

IS THE SABBATH LAW BINDING ON CHRISTIANS?

Text: Hebrews 4:9

INTRO: There are many who say that we should keep the 10 commandments. Some refer to Sunday as the "Christian Sabbath." A proper understanding of the Scriptures will show us that Christians were never commanded to keep the Sabbath, and that Sunday never has been a Sabbath.

I. SOME BACKGROUND NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THE SABBATH COMMAND OF EXODUS 20:8.

A. To whom given? The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. (Deut 5:3).

READ EXODUS 20:1-2, 8; 31:16-17.

B. When given? Deut. 5:3. NOTE: God rested on the 7th day of creation week, but He did not command Adam & Eve or Cain & Abel or Noah or Abraham or anyone else to observe that day until after He had brought the nation of Israel out of Egyptian bondage.

C. Where given? You came down also on Mt Sinai & spoke with them from heaven, & gave them just ordinances & true laws, good statutes & commandments. You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, & commanded them precepts, statutes & laws. (Neh 9:13-14).

NOTE: The Sabbath law was not given in Eden, but at Sinai; Not to all, but to Israel; not to the patriarchs, but to Moses & his generation.

D. Even if the Sabbath had been given to Adam & Eve that would not prove we were to observe it. Gen 2:16-17, their food law. Heb 11:4, sacrifice law, etc.

II. THE SABBATH CAME INTO EXISTENCE AS A PART OF THE COVENANT CALLED THE 10 COMMANDMENTS.

[Moses] was there with the Lord 40 days & 40 nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water & He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the 10 commandments. (EX 34:28).

He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is the 10 commandments: & He wrote them on 2 tablets of stone. (Deut 4:13).

A. Centuries later, after Israel had long since broken the 10 commandments & drifted away from many of the principles contained in them God promised to take them away & replace them with a new covenant, Jer 31:31-34.

B. The Hebrew writer shows that from the time God made that promise, the covenant under which they lived began to grow old & become ready to be replaced.

In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete & growing old is ready to vanish away. (Heb 8:13).

Then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. (Heb. 10:9).

III. THE O.T. MAKES NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE "LAW OF MOSES" AND THE "LAW OF GOD."

A. The terms are used interchangeably. READ NEH. 8:1, 8.

B. The Bible says God gave the Law of Moses, Neh. 8:1.

C. Also, Moses gave the Law of God.

Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses. (2 Chron 34:14).

D. Animal sacrifices, weekly, monthly, & yearly feasts, were all a part of the Law of God.

READ 2 CHRON. 31:3-4; LUKE 2:22-24.

E. The 10 commandments were part of the Law of Moses.

For Moses said, "Honor your father & your mother" & "He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death" (Mark 7:10).

Did not Moses give you the law, & yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me? (Jn 7:19).

NOTE: There was only one law given to the nation of Israel. It was sometimes called the Law of Moses, sometimes called the Law of the Lord. The law was given to Moses by God, and given to the people by Moses. To try to distinguish between the Law of Moses & the Law of God is to make a difference where there is no difference.

IV. THE 2 GREATEST COMMANDMENTS IN THE O.T. WERE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE TEN.

READ MARK 12:28-31

NOTE: Anyone who would bind the 10 commands on us & disregard the rest of the O.T. has rejected the 2 greatest commands of all.

V. THE 10 COMMANDMENTS WERE ORDINANCES WRITTEN BY THE HAND OF GOD.

A. Ordinance defined: a rule of law made by authority.

And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mt. Sinai, He gave Moses 2 tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God. (EX 31:18).

Then the Lord delivered to me 2 tablets of stone written with the finger of God, & on them were all the words which the Lord had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly. (Deut 9:10).

B. But this handwriting of ordinances was done away when Christ died on the cross. READ COL. 2:14-16.

Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the 2 thus making peace. (Eph 2:15).

VI. THE 10 COMMANDMENT LAW WAS SO GLORIOUS THAT MOSES' FACE GLOWED AS HE RECEIVED IT, BUT THAT LAW HAS BEEN ABOLISHED & REPLACED BY ONE EVEN MORE GLORIOUS.

READ EXODUS 34:28-33; 2 CORINTHIANS 3:7-8, 13-15

VII. THE SABBATH LAW WAS NOT A MORAL OBLIGATION
Moral law relates to obligations concerning our fellow man--murder, theft, lying, adultery, etc. A moral law involves something that is right or wrong within itself, by its nature. The Sabbath was not such a law. There was no way for man to know about the Sabbath till God revealed it to Israel at Mt Sinai.

VIII. SABBATARIANS TODAY OBSERVE NEITHER THE SABBATH NOR ITS PENALTY ACCORDING TO LAW.

A. Note HOW the Sabbath was to be observed. No work, no travel, no fire, proper sacrifice, etc. EX 35:2-3; 16:29.
READ NUMBERS 28:9-10.

B. The penalty for violation, death. EX 31:15; Num 15:32-36

CONCLUSION:

1. There is not one command anywhere in the Bible for a Christian to keep the Sabbath.
2. There is no blessing promised to anyone today for observing the Sabbath.
3. No penalty is prescribed for breaking the Sabbath.

4. There is no record of an apostle of Jesus Christ observing the Sabbath as a special day of rest or worship after Pentecost, Acts 2.

NOTE: Paul's preaching & teaching in Jewish synagogues on the Sabbath was exactly like his seeking opportunity to address multitudes on the yearly feast days, Acts 18:21; 20:16, etc.

5. If there is any Biblical sense in which one could speak of a "Christian Sabbath," he would be speaking of heaven, for this is the "rest" that is promised to Christians "after our labors and trials" are over.

READ HEB 4:9-11.

Cox Springs, TX, January 23, 1966
Jonestown, TX, October, 1970
Springhill, LA, February 28, 1971
La Porte, TX, November 20, 1977
Germantown, Philadelphia, PA, February 15, 1987
Exton, PA, June 28, 1987
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 24, 1992