul’s admonition, given almost two thousand years ago, is relevant for us today. *“Today if ye will hear His*

voice, harden not your heart. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein." Will you enter the Sabbath rest of the Creator of the universe? or will you continue to work on it and go to church on another day, Sunday, the first day of the week?

"For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." (Hebrews 4:8-10) Please notice verse nine in another translation. "It is therefore the duty of the people of God to keep the Sabbath." (Hebrews 4:9, George M. Lamsa's translation from the Aramaic of the Peshitta.)

Many people are taught that the seventh-day Sabbath of the Lord has been done away with by being nailed to the cross. They are taught that we keep Sunday holy because Jesus was raised from the dead on Sunday, the first day of the week, therefore we honor that day. If we were expected to honor another day instead of the seventh-day Sabbath, then would Jesus not have told us? Yes, Jesus would have told us for he stated, "...for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." (John 15:15)

"For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament [or covenant] is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." (Hebrews 9:16, 17) The New Covenant was ratified by the death of Christ and was not in force until after His death.

"Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto." (Galatians 3:15) After the death of Christ nothing could be added to the New Covenant.

Some say that Sunday-keeping is part of the New Covenant and point to the resurrection of Christ on that day as proof of this assertion; yet that particular Sunday came three days too late to be part of the New Covenant. Any assertion that Sunday is part of the New Covenant is proven untrue by the Scriptures.

In the society in which we live here in America, most of the professed Christian world works on the Sabbath, or they regard it as they would any other day of the week. Sunday has replaced the day of rest and worship. How is it that this change occurred? Who is responsible for the change? To answer these questions we will be reading some quotations from prominent writings within the Christian world.

"We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (364 AD) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." (*The Converts Catechism*, Peter Giermann, page

50. This catechism received the pope's blessing on January 25, 1910)

"The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant, claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday." (*The Catholic Universe Bulletin*, August 14, 1942, page 4)

"It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church." (Priest Brady, in an address at Elizabeth, New Jersey on March 17, 1903, reported in the Elizabeth, New Jersey News of March 18, 1903)

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:8, 9)

### Why is the Sabbath so important?

"Hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God." (Ezekiel 20:20)

The scriptures tell us that if we hallow the Sabbath, it will be a sign between God and us that He is the Lord our God. What will happen if we do not honor the Lord's Sabbath? Well, it will still be a sign, but the sign will be that He is not the Lord our God. We actually honor and worship another god—not the Lord of the Sabbath. The very words of our Saviour were "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:28)

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it..." (Romans 14:5, 6) We have the choice whether to honor the Sabbath or not. Yet the Lord will hold us accountable for our actions.

If the Bible is so clear, as we have seen, about the Sabbath, how is it that Catholicism thinks she can change God's law? Where did she get the authority, and when did this change take place?

**Question:** "How prove you that the church hath power to command feasts and holy days?"

**Answer:** "By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday

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strictly, and breaking most other feast days commanded by the same church.” (*Abridgement of Christian Doctrine*, by Rev. Henry Tuberville, D.D., of Douay College, France, 1649, page 58)

**Question:** “Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?”

**Answer:** “Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her, she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.” (*A Doctrinal Catechism*, by Stephen Keenan, page 174)

“The Catholic Church of its own infallible authority created Sunday a holy day to take the place of the Sabbath of the old law.” (*Kansas City Catholic*, February 9, 1893) “The Catholic Church,... by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.” (*Catholic Mirror*, official organ of Cardinal Gibbons, September 23, 1893)

### Conclusion

Clearly we have seen that God’s law has not been changed by Jesus Christ nor was it done away with at His death. The seventh-day Sabbath is still a sign be-

tween God and His people that they belong to Him. Yet if we acknowledge Sunday as a day of worship, we are acknowledging some other god than the Lord of the Sabbath.

Will we be obedient to the Creator of heaven and earth? Or will we choose to worship another god and give him the homage due to the only true God?

For more information about another god, and more detailed information on how he came into the Christian movement, please write or call.

*Gary Lewellen*

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