

The Mark of The BEAST
or
The Sign of GOD?
Do YOU Know The Difference?

"Truth is so obscure
in these times,
and falsehood
so established,
that unless we
Love Truth,
we cannot know it."

- Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)
French Mathematician,
Physicist, Inventor, &
Christian Philosopher



**Bible Studies for those who
want to know The TRUTH!!!**

One Nation Under God Ministries www.onug.us


BIBLE STUDY: Do You Have The Sign Of God?

If an Eagle, Globe, and Anchor identifies one as a U.S. Marine, a Hammer and Sickle designates one as a Communist, and Obama's O symbol infers the wearer is an American Socialist; what kind of sign does God use to mark His People as belonging to Him?

The Bible is clear, even Satan utilizes marks to identify his own, calling it "the mark of the Beast" (Revelation 13:15-18, 14:9-13, 15:1-3, 16:1-15, 19:1-9, 11-21). If praise or condemnation comes from what type of mark or sign we wear in this physical realm; how much more will be the reward or penalty for those who choose their "spiritual sign"! God does have a sign for His people, and it is one YOU will want to have, if you are a student of God's Holy Word, the Bible (Exodus 31:13 / Leviticus 23:1-4)!

Today's lesson follows our previous:

What Does The Bible Really Say About Christians Worshipping On Sunday?



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BIBLE STUDY: What Does The Bible Really Say About Christians Worshipping On Sunday?

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Allow me now to ask you a question, before Almighty God, and according to His Holy Word...

If God is a Spirit, and those that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23-24); is it possible to worship the Living God with a lie, or unrepentant, with the mark of the beast?

Jesus answers this question for us (Matthew 15:9 / Mark 7:7 / John 4:22-26 / Luke 6:46 / Malachi 1:6-14 / Exodus 20:12 / 1 John 2:4).

Remember The Sabbath Day, To Keep It Holy:

Could Americans be missing out on God's formula for success, simply because they ignore the lesson of a day of rest?

"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).

When I look back on the times I sought to create anything new, or build something of value in my life (like planting a garden, starting a business, building a career; or developing a friendship); it took a lot of work, energy, effort and labor to make it all come together! The same was true whenever I attempted to replace, or repair something that I already had (an overgrown backyard, a broken fence, or tearing out old carpeting and installing the new).

Back in the day, I would work non-stop, until the task at hand was done. Many a time, I would push myself without a break, day after day, week after week, despite getting tired; all because my immediate goal had not yet been accomplished. I would tell myself, "Quitters never win, and Winners never quit!" which I still

believe rings true; yet I had not known the importance of a day of rest.

The Dull Ax Syndrome:

A childhood mentor of mine, Sidney M. Schwartz; once shared with me a story about two lumberjacks. One was older and seasoned, with many years of tree cutting experience. The other, he said, was younger and inexperienced, yet enthusiastic, full of energy and much stronger than the first.

Day after day, the older man out paced the younger in the number of trees he was able to fall. Bewildered, the young lumberjack inquired of the older, "How is it you are able to cut down more trees than me, when I am stronger and have more energy than you?" The seasoned man shared his wisdom with the younger, "I stop and take time to sharpen my ax. You are too busy cutting down trees to sharpen your ax." A simple truth, yet so profound!

Could God's formula for success be that simple?

"Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest" (Exodus 34:21). Even when there is important work to get done, God still commands His people to observe and keep His Sabbath, His Way!

The original formula for success was Six days of Labor, One day of Rest. It is important not to get those numbers mixed up! It is not five days and two, or four days and three. Getting just the right formula is so very important to your success. Why is that? Because God said so! It is a simple test of obedience!

"If you rest too long the weeds take the garden. Not to think so is naive." - Jim Rohn

I guess when you can create your own heaven and earth, and everything that there in is, you have authority to set your own ratio for work and rest. But in this world, the dye has been cast.

God's Laws are not going to change simply because you don't agree with them (Proverbs 14:12, 16:25 / Jeremiah 10:23-24 / Matthew 24:35 / Mark 13:31 / Luke 21:33 / Psalm 119:86-106 / Isaiah 55:11, 51:6-8 / Matthew 5:18-20)!

People cannot change their birthday from one day on the calendar to another; yet some have absolutely no problem with changing a day GOD says is Holy to Him, and on which GOD says His People MUST honor Him (Revelation 1:10 / Mark 2:28 / Isaiah 58:13-14 / Exodus 20:8-11).

"See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in His Ways, and to keep His Commandments and His Statutes and His Judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall Bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it." (Deuteronomy 30:15-16). The shortest path between where you are now, and to God's Blessings; is the pathway of Obedience to God (Proverbs 3:1-12)!!!

The Benefits of the Blessings that come with Sabbath:

Resting, on the Seventh day, allows you to sharpen your ax! It allows you to identify errors, correct strategy, refine your game plan, to refocus your efforts, refresh your mind and your body. Use God's wisdom to invest those corrections into the next six days of higher productivity! A Sabbath day of rest recharges you to take great leaps forward, to turn it up a notch in your life with amazing results; to do more than you ever thought you possibly could!

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6)!!! It is a simple test of YOUR obedience, and one that carries with it, MANY Blessings to those who do OBEY their God (Deuteronomy 28:1-14 / Proverbs 10:22)!!!

As Almighty God reveals to you His Truth, resolve to totally surrender your life, and your work schedule, in obedience to Him;

to follow ALL of His instructions in FAITH; then RELY on Him to provide for ALL of YOUR needs.

Remember what we just read: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:5-10)!!!

The First Century Church of God NEVER Died out (Matthew 16:18)!!! The church was built upon the "Petra" (giant, massive boulder of Christ – not Peter or "petros" (little stone or pebble); and the gates of hell (the actual word "hades" meaning "the grave") would never prevail against, or swallow up the Church!

Jesus kept Saturday, the seventh day Sabbath Holy... and He taught His disciples to do the same. The very first Christians faithfully followed Christ's example in this regard; and Jesus says that those who hear His voice today... **still do** (John 10:25-30)!!!

The Seventh Day Sabbath is The Sign of God (Exodus 31:12-18), it is a Sign, Mark, Seal by which YOU and I can KNOW who is going to come up in the First Resurrection – being given Eternal Life by Jesus Christ Himself at His Return (Revelation 22:14 / 1 John 2:25); it is a Sign that although we may have died, and our bodies turned to dust... we have NOT perished, but are only sleeping until the time that Jesus Returns to reward us with Crowns, Authority, and Eternal Life – at the Last Trumpet (Hebrews 11:13, 39-40)!!!

Jesus said He was Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28); He Blessed the seventh day (Genesis 2:3), and He sanctified the seventh day (Exodus 20:11).

God gave the Sabbath Day to Adam in the Garden of Eden, nearly 6,000 years ago; almost 2,300 years before there ever was a

Jew. The Bible never calls "the Sabbath of the Lord thy God" a Jewish Sabbath! It is a Holy rest day meant for ALL humans, everywhere, throughout all of human history.

Jesus did NOT rise from the dead on a Sunday (the first day of the week)! The Bible is clear on that (Matthew 28:1-7 / John 20:1-9), Christ rose on His Sabbath Day (Matthew 12:38-40), exactly three days and three nights from when he was buried.

God reminded us to keep His seventh day Sabbath Holy, by writing it with His very own finger - into a stone tablet (Deuteronomy 5:22), and He destroyed the Israelites in the wilderness because they profaned His Sabbath Day (Ezekiel 20:19-27). God who does not change (Malachi 3:6), would not then change His Sabbath to another day (Hebrews 4:8)!!!

However, a shrewd politician, Emperor Constantine, did!

The Deception Begins:

Almost 1700 years ago (1,694 to be exact!), Constantine successfully hatched a scheme to unite Christians and pagans, in an effort to strengthen his disintegrating empire. On March 7th, 321 A.D. he passed his now famous National Sunday Law (in which pagans would worship their "sun" god, and Christians would worship the "son" of God.

With many Christians forgetting Christ's own Words of "three days and three nights" (Matthew 12:38-40), and adopting the long standing Roman pagan holy days of Good Friday - Easter Sunday - as a Christian festival, the dye was cast for what many follow today. Constantine cemented the deal in history, by even printing coins which "bore on the one side the letters of the name of Christ, on the other the figure of the sun god" (- Arthur P. Stanley, History of the Eastern Church, lect. vi, par. 14).

Today we use the names of Roman gods, in English, for each day of the week: Sunday for the sun god, Monday for the moon god, Saturday for the god of Saturn; However, Anglo-Saxon or Nordic

gods have replaced some of the planets gods in our "modern" society: Tuesday is named after the god Tiw or Tis, Wednesday after the god Woden or Oden, Thursday after the god Thor, and Friday for the god Frei! Most people alive today, who profess Jesus Christ as their Savior, do not know how to name a weekday without inadvertently referring to a pagan god! God calls each weekday simply by number (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 2:1-3). God also has a stern prohibition about His people using the names of pagan gods (Deuteronomy 12:1-4).

Most recently, in 1975 A.D., in a move reminiscent of Emperor Constantine himself, the International Standards Organization (ISO) decided that Monday would be the first day of the week, in clear opposition to what the Bible says! Many European countries and international airlines now print their calendars, and number their days, to reflect this rewrite of history (see Daniel 7:25).

The Truth is - that God still promises you and I today, Christian and Jew alike - that if we will call the time period each week, from sundown Friday through sundown Saturday, "a delight" (Isaiah 58:13-14) and Honor God by not doing what we want, nor finding our own pleasure, nor speaking our own words on this day; the LORD will cause us to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed us with the heritage of Jacob our father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it! Wow! How's that for a divine promise?

God uses His original Sabbath Day, not some cheap imitation, born out of a dark and pagan past; to be "a sign", to show everyone around me, exactly who belongs to a Holy God - and who does not. To show people who He considers "sanctified" - and who He does not. That is so awesome, Lord! Read it with me:

"Moreover also I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, **that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them**" (Ezekiel 20:12)! Amen, Amen, Amen!!!

Those who have totally abandoned self, and self interest, have been sanctified or set apart as holy by God, and have been given the Sign of God; those whom you and I can see, are keeping the Sign of God, are those who have died to self and now live obediently for Christ (Galatians 2:20 / Luke 9:23 / Galatians 5:24 / John 12:24 / Mark 8:35 / Romans 6:1-23 / Matthew 10:38)! Is not a cross - a sign, a symbol, a mark in our modern society - that those who carry or display it are "Christian"? Likewise, keeping God's Sabbath is the Original Sign, The Permanent Sign and Eternal Sign - in heavenly realms - where IT REALLY MATTERS!!! Remember Matthew 5:17-20 and Remember the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11)!!!

Have YOU ever Evaluated and Critiqued your BELIEFS? Have YOU ever Validated or Modified Your Belief System? Most haven't!!!

Ask yourself how you came to believe the things you do? Most of us believe what we were taught, what we heard; what others around us told us to believe. Grandma taught it; we bought it! This is how most of us formed our core beliefs.

Arabs worship God on Friday, Jews on Saturday, and most Christians worship Him on Sunday. If there is only one God, is there not just one Sabbath day? Of course! Our God is calling us to reject the man-made religious traditions and customs we grew up on; and to adopt ONLY His Ways, and to do ONLY what He Says (1 John 1:6-7 / Titus 1:16 / 1 John 2:3-6)! We must embrace God's Truth of His Holy Sabbath Day, reject the lies, and STOP being rebellious before God (John 8:44 / Titus 1:10-11)!!!

The Roman Catholic Church's official teachings:

James Cardinal Gibbons (*The Faith of our Fathers*, 88th ed., pp. 89):

"But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify."

The official Catechism for the Roman Catholic Church, Stephen Keenan (*A Doctrinal Catechism* 3rd ed., p. 174):

"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."

"Question: When Protestants do profane work upon Saturday, do they follow the Scripture as their only rule of faith...?"

Answer: On the contrary, they (Protestants) have only the authority of tradition (meaning the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church) for this practice. In profaning Saturday, they violate one of God's commandments, which He has never clearly abrogated, remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day."

The Roman Catholic official teaching is that Protestants that do work on Saturday are violating the Commandments of their God!

Exodus 20:8

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Exodus 31:13

"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily ye shall keep my Sabbaths: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am Jehovah who sanctifieth you."

Book (Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers [Volume XIV] 363 A.D.):

"Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord's Day (which the Catholic Church designates as Sunday);"

What would later become the Roman Catholic Church; in earlier times, used the government of Rome to arrest, torture, and kill those who profaned Sunday (Read Fox's Book of The History of Christian Martyrs for a deeper knowledge and understanding in this area).

The Word of God was written to teach us God's Way, it was intended to show us our path in life (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Do you really believe this (John 10:9, 14:6)? When we apply the Word of God to any situation, we will get extreme clarity! When we want to be sure we are keeping God's Sabbath Day correctly, simple compare what you are presently doing to the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12-16). You will receive help in your confusion, and discernment of God's Truth from Satan's lies (James 1:5 / Proverbs 2:6)



**The Sabbath Day:
Sundown Friday - Sundown Saturday**

"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, 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, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it" (Isaiah 58:13-14). www.onug.us

Who was Herbert W. Armstrong?

Herbert W. Armstrong, born in 1892, was the founder and Pastor General of The Worldwide Church of God (WWCOG) until his death in 1986. God began to call him in the fall of 1926; he was baptized in the spring of 1927. Over the course of Mr. Armstrong's ministry, which began in Oregon toward the end of 1933; God revealed through him, a great many Biblical doctrines, as taught by Jesus Christ and the First Century Church of God. These doctrinal Truths had become lost to most of the world through the centuries since; because men desired to follow other men, rather than their High Priest, Jesus Christ. From the founding of the Radio Church of God in 1934 until it became the Worldwide Church of God in 1968; the church, under Mr. Armstrong's leadership, taught hundreds of millions of people God's Eternal Truths and Gospel Plan - through radio, television, and printed literature. After his death and through the first half of the 1990's; his successors suddenly and un-expectantly, ceased to believe and ceased to teach, virtually every one of the doctrines revealed through Scripture to Mr. Armstrong. These new church leaders were also responsible for capturing and destroying both the corporate and visible church which God had built by Mr. Armstrong's hand (Acts 2:47). Ministers who desired to remain "Sola Scriptura" (a Christ Follower's life is governed and corrected by Written Scripture alone: Matthew 4:4 / Luke 4:4 / Deuteronomy 8:3), left the WWCOG to pastor their own individual churches as Christ led them (Matthew 10:5-15).

Who was Herbert W. Armstrong? (Continued)

About twenty percent of the original WWCOG membership followed their pastors into various "splinter groups", hoping to preserve the Scriptural authority previously maintained, but now discarded by the new church; now named, "Grace Communion International" (or GCI, which officially became effective on April 3, 2009). GCI attempted to rationalize their departure from the practices of the First Century Church of God, and those of the former WWCOG, by stating on April 15, 2009: "After Armstrong's death in 1986, the church re-examined its doctrines and teachings. This process led to a complete reformation to Christian orthodoxy by the mid 1990's. The evangelical denomination is now a member of the National Association of Evangelicals with church president, Joseph Tkach, serving on its board."

Disillusioned, from having placed their trust in these human leaders rather than in Christ, and that their church was now embracing "mainstream Christianity" along with the National Association of Evangelicals which "Christianizes" pagan rites (Matthew 7:13-14 / Deuteronomy 12:1-4, 28-32); eighty percent of the former WWCOG membership fell away completely, and left the Truth and the Sanctification of the Church of God (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5)! Most of these, sadly; have themselves also returned to the pagan forms of Christianity from which they had once been set free, or they worship God in seclusion, away from the necessary and unified fellowship they once had been Blessed with (Hebrews 6:4-6, 8).

One Nation Under God Ministries (ONUG) rose up from this church rubble in 2008; as just a very small fold with a few Baptized brethren from the original Worldwide Church of God. Trusting not in human apostles to lead them in a singular global work, sanctioned by the world; but trusting instead on the very Words and Examples of Jesus Christ Himself, to lead His church in the way that they should go (Matthew 28:18-20 / Mark 16:15-20). God does not change (Malachi 3:6 / Hebrews 13:8); nor does the manner of Worship which a Holy God will accept (John 4:22-24); so it is time for God's people to return to Him by the Example and Words of Jesus Christ (Malachi 3:7-12)!

One Nation Under God Ministries exists today, to preach Christ's Gospel to a fallen world before our LORD returns. We seek to gather as many scattered and lost sheep as Jesus permits, in these last days (Matthew 9:37-38 / Luke 10:1-12) to the Faith and Truth once delivered by Jesus Christ and The First Century Church of God; which was re-established by Mr. Armstrong in the early twentieth century, and is continued on today by the few faithful, but scattered folds of the Body of Christ – of which we are one (John 10:16 / Revelation 2:1-29, 3:1-22). In addition to preaching the Gospel of Christ, as a witness to the world, before the Triumphant Return of Jesus (Matthew 24:9-14, 4:23 / Mark 13:10 / Acts 17:31 / Romans 10:18 / Colossians 1:3-12); ONUG Ministries educates and prepares the Saints of God (1 Corinthians 3:1-3 / John 16:12 / Hebrews 5:12 / 1 Peter 2:2) for the offices they will hold upon the earth at His Return (Revelation 5:10, 20:4, 6)! We hope that you will join us on-line (www.onug.us), or in person, and experience The Way Jesus came to show us! You and your children will be glad you did!

One Nation Under God Ministries

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The Church of God, founded by Jesus Christ kept the same Sabbath Day as Jesus Christ, after His death and resurrection; and they STILL are keeping it TODAY (Hebrews 4:1-11)!!!

In fact, when Jesus Christ returns to this earth and gathers His Saints together (Matthew 24:27-31), Jesus will empower them to rule with Him for a thousand years (Revelation 5:10, 20:4-6), precisely because they kept His Sabbath Day Commandments (Revelation 22:14) among others. The world will then, in mass, learn to do the same!!!

Read it with me (Isaiah 66:22-23)!!! What a marvelous Truth and Blessing for all or mankind; that God will eventually get the entire world to return to correctly keeping His original seventh day Sabbath! Praise God!

"Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. 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" - Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:17-18).

May God continue to bless you abundantly, especially now, as you obediently keep His Sabbath Day Holy (Matthew 12:1-13 / Luke 4:16 / John 15:9-14 / Psalm 111:10)!

We are honored that you joined us in the study of God's Word!

- submitted by R.C. Brown

One Nation Under God U.S.A. Ministries (www.onug.us)

The following is some additional History that Your Church probably hasn't shared with you! We call it **"Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions about Sunday Worship"**:

The vast majority of Christian churches today teach the masses to observe Sunday, the first day of the week, as a time for rest and worship. Yet it has generally been known and freely admitted by these same churches, that the early Christians observed only the seventh day - as the Sabbath of the most High God.

History, as we are learning, reveals that it took decades upon decades (after the death of the original apostles) in order for a Roman Pagan political and religious system to repudiate the Sabbath of God as written in Scripture; and put in its place, a substitution observance of the first day of the week (which traditionally was kept by the worshippers of the sun god). We can see over and over again, that this Roman religious system, which later became the Roman Catholic Church, freely acknowledges that there is no Biblical authority for the observance of Sunday! It was, and still is, simply a Roman Church policy that changed the Sabbath to the first day of the week; a change still adopted by most Protestant Churches today.

We will also see that the Protestant writers, their clergymen, and their Biblical scholars, all honestly admit that there is no Biblical authority for their congregations to keep a Roman Pagan first-day Sabbath. Yet they continue to do so, and many a Protestant congregant sits in a pew, without the slightest consciousness of their hypocrisy (Matthew 23:13, 15, 23-24, 27-39)!

God says to "Remember" (Exodus 20:8); Jude, the brother of Jesus Christ, warns us to be "in Remembrance" of the Sign of God, and the faith "once" delivered unto the Saints (Jude 1:1-5, 11-13). But Satan says to Forget, and so we have (Isaiah 17:9-14)! We have been spoiled, and we have been robbed - by our very own churches and by their ministers! With smiling faces and smooth words they have robbed us, and our children, of Divine enlightenment from on High. Those who have misused the Name of Christ, and said they are His apostles - but are not; they have lied to us from the pulpits!!! They have kept us from tasting the Heavenly Gift, and kept us from being partakers of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 23:13)! I pray earnestly that this study will show

YOU how Christ leads and sets a Personal Example for His flock; and how YOU can begin to recognize the Voice of your Savior! May you now discern the voice of strangers, reject their teachings, and flee from them (John 10:4-5)!!!

God now sets before you a choice, and He commands you to wisely choose the correct path (Deuteronomy 30:19-20 / Isaiah 17:7-8)!

Catholic Confessions:

"The Catholic Church for over 1,000 years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day [of worship] from Saturday to Sunday... In the Old Testament, reference is made 126 times to the Sabbath, and all these texts conspire harmoniously in voicing the will of God commanding the seventh day to be kept, because God Himself first kept it, making it obligatory on all as 'a perpetual covenant.' Nor can we imagine any one foolhardy enough to question the identity of Saturday with the Sabbath or seventh day, seeing that the people of Israel have been keeping Saturday from the giving of the law 2514 BC to the present... Examining the New Testament from cover to cover critically, we find the Sabbath referred to 61 times. We find, too, that the Savior invariably selected the Sabbath (Saturday) to teach in the synagogues and work miracles. The four Gospels refer to the Sabbath (Saturday) 51 times. . . . Hence the conclusion is inevitable . . . that of those who follow the Bible as their guide, the Israelites and the Seventh-day Adventists, have the exclusive weight of evidence on their side, whilst the biblical Protestant has not a word in self-defense for his substitution of Sunday for Saturday. . . . They have ignored and condemned their teacher, the Bible . . . and they have adopted a day [instituted and] kept by the Catholic Church." – From The Catholic Mirror: Official publication of Cardinal Gibbons and the Papacy in the United States, published in Baltimore, Maryland, September 1893.

John Laux (*A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies* (1936), vol. 1, P. 51.), writes:

"Some theologians have held that God likewise directly determined the Sunday as the day of worship in the New Law; that He Himself has explicitly substituted the Sunday for the Sabbath. But this theory is now entirely abandoned. It is now commonly held that God simply gave His Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days as holy days."

Daniel Ferres, ed., (in the *Manual of Christian Doctrine*, 1916, p.67.), writes:

"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 strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same Church."

James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore (1877-1921), in a personally signed letter, writes:

"Is Saturday the seventh day according to the Bible and the Ten Commandments? I answer yes. Is Sunday the first day of the week and did the Church change the seventh day - Saturday - for Sunday, the first day? I answer yes. Did Christ change the day? I answer *no!* - Faithfully yours, J. Card. Gibbons"

From the Catholic Virginian (Oct. 3, 1947, p. 9, article, To Tell You the Truth), is written:

"For example, nowhere in the Bible do we find that Christ or the Apostles ordered that the Sabbath be changed from Saturday to Sunday. We have the commandment of God given to Moses to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is the 7th day of the week,

Saturday. Today most Christians keep Sunday because it has been revealed to us by the [Roman Catholic] church outside the Bible."

Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., (*The Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, 1957, p. 50), asks and answers:

"Question: Which is the Sabbath day?

Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

Answer. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

From, Martin J. Scott, (in "*Things Catholics Are Asked About*", 1927, p. 136), we find written:

"Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday Now the Church ... instituted, by God's authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday."

Peter R. Kraemer, (Catholic Church Extension Society, 1975, Chicago, Illinois), states:

"Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

1) That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man (Stultify: to prove to be of unsound mind and thus not

responsible; to appear to be stupid, foolish, or absurdly illogical; or to invalidate).

2) We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws.

It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible."

T. Enright, C.S.S.R., (in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas, Feb. 18, 1884), said:

"I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' The Catholic Church says: 'No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.' And lo! The entire civilized world bows down in a reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church."

Protestant Confessions:

Protestant theologians and preachers from a wide spectrum of denominations have been quite candid in admitting that there is no Biblical authority for observing Sunday as the Sabbath.

Anglican/Episcopal

Isaac Williams, (*Plain Sermons on the Catechism*, vol. 1, pp.334, 336), writes:

"And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because the Bible, but because the church has enjoined it."

Canon Eyton, (*The Ten Commandments*, pp. 52, 63, 65), says:

"There is no word, no hint, in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday into the rest of Sunday no divine law enters.... The observance of Ash Wednesday or Lent stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday."

Bishop Seymour, (*Why We Keep Sunday*), writes:

"We have made the change from the seventh day to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy Catholic Church."

Baptist

Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, (quoted from a paper read before a New York ministers' conference, Nov. 13, 1893, reported in the *New York Examiner*, Nov.16, 1893):

"There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week.... Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament; absolutely not!

To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years' intercourse with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question... never alluded to any transference of the day; also, that during forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated.

Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history... But what a pity it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god, adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism!"

William Owen Carver, (*The Lord's Day in Our Day*, p. 49), writes:

"There was never any formal or authoritative change from the Jewish seventh-day Sabbath to the Christian first-day observance."

Congregationalist

Dr. R. W. Dale, (*The Ten Commandments* [New York: Eaton & Mains], p. 127-129):

"...it is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath. The Sabbath was founded on a specific Divine command. We can plead no such command for the obligation to observe Sunday... There is not a single sentence in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday."

Timothy Dwight, (*Theology: Explained and Defended*, 1823, Ser. 107, vol. 3, p. 258):

"... the Christian Sabbath [Sunday] is not in the Scriptures, and was not by the primitive Church called the Sabbath."

Disciples of Christ

Alexander Campbell, (*The Christian Baptist*, Feb. 2, 1824, vol. 1. no. 7, p. 164):

"'But, say some, 'it was changed from the seventh to the first day.' Where? When? And by whom? No man can tell. No; it never was changed, nor could it be, unless creation was to be gone through again: for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to the reason, can be changed! It is all old wives' fables to talk of the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that august personage changed it, who changes times and laws ex officio - I think his name is Doctor Antichrist.'

And from the book, "First Day Observance" (pages 17 & 19), we read:

"The first day of the week is commonly called the Sabbath. This is a mistake. The Sabbath of the Bible was the day just preceeding the first day of the week. The first day of the week is never called the Sabbath anywhere in the entire Scriptures. It is also an error to talk about the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change."

Lutheran

A study book of the United Lutheran Church (*The Sunday Problem*, 1923, p. 36):

"We have seen how gradually the impression of the Jewish Sabbath faded from the mind of the Christian Church, and how completely the newer thought underlying the observance of the first day took possession of the church. We have seen that the Christians of the first three centuries never confused one with the other, but for a time celebrated both."

Augsburg Confession of Faith, art. 28; written by Melanchthon, approved by Martin Luther, 1530 (published in *The Book of*

Concord of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Henry Jacobs, ed., 1911, p. 63):

"They [Roman Catholics] refer to the Sabbath Day, a shaving been changed into the Lord's Day, contrary to the Decalogue, as it seems. Neither is there any example whereof they make more than concerning the changing of the Sabbath Day. Great, say they, is the power of the Church, since it has dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments!"

Dr. Augustus Neander, (*The History of the Christian Religion and Church* - Henry John Rose, tr., 1843, p. 186):

"The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a Divine command in this respect, far from them, and from the early apostolic Church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday."

John Theodore Mueller, (*Sabbath or Sunday*, pp. 15, 16):

"But they err in teaching that Sunday has taken the place of the Old Testament Sabbath and therefore must be kept as the seventh day had to be kept by the children of Israel... These churches err in their teaching, for Scripture has in no way ordained the first day of the week in place of the Sabbath. There is simply no law in the New Testament to that effect."

Methodist

Harris Franklin Rall, (*Christian Advocate*, July 2, 1942, p.26):

"Take the matter of Sunday. There are indications in the New Testament as to how the church came to keep the first day of the week as its day of worship, but there is no passage telling Christians to keep that day, or to transfer the Jewish Sabbath to that day."

John Wesley, (*The Works of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M.*, John Emory, ed. [New York: Eaton & Mains], Sermon 25, vol. 1, p. 221):

"But, the moral law contained in the Ten Commandments, and enforced by the prophets, He [Christ] did not take away. It was not the design of His coming to revoke any part of this. This is a law which never can be broken... Every part of this law must remain in force upon all mankind, and in all ages; as not depending either on time or place, or any other circumstances liable to change, but on the nature of God and the nature of man, and their unchangeable relation to each other."

Dwight L. Moody

D. L. Moody, (*Weighed and Wanting* [Fleming H. Revell Co.: New York], pp. 47, 48):

"The Sabbath was binding in Eden, and it has been in force ever since. This fourth commandment begins with the word 'remember,' showing that the Sabbath already existed when God wrote the law on the tables of stone at Sinai. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away with when they will admit that the other nine are still binding?"

Presbyterian

T. C. Blake, D.D., (*Theology Condensed*, pp.474, 475):.

"The Sabbath is a part of the Decalogue - the Ten Commandments. This alone forever settles the question as to the perpetuity of the institution... Until, therefore, it can be shown that the whole moral law has been repealed, the Sabbath will stand... The teaching of Christ confirms the perpetuity of the Sabbath."

God is calling YOU to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and the first century church, can you hear His Voice (1 John 2:6 / Matthew 11:29)? The Sabbath and Holy Days show us God's Plan. When we keep these Holy Days we become the very Voice of God to this fallen world; we are in effect saying, by our actions on each Feast Day, "Come LORD Jesus, Come" (Revelation 22:12, 17, 20-21)!!! We are actually confessing Christ before men (Matthew 10:32-33)!

The faithful and obedient in Christ will always keep God's True Holy Days and Sabbath; and will reject the pagan lies and substitutions of God's TRUTH (Revelation 22:11-15)! God's Holy Days are meant for Christians to ENJOY! They truly are FEAST DAYS, meant to be enjoyed by God's elect everywhere, throughout time, FOREVER!!!

If you have never faithfully kept God's seventh day Sabbath holy or God's Holy Days, the way Jesus Christ did – in the flesh, and in the fellowship of other followers of the Son of Man; we invite you to obediently enter into God's rest today, and to keep the Feasts of the LORD (Hebrews 4:1-11 / Leviticus 23:1-44)! Contact us to find out where we fellowship and worship God, in your area, on His Sabbath Days (Exodus 31:12-18). We would love to hear from you and help get you started! :o)

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"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one" (John 10:26-30).

Christians must learn to read the Bible, interpret the scriptures according to Biblical principles (Isaiah 28:9-10, / Matthew 13:52), and begin to apply the precepts they learn in their walk with God. Individual study is essential; coupled with fellowship times of group study, worship, and discussions of personal insights and observations.

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- submitted by R.C. Brown

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– Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:1, 7-10).

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