

Is there such a thing as a Christian Sabbath?

The Biblical accounting of days is an evening and a morning. (Ge.1.5) As we know, there are seven cycles of these day which make up one week: day one through day seven. Being these days begin a little differently than we are familiar with today it is necessary to point out that the seventh day of the week begins on our Friday evening and ends at the beginning of our Saturday evening. This order of days has not changed since creation. In the day that the LORD declared that HE *finished* or *ended* His creating He *rested*. There in Ge. 2.2 it reads ... *and he rested*. *Rest* in the Hebrew language is *sabbath*.

The English word *Sabbath* is first used in the Bible in Exodus 16.23. There the LORD chided Israel for gathering more manna than was their daily need. Only on one day, the day before the Sabbath day, Israel was to gather in a double-portion of manna to eat because the LORD would rest on the next day, the Sabbath day, from sending any manna. Biblically, since creation to the history of Ex.16.23, only the LORD is said to have rested on the Sabbath. No man is said to have observed a Sabbath day until the giving of the Law at Sinai. (cf. Ex. 20.8-11) Such rest was historically unknown to all that lived prior to the giving of the Law at Sinai. If Adam, Cain, Abel, Seth, Lamech, Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth, and all of those prior to Sinai knew anything of Sabbath it was that the LORD rested in it. Otherwise there is no commandment to any man prior to the giving of the Law for man to observe Sabbath.

The Law of Moses is the first occasion when man was commanded to rest on the *seventh* day. To whom was the Law of Moses given? It was given to Israel. It was never given to the gentiles. Ex.20.2, *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage*. Again, *Here, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD ...Deu.6.4*. Since the Sabbath was given to Israel then how can it be a Christian observance? But our Lord Jesus observed Sabbath! The early disciples of the first churches observed Sabbath and went to synagogues and the Temple! It must be Christian, right? It wasn't because they were Christian, but because they were Jews of the nation of Israel to whom the LORD had given the Law of Moses that they observed Sabbath. But the attitude of these same disciples to the Sabbath, and therefore to the whole Law of Moses, after Christ's death and resurrection began to change. The messianic Jews will begin to see in the New Testament Scriptures over the next 40 years (particularly in the history of the Acts of the Apostles) the necessity to leave behind the old practices of what now is called Judaism to follow after the commandments of Christ. In this way the believing Jews may join together with the believing Gentiles in one body, by one Spirit, in one government, eating the same things and worshipping the same God on any day they deem fit to gather together in the name of the Lord Jesus. The Sabbath observance, the dietary laws (Acts 10.13), the religious Sabbath holidays (Col.2.16), tithing (!!!), circumcision are past for the New Testament faithful whether they are Jew or Gentile. Christian Jews and Gentiles have no Sabbath day observance.

Sunday is not a Sabbath. It should never be called a Sabbath! That notion is a Catholic and Protestant error! How can the first day of the week be the seventh day of the week? Where is it in the New Testament that the saints are commanded to observe Sabbath? Christians customarily meet together on the first day of the week in honor of the day that it was *discovered* that Jesus our Lord raised from the dead. They meet because of the *necessity* of fellowship, not because of a commandment to meet on a particular day. Some brethren have to work on Sundays. How does my brother working on Sunday violate the terms of fellowship under the New Covenant? Let us help him, not condemn him.

The Christian Sabbath

Is there a Christian Sabbath? No, there is not. Saints of God need no Law of Moses to compel them to fellowship with the saints. The Law of Christ working in the heart provokes us in love to meet with the saints at every opportunity.

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