

Lesson No. 11. The Law Today (Question Box)

As we open our Question Box today, the first question we have is—

QUESTION NO. 1. "Paul says the Law was not made for a righteous man; why keep it?"

ANSWER: Let us read 1 Timothy 1:8-10, please: "But we know that the *Law is good*, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the Law was not made for a righteous man, but for the *lawless and disobedient*, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murders of mothers, for *manslayers*, for *whoremongers* . . . for *menstealers*, for *liars* . . . and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine." These verses are easy to be understood if we are willing to take them as they are. Notice verse 8 first. Paul plainly says that we know that the Law is good, if a man use it lawfully. Please note that the *Law is good*, and has a purpose in the Gospel age. It is *good if used lawfully*.

That is the object of these verses, to tell us *how to use the Law* and not to tell us that we should not use it at all.

If we are not to keep the Law, then why did Paul say anything about using the Law lawfully? In verses 9 and 10 he tells us that the Law was not made for a righteous man. For whom was it made then? Let Paul answer, "For the lawless and disobedient." What good does the Law do when taught to the lawless and disobedient? "By the *Law is the knowledge of sin*" (Romans 3:20). "Sin is the transgression of the Law" (1 John 3:4). "I had not known sin, but by the Law" (Romans 7:7). "That sin by the Commandment might become exceeding sinful" (Romans 7:13). *We use the Law lawfully when we use it to give people a knowledge of their sins*. When people break the Fourth Commandment by desecrating God's holy Sabbath day, *we use the Law lawfully when we teach them to obey the Law of God*.

Look further into 1 Timothy 1:9,10. The Law was made for *sinners*. Do we have any sinners today? If so we need to use the Law of God to teach them that they *are sinners*. The Law was made for *murderers*, for *whoremongers* and for *liars*. Paul lists these sins. The same Law that condemns these sins also says "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." If the Law condemns the murderer, the adulterer, and the liar as sinners, how about those who refuse to keep the Sabbath day holy? If we break that Precept we are guilty of *all* (James 2:10-12; Romans 8:4; 1 John 3:8).

QUESTION NO. 2: "If Christians are required to keep the Sabbath, how are we to account for the open violation of the Law by Christ, Who is our Example, unless by saying that the power that made the Law can take it away, and that He did it? (Matthew 12:1-8;

John 7:22,23)."

ANSWER: I am indeed glad that the one who wrote this question knows that Christ is our Example, and said so in the question. Christ, our *Example*, did *not* violate the Law. If He did, He was a sinner in more than one way. If He broke the Sabbath Commandment as the Jews accused Him of doing in John 7:22,23 and 5:8-18, He is guilty of sin on one count and He is also guilty on another count for He said, "I have *kept* my Father's Commandments" (John 15:10). If He broke the Sabbath Commandment, He did not keep His Father's Commandment. Peter said that Jesus "did no sin . . ." (1 Peter 2:21,22). Did Peter know?

Jesus, the "Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:28) did *not* break the Sabbath day, as accused by the Jews, when He healed persons on that day. He taught that it is *lawful* to heal the sick on the Sabbath day (Luke 13:12-16; John 5:22,23; Matthew 12:10-12). Jesus did set aside Jewish *tradition* about the keeping of the Sabbath day when they accused His disciples of doing unlawful work on the Sabbath, in Matthew 12:1-8. The disciples were hungry and plucked a few ears of corn to satisfy that hunger. Jesus said that they were "guiltless." They did no more work than the lady of the house when she sets the table for the noonday meal. Read Matthew 12:1-12 again. Jesus taught us *how* to keep the Sabbath day by precept and example. We are not under Moses' ministration but under *Christ's*. *We keep the Sabbath, as well as the other nine Commandments, as Jesus taught us to live under New Testament conditions of inheritance.* There is not a hint that Christ Jesus was setting aside or taking away the Sabbath Law in Matthew 12:1-8 any more than Matthew 5:27,28 teaches that He was taking away the Law condemning adultery.

QUESTION NO. 3: "If Christians are required to keep the Sabbath, how are they to live in cold climates when it is forbidden to build a fire on the Sabbath? (Exodus 35:1-3.)"

ANSWER: This fire command is not in the Ten Commandments but was part of Moses' ministration, the added law (Galatians 3:10,19; 2 Chronicles 34:14). We keep the Sabbath as Jesus taught it by precept and example (Matthew 12:1-12). Moses' added law ended at the Cross (Colossians 2:14). We hear Christ now (Acts 2:22,23).

QUESTION NO. 4: "Can you demonstrate that the day you keep is really the seventh day, or Sabbath, coming down in regular succession from the day on which God rested?"

ANSWER: Surely we can. There are *three lines of proof and all agree.*
The first is the Bible, or Word of god.

The second is history.

The third is the custom and teachings of those who keep Sunday in honor of Christ's Resurrection.

God blessed and sanctified the seventh day in the beginning.

Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27).

When God led ancient Israel out of Egypt they were commanded to keep that original Sabbath day (Exodus 20:8-11). God Himself taught them the true Sabbath (see Exodus 16:23-30). Jesus acknowledged and kept the same Sabbath day the Jews kept (Luke 4:16; Mark 2:27,28).

The women that followed Jesus "rested the Sabbath day, according to the Commandment" (Luke 23:56).

The Church of God was taught to keep the original Sabbath day, the same Sabbath the Jews kept in the days of Christ. There has been no change in the weekly cycle of days since the days of Christ. History proves that fact. The Jews scattered in all nations for centuries would not all make the same mistake and still be in agreement on which is the Sabbath day. God promised to preserve the Sabbath as a sign between Him and the children of Israel forever (Exodus 31:16,17).

The third and last point of evidence is the custom of those who keep Sunday. Every Easter season many preachers all over the land tell us that Jesus arose on Sunday, the *first day of the week*. It seems that *they* are quite sure that *Sunday is the first day of the week* when they teach this Easter theory. They also claim to keep Sunday and call it "the Lord's Day" because of this supposed Resurrection of Christ on the first day of the week. Yes, many even quote Acts 20:7, where the disciples came together on the first day of the week to break bread, as a proof text for keeping Sunday as a day of worship. All this adds up to one thing: the *preachers and most others* who keep Sunday know that it is the *first day of the week*. If Sunday is the *first day of the week*, as taught by Protestants and Catholics, why should there be any question about which is the *seventh day*? Again I ask, Why???

QUESTION NO. 5: "When did patriarch, prophet, or apostle, or anybody else command any Gentile to keep the law of Moses: No dodging here! Proof! Proof!"

ANSWER: We do not teach that Gentiles or anyone else are now obligated to obey the book of the law given by Moses (2 Chronicles 34:14). That book of the law ended at the Cross (Colossians 2:14). However, for your information I will give proof that Gentiles were commanded to keep the same law of Moses that Israel had to keep before the days of Christ. The Gentiles were called "strangers" (Ephesians 2:11,12). Open your Bibles to Numbers 15:15,16: "One ordinance shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth with you . . . as ye are so shall the stranger be before the Lord. One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the *stranger* that sojourneth with you." "Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 24:22; Exodus 12:48,49). Paul sums it up in Romans 3:29, "Is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also." God did not have a double standard back under Moses'

ministration, neither does He had a double standard today. What is really meant by this question is "Where was a Gentile ever commanded to keep the Sabbath day?" The Sabbath is not the law of Moses, my dear friends. The Sabbath Commandment is found in the Ten Commandments, and it did not pass away with Moses' book of the law. Were the Gentiles commanded to keep the Sabbath day? Yes, they were. In the first place, the Commandment itself includes "the stranger" (see Exodus 20:8-11). Also in Isaiah 56:6 we read: "Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant." This text shows beyond a doubt that when a stranger, or Gentile, joined himself to the Lord, to serve Him, that stranger, or Gentile, had to keep the Sabbath as part of his service to the God of Israel, Who is the God of the Gentiles also. Jesus taught this same truth in His Gospel when He said, "The Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27). I would like to add for your information that history verifies the fact that the seventh day was originally the recognized Sabbath day of all Noah's posterity. The earth was of one tongue until God confused their tongue and scattered them abroad (Genesis 11:1-9). A study of the ancient known languages, as well as later languages of the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, shows that the last day of the week was designated as Sabbath day in most of those languages. They all had a seven-day week and there is a remarkable similarity in the words used to designate this seventh day as Sabbath. (See "A Chart of the Week" by Rev. William Mead Jones, D.D., 1886, in Library of Congress.)

This shows that the seven-day week with its seventh-day Sabbath was known and observed as God-ordained by all mankind for some time after the Flood. This was long before the nation of Israel.

May the Lord give you understanding and willingness to obey God regardless of human traditions.

QUESTION: "Does Romans 7:1-6 teach that the law of Moses and the Law of Christ are separate, and that we are no longer under the law of Moses, but under Christ?"

ANSWER: First shall we go back to 2 Peter 3:15-17. Here Peter gave a warning that Paul wrote some things that are hard to be understood, which some wrest to their own destruction. I am sure that no honest person wants to do that. Romans 7:1-6 is part of what Peter refers to. However, Paul did write many things plainly, so that no one need err about the law of Moses and about the Ten Commandments. These are two different laws and Paul plainly teaches that truth. If we will study these plain texts, we can then understand the hard ones. Shall we use that rule here?

Romans 7:1-6 is not dealing with the law of Moses, but it is dealing with the Ten Commandments and "the law of sin," or the "law of her husband" (verses 2,3). We are not under the book of the law of Moses, which required

circumcision and many other rites and sacrifices that could *not* take away sins (Hebrews 10:1-10; 9:8-10; Galatians 3:10,19-26). That law was abolished and is *now contrary* to us (Colossians 2:14). We live now under the *Gospel*, or *Law of Christ* (Romans 1:16).

The *Law of Christ* is *not*, as some teach, a *new Law* given in place of the Ten Commandments. Galatians 6:2 refers to that *Law of love* that Jesus gave to His Church in John 13:34,35. Read it. Also 1 John 4:21. You can read *all* of the *four Gospel Records* of the *life and teachings* of Christ Jesus and you will not *find* Him giving a *new law* in substitution for the Ten Commandments—but He *magnified* that *Law* and taught *obedience* from the heart (Isaiah 42:21; Matthew 5:17-28; 2 Corinthians 3:2,3). The Moral Law that Jesus taught was *not new* but was well known to the Jews. He came to take away *sin*, the *transgression* of the *Law*, and *not* the *Law* that defines *sin* (1 John 3:4,5; Romans 3:19,20; 7:7).

Now let us go back to Romans 7:1-6 and let Paul explain his own meaning of these verses. In verse 1 he says that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth. In verses 2 and 3, he gives an illustration that a woman is *bound by the law to her husband* so long as *he liveth*. But if the *husband be dead*, she is *loosed from the law of her husband*. “She is free from that law.” What law? The law of her husband.

Who is the husband that a sinner must be loosed from before he can be married to Christ? Is it the Ten Commandments? Is that what Paul is teaching in this Roman letter? *No*, it is *not*. Read chapter 6. Here he makes it very plain that it is, “*our old man*,” the *body*, or *life*, of *sins (transgressions)*, that must be *crucified* with Christ . . . that henceforth “we should *not serve sin*” (verses 1-6). Paul had that experience before he could be married to Christ (Galatians 2:20; verse 17,18). Read carefully Romans 6:10-22. Repeatedly Paul emphasized the fact that those who accept and obey the Gospel of Christ *must die to sin* . . . *sin shall not have dominion over them*. Through the *power* of the *Gospel* they are *made free from sin* and become *servants of righteousness* (verses 11-13, 16:23; Romans 1:16). Anytime the Gospel deals with *sin* it is by the *Law* (Romans 3:19,20). When a person repents, he ceases to transgress God’s Law and becomes obedient. You *cannot* remain a transgressor and be married to Christ. That old husband is *not the Law* that condemns a sinner as a transgressor, but it is that life of lust and sinful habits that rules in the lives of the unconverted. That *law of sin*, or *carnal mind*, is the law of that husband (Romans 7:14-23; 8:5-8).

Romans 7:5,6 explains Paul’s meaning of “*dead to the law by the body of Christ*.” Verse 5 says that “*the motions of sin which were by the law did bring forth fruit unto death*.” It was the *sin (transgression)* that caused the trouble, and *not the law* that condemns *sin*. Note the margin in verse 6. “*Being dead to that wherein we were held*” is the only way to become free from the *condemnation of the holy, just, and good law* (verses 12-14).

Now we come to Paul's own explanation (Romans 7:7-14): "What shall we say then?" He does not want to be misunderstood in verses 1-6, so he explains his point. Why don't Bible students read his own explanation, rather than make a private interpretation? The first point deals with the Law of God. "Is the Law sin?" Paul wants no misunderstanding here. He answers, "God forbid. Nay, I had not *known* sin, but by *the law*." What Law? Answer: "I had not known lust, except the Law has said, *Thou shalt not covet*." (verse 7). Here Paul clearly identifies the *law* by which he and *all* others in this age of *grace* have a knowledge of sin. The quote was from the Ten Commandments. It was not the Law that caused the trouble, but it was the *transgression* of that holy and just Law. "Without the Law *sin was dead*" (verse 8). If that Law was abolished, we have no sin (Romans 4:15). If no Law, no sinners and Jesus died in vain and there is no need to preach the gospel (Matthew 1:21). Paul further explains that there was nothing wrong with that holy Law, but that *all* the trouble was in the man himself . . . the law of sin in the man. Study carefully Romans 7:9-23. That holy, just and good law condemns or binds a person to that old husband, life of sin, until that old life is crucified with Christ. Then the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes us *free* from that carnal nature, or law of sin (Romans 8:1-3). That body of sin is *destroyed* that henceforth we should not *serve sin*. Then, being made a *new* creature and being led by the Spirit of God, the righteousness of that holy and just Law is *fulfilled* in us (Romans 8:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

The Ten Commandments were not given to justify a man. By the Law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20). We are justified by faith in Christ as the One Who died for our sins (Hebrews 2:9; Romans 5:1,2). No amount of obedience can atone for past transgressions. All have sinned (Romans 2:23; 5:12).

However, the salvation offered man through the Gospel of grace requires *repentance* with a living faith in Christ in order to receive justification (Acts 2:37,38; Luke 18:3). In repentance we must confess our guilt and *turn from all* our transgressions or, in short, become *obedient* to God's holy Law before justification is meted out to us (Ezekiel 18:30,31). We cannot remain a transgressor and receive justification. Paul says that we must become a *doer* of the Law to receive justification (Romans 2:13).

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Lesson No. 12. The Ten Commandments Minus the Sabbath?

TEXT: Galatians 2:17,18.

QUESTION: "Did Jesus abolish the Ten Commandments and then reestablish *nine* of them leaving the Sabbath out in the Gospel Age?"

ANSWER: No, the law that was abolished is still abolished (Ephesians 2:15). It was taken out of the way and nailed to the Cross (Colossians 2:14). *If the Ten Commandments were abolished, then and there all Ten Precepts ended, and not a single one of them remains for Christians to obey. The Sabbath stands or falls with the Ten Commandments. If we admit that nine of those Ten Precepts are still binding upon Christians, then we must admit that they were not abolished and nailed to the Cross.*

Some claim that Jesus abolished *all* the Ten Commandments at the Cross and then reestablished *nine* of them in a *new* Law given this side of the Cross. This claim admits the binding force of *nine* of the Ten Commandments, but *no Bible proof* has ever been given that they are *part* of a *new law* given this side of the Cross. If such a new Law were given this side of the death of Christ, it would be an easy matter to find the time and place that it was given and also a copy of that Law so that Christians would know definitely what that new Law requires. No such new Law was given by the Lord or His Apostles. *It can't be found* in the New Scriptures for there was no such Law given. Since there is *no new Law* given this side of the Cross enforcing obedience to those *Nine* Precepts, and since it is admitted that they are binding today, there can be *only one reason why they are binding; they were never abolished.* The Ten Commandments were *not* nailed to the Cross. If *nine* of those precepts are binding, then *all ten* are binding and the Sabbath was *not* left out (James 2:10-12).

THE ABOLISHED LAW.

Jesus did abolish a law, but He did not abolish the Ten Commandments. Paul clearly defines the law that was abolished as "even the law of commandments contained in ordinances" (Ephesians 2:15). "The handwriting of *ordinances* that was *against* us, which was *contrary* to us . . ." (Colossians 2:14). Could this description possibly fit the Ten Commandments? Are they *contrary* to a Christian? For example, "Thou shalt not steal." Is that contrary to you, my Christian friend? There is not one single one of the Ten Commandments that is contrary to a Christian. Read Exodus 20:1-17. Furthermore, Paul describes the law that was contrary to us as "the law of commandments *contained* in *ordinances.*" The Ten

Commandments do not meet this description either, but if you will turn to Hebrews 9:1-10, you will find an explanation of these ordinances given under the Old Covenant. They were "ordinances of divine service" in the Tabernacle. In other words, they were "rites and ceremonies" imposed upon them until the time of reformation (see margin for "ordinances").

In Galatians 3:10 Paul speaks of the book of the law and in verse 19 he tells us that this book of the law was *added* because of transgression until the Seed (Christ, verse 16) should come. The book of the law was given by Moses (John 1:17; 2 Chronicles 34:14). The book of the law contained the laws that regulated the offering of animal sacrifices and other rites and ceremonies, all of which foreshadowed the death of Christ on the Cross (Hebrews 10:1-12). When Jesus died on the Cross for our sins, He abolished the law that required those rites and sacrifices because they had served their purpose in pointing men forward to the Cross. It is now *contrary* to Christians to offer animal sacrifices for sins because Jesus has offered the one Supreme Sacrifice that atoned for the sins of all (Hebrews 2:9).

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS NOT ABOLISHED.

Jesus did *not* come to *destroy*, or abolish, His Father's Law. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "Think *not* that I am come to *destroy* the Law or the prophets: I am *not* come to *destroy*, but to *fulfill*" (Matthew 5:17). This is positive. Jesus did *not* come to *destroy* His Father's Law, but some do misunderstand the word "fulfill." Some seem to think that Jesus did away with the Law by fulfilling it. This could not be true, else Jesus would contradict Himself and do the very thing that He said He came *not* to do. By fulfilling the command "Thou shalt not steal" He did *not* abolish it, but rather He set us an example of *obedience* that we are commanded to follow (John 8:12; 15:10). We, too, must fulfill the righteousness of the Law if we are led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:4). Baptism was administered so that Jesus might set us an example in fulfilling *all* righteousness (Matthew 3:12-15). Did He abolish all righteousness when He fulfilled it?

Now back to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:18,19). "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled." Not one letter of God's Law is to pass away until *all* that His prophets have said has been fulfilled. Verse 19 makes it even plainer when Jesus says, in substance, that we are *not* to break one of the least Commandments, but that we must *do* and *teach* them. The Law that we are to do and teach is identified when He quotes from the *Ten Commandments* in verses 21 and 27. He strictly enforces *obedience* to *all* the Ten Commandments from the *heart*. Read Matthew 5:21-28 and 1 John 3:15, please.

WAS JESUS A TRANSGRESSOR?

The doctrine that Jesus abolished all the Ten Commandments and then reestablished nine of them, if true, would make Jesus a transgressor or

sinner. For proof, let us read Galatians 2:17,18: "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? *God forbid.* For if I build again the things which I *destroyed*, I make myself a *transgressor.*" If Jesus destroyed, or abolished, His Father's Law, the Ten Commandments, and then built again nine-tenths of that same Law. He is a transgressor for He would be building again the very thing that He destroyed. It is a serious matter when our Saviour is accused of being a transgressor. Don't be guilty of that, my friends. Be honest enough to admit that since you know that nine of these Commandments are in force today, they were never abolished. If those nine Commandments were not abolished, then it is true that the *Sabbath* Commandment was *not* abolished either, because it is part of the same Law, the Ten Commandments.

ALL TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THE NEW COVENANT . . . OR TESTAMENT

Did Jesus teach obedience to nine of the Ten Commandments and leave the Sabbath Command out? No, Jesus taught obedience to *all Ten* Commandments. We will give Bible proof shortly, but we have another question to present, and will answer both together: Where do we find the Law of the New Testament or New Covenant? Was it given *before* or *after* the death of Christ? We find the *Law of the New Testament* in the teachings of Jesus *before* His death on Calvary. A Law given after His death could not be part of the *will*, or Testament, that was sealed by His death.

Paul says that Jesus is *Mediator of the New or better Covenant* (Testament—see margin. Hebrews 8:6-10). "He is *mediator of the New Testament*, that by means of *death . . .* they which are called might receive the promise of *eternal inheritance*" (Hebrews 9:15-18). "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator." "For a testament is of force after men are dead." Jesus became surety for the New or better Testament (Hebrews 7:22). A testament is a *will*. Jesus' death made possible the *eternal inheritance* that God wills to His children. There are conditions that all have to meet in order to receive this inheritance. Jesus, as Mediator of the New Testament, or Will, gave, or rather made known, the conditions required in order to become an heir and qualify for the eternal inheritance. A testament or will comes into force at the death of the testator, but the testament itself is made by the testator before his death. No changes can be made after the death of the testator. The same is *true* of the Testament that was ratified by the death of God's Son. That is made plain in Galatians 3:15. Paul, in speaking of the Covenant which Christ sealed by His death, said, "Though it be but a man's covenant, [margin says *testament*] yet if it be confirmed, *no man* disannulleth, or addeth thereto." Note that the word "covenant" is used but the margin says "testament." The same is true in Hebrews 8:6. The words are used interchangeably by Paul when speaking of

the Old and New Covenants. Each one is *both* a *Testament* and a *Covenant*. Note carefully what Paul says about changing or adding to a will or testament after it has been confirmed. Even a man's testament cannot be changed or added to after being confirmed by his death. That is as much as saying that much more the Testament of God cannot be changed or added to after being confirmed by the death of His Son.

With these facts before us, we see that Jesus, as Mediator of the New Testament, was duty bound before God to *make known all* the conditions of inheritance under the *New Testament before* it was confirmed by His death. *Nothing* could be *added* to it after His death. If there were a new Law to define sin, or if there were any changes to be made in the Law that God had given to define sin, Jesus must needs give *all* such information during His ministry *before* the Cross. The *Law* that defines *sin* under the New Testament must be found in the *Gospel* that *Jesus* taught *before* His death. Again we say that *all* New Testament requirements are found in the teachings of Jesus before His death. The ordinance of baptism was required and practiced in the ministry of Christ (John 4:1-3). The Lord's Supper was instituted by a *command* before He died (Luke 22:19,20). The Disciples were commanded to teach those who were converted and baptized to "observe *all* things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19,20; 24:14). Now we are ready to answer the question.

WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT LAW?

What Law defines sin under this New Testament? Did Jesus give us a new Law, or did He give us the Ten Commandments minus the Sabbath as so many believe? Jesus did not give us a new Law to define sin in the New Testament. He taught obedience to *all* the *Ten* Commandments including the *Sabbath*. Under the New Testament God promised to *write* His *Law* in our hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-33). He did not say that His Son would give us a new Law, but the *Father* did say, "Also I will make Him my Firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. If his children forsake *my law* . . . If they break my Statutes, and keep not my Commandments: then will I visit their transgression with the *rod* . . ." (Psalm 89:27-32). In Isaiah 42:21 we read "He will *magnify* the Law and make it honorable." Jesus did teach obedience to His Father's Law in its magnified state. We must obey the Ten Commandments from the heart. That perfect Law now condemns the lusts of the heart as *sin*. If we hate our brother or even our enemy we are guilty of murder before God (Matthew 5:21,22,43-45; 1 John 3:15). The Seventh Commandment condemns lust in the heart as adultery (Matthew 5:27-28). No one can say that Jesus was teaching a new Law in chapter 5 of Matthew. He was teaching obedience to a Law that was well known to the Jews, the Ten Commandments. He was teaching the Ten Commandments as the Law of the New Testament that defines sin. He did not come to change one single

word of that perfect Law of God (Matthew 5:17,18).

In John 8:3-11 we have the account of a woman who had broken the Seventh Commandment and her accusers brought her to Christ to see what His verdict would be as to the penalty. They were tempting Him, trying to find some fault. Moses in the book of the law commanded that such willful transgressors, or sinners, should be stoned to death. This was the penalty in Israel for most willful transgressions of the Ten Commandments. This adulteress would have died without mercy under Moses' ministration (Hebrews 10:28). After telling of the penalty under Moses' law her accusers asked Jesus, "But what sayest Thou?" Jesus rebuked them for their own sins by saying, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Her accusers, being condemned in their own hearts, departed, and Jesus asked the woman, "Where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." Jesus forgave the sin but *He strictly enforced obedience to the Ten Commandments which she had broken*, by saying, "Go, and sin no more." That same Command is for all who receive forgiveness of sin (1 John 2:1). Those who are under grace are forbidden to continue transgressing God's Law (Romans 6:1,2,6). The adulteress in John chapter 8 did not transgress a new Law, but she did transgress one of the Ten Commandments. Jesus extended mercy and pardon, but He also commanded *obedience to the Law from that time on*. This proves again that the Law of the New Testament is the Ten Commandments.

In ancient Israel, under the Old Covenant, they were required to obey *two laws*, the *Law of God*, the *Ten Commandments*, and the *Law of their mediator*, Moses. Read 2 Kings 21:8; Deuteronomy 4:12-14; Exodus 24:1-12; Deuteronomy 28:1-15. Likewise, Christians, under *New Testament* regulations, are to obey *two laws*, the *Ten Commandments* and the *Law of our Mediator, Jesus Christ*. This fact is given in the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him (Revelation 1:1). Let us read from Revelation 12:17: "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 14:12). "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that *keep the Commandments of God*, and the *faith of Jesus*." These two texts show that true Christians *must keep both* the *Commandments of God* and the *Testimony, or Gospel, of Jesus Christ*. In fact, the *Gospel of Christ enforces obedience to the Ten Commandment Law of the Father*.

Eternal life is a New Testament inheritance, and surely we can't afford to ignore the conditions which Jesus gave in answer to the question "What good thing shall I do that I may have *eternal life*?" The answer, "If thou wilt enter into *life*, *keep the commandments*." To identify the code of Law that He referred to, Jesus quoted in brief five of the Ten Commandments (Matthew

19:16-20). Thus Jesus taught that one of the New Testament requirements to inherit eternal life is to keep God's Law, the Ten Commandments. Sin is the transgression of that Law (1 John 3:4; Romans 7:7,8). Through faith and obedience to the Gospel we receive forgiveness of sins (Romans 6:17,18). A life of obedience is required thereafter (Phil. 1:12,13).

THE SABBATH INCLUDED . . .

Although broken many times by professing Christians, nine of the Ten Commandments are acknowledged by most of them as part of the New Testament Law. The Fourth or Sabbath Command is the only one of the entire Law that is repudiated. Is it not strange that Christians believe that they are to obey nine tenths of God's Law but refuse to obey that one Precept in the same Law? Did Jesus abolish, or change, the Sabbath Commandment? No, Jesus did not abolish the Sabbath, and He did not change the Sabbath Commandment at all. He did teach Christians how to keep the Sabbath day (read Matthew 12:1-12). In these verses Jesus set aside certain traditions about Sabbathkeeping and taught the right way to keep the Sabbath day. He did not change the Sabbath Commandment, but He did teach how to lawfully keep the Sabbath day in this age.

"It is lawful," means that it is in accord with the Law. Jesus was therefore teaching men how to keep the Sabbath day according to the Commandment. The faithful women that followed the teachings and example of Jesus, "rested the Sabbath day according to the Commandment" (Luke 23:56). It was Jesus' custom to teach in the synagogues on the Sabbath days (Luke 4:16). The Sabbath is the Christian's Lord's Day because Jesus is "Lord even of the Sabbath day" (Matthew 12:8; Luke 6:5; Mark 2:28). Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man . . ." (Mark 2:27). It was made and sanctified at Creation for mankind (Genesis 2:1-3). Jesus is our Example for Sabbathkeeping (John 8:12; 1 John 2:6; John 15:10). The Sabbath of the New Testament is the day before the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1-3).

Paul followed the custom of Christ in Sabbath observance (1 Corinthians 11:1). It was His "manner" to reason in the synagogues on the Sabbath days (Acts 17:1,2). At Corinth he reasoned in the synagogue "every Sabbath." He continued there for a year and six months teaching the Word of God to the Jews and Greeks (Acts 18:1-11). Why did Paul have the custom of attending worship on the Sabbath day if the Sabbath had been abolished or changed? He did not shun to declare all the counsel of God (Acts 20:27). If it were the counsel of God for Jesus to change or abolish the Sabbath day, then Paul would have taught the people that the Sabbath had been changed. Not once in the book of Acts was he ever accused of breaking the Sabbath Law, nor did the Jews ever accuse him of teaching the people not to keep the Sabbath. There can be only one answer to these facts. The Sabbath was not changed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Lesson No. 13. God's Final Warning Message to Christendom *GOD'S FINAL WARNING MESSAGE TO CHRISTENDOM*

God is giving a last warning message to *all* honest-hearted persons to lay aside substitutions and heathen traditions and return to the Law of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:17). Since these undenominational messages are for the purpose of calling men and women back to God's Perfect Law, the Ten Commandments, our responsibility before God requires that we give this solemn warning in our part in this message. God, in His mercy, always gives warning before executing judgment upon a people or system. Sometimes people will not even listen to the warning but God gives them a chance to hear and if they refuse to even listen, they seal their own doom. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast *rejected* knowledge, I will also *reject thee . . .*" (Hosea 4:6). Remember also that there is a way that seems right to a man but that way leads to death (Proverbs 14:12). Friends, we urge you all to take these messages seriously and prayerfully. Study them in the light of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15).

"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). Please note that it is the duty of man to *keep* the Commandments of God and *not* to follow the traditions of man when they are in conflict. We are to be *judged* by the Law of God and every secret thing will be there against us (James 2:10-12; Ecclesiastes 12:12,13).

WARNING MESSAGE

In Revelation 18:4 we read, "And I heard a voice from Heaven, saying, *Come out of her, my people*, that ye be not partakers of *her sins*, and that ye receive *not of her plagues*." This is, no doubt, a warning from the Lord that was to be given at a certain time. The message is from Heaven, but God uses human beings to give the messages. It is a *warning*. "Come out of *her*, my people." The message is to honest people that are partaking of the sins of "Babylon the great" (Revelation 18:1,2). They evidently are professing Christians who are innocently partaking of the sins of Babylon because they do not know that some of their religious customs are heathen traditions and substitutions from Babylon the great and not from the Bible as they have been taught. Such a warning message would indicate that many honest people would be partaking of *her sins*. The warning is that those who *refuse*

to come out of her sins will receive *her plagues*. In verse 8 "her plagues" are defined to be *utter destruction* under the judgment of God. Ten kings are to execute God's judgment upon her (Revelation 17:16,17).

A description of Babylon the great is given in Revelation 17. The angel said to John, "I will shew unto thee the *judgment* of the great *whore* that sitteth upon many waters" (verse 1). She is called an harlot because she committed fornication with the kings of the earth (verses 1,2). The inhabitants of earth were made drunk with the wine, or the false doctrines, that came as a result of her fornication with the kings of the earth. This is symbolic language, but it is easy to get the key to the meaning. The True Church is repeatedly illustrated as a chaste woman (Revelation 19:7-9; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 12:1-3). Ancient Israel was spoken of as God's wife, and when she went off into idolatry and disobeyed God, she was guilty of spiritual adultery and was called an harlot (Jeremiah 3:1-8). From these texts we conclude that an harlot is a symbol of a corrupt church system. The whore in Revelation 17 represents a great corrupt church system that committed spiritual fornication with the kings of the earth. There was unlawful union of church and state and the doctrines of the Church were forced upon the people at the point of the sword for centuries and many false doctrines were adopted and forced upon the people in the name of Christianity.

Revelation 17:3-6 gives a further description of the *harlot*. John was shown a woman arrayed in very costly garments and jewels, also she had a golden cup in her hand "full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication." This full cup symbolized the sum of her false doctrines that she made the people or nations drink. The sad part of it is that this great church claimed to be the true Church of God, and all her false doctrines were given in the name of Jesus Christ. John was shown this woman seated upon a scarlet-colored beast having seven heads and ten horns and full of the names of blasphemy. A *beast* symbolizes a nation or kingdom. This woman, or Church, was organized into what history calls "A spiritual monarchy," and her empire became known as the "holy Roman Empire." Her church government was patterned after the Roman government. The great Spiritual Monarchy had a "World Priest" and a "World King," each claiming divine authority according to history. God knew that such a church system would come into power in the days of the Roman Empire and that they would "think to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25). God gave a name to that church system, "Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth" (Revelation 17:5). Because she ruled over so many nations of people for hundreds of years, her religious traditions became so fully established in the minds of the people that some of them are observed by most Protestants today. Heathen customs were adopted, whitewashed, and handed to the people as Christian customs. This also was foretold in

Revelation 2:20-23. Jezebel was used in this text to represent the *heathen* religion, and there was a time when heathen customs and doctrines were taught in and by that *church*. "Thou sufferest that woman Jezebel . . . to teach and seduce my servants and to commit fornication: and to eat things sacrificed to idols" (Revelation 2:20).

EASTER AND THE SABBATH?

One of those heathen customs that led to direct *substitution* and *change* of one of the Ten Commandments is Easter Sunday. No *Christian* should celebrate *Easter* for *two* reasons: (1) It is of heathen origin and it perpetuates a false theory about the Resurrection of Christ. The Bible gives *no* authority for celebrating Christ's Resurrection on Sunday or any other day, but it does teach that the Resurrection was late on the *Sabbath* and not on Sunday (Matthew 28:1-6). The Easter Sunday Resurrection theory originated in Rome and *not* from Christ or the Apostles. History verifies this fact. (2) The second reason that no Christian should celebrate Easter Sunday is that it serves to perpetuate the false theory that the Christian day of worship is not the Sabbath day, but that the first day of the week was set apart as a holy day of worship for Christians as a memorial of Christ's Resurrection. This false theory came from the Roman Church. It is based entirely upon *tradition* and *not* on *Bible* authority. This theory has led many honest people to believe that Jesus did change His Father's Law. This theory teaches that the Command to keep the seventh day ended at the death of Christ and that by *divine* authority the first day of the week became the Christian's Lord's Day. Church laws and regulations for Sundaykeeping are numerous, but when we take the *Bible alone* as authority we find *no authority* for Sunday observance. On the contrary, Jesus and the Apostles kept the *Sabbath day* and taught obedience to *all* the Ten Commandments. No change was made by divine authority. The change was made by *human* or *church* authority. This church deceives many people causing them to believe that God's Law was changed even though God's own Son said that it would *not* be changed. The fact is that *no* change was made in God's Law because *the Church has no such authority*. The Church of Rome frankly admits that there is no Bible authority for Sunday observance, but that it stands on *church authority* alone. They also address a friendly challenge to Protestants who observe Sunday. Let us prove this by a quotation from the *Faith of Millions* or *The Credentials of the Catholic Religion* by John A. O'Brien. From page 146 we quote, "The Bible does not contain all the teachings of the Christian religion, nor does it formulate all the duties of its members. Take, for example, the matter of Sunday observance, the attendance at divine services and the abstention from unnecessary servile work on that day, a matter upon which our Protestant neighbors have for many years laid great emphasis. Let me address myself in a friendly spirit to my dear Protestant reader: you believe

that the Bible alone is a safe guide in religious matters. You also believe that one of the fundamental duties enjoined upon by your Christian faith is Sunday observance. *But where does the Bible speak of such an obligation? I have read the Bible from the first verse of Genesis to the last verse of Revelation, and have found no reference to the duty of sanctifying Sunday. The day mentioned in the Bible is not Sunday, the first day of the week, but Saturday, the last day of the week. It was the Apostolic Church which, acting by virtue of that authority conferred upon her by Christ, changed the observance to the Sunday in honor of the day on which Christ rose from the dead, and to signify that now we are no longer under the Old Law of the Jews but under the New Law of Christ. In observing the Sunday as you do, is it not apparent that you are really acknowledging the insufficiency of the Bible alone as a rule of faith and religious conduct, and proclaiming the need of a divinely established teaching authority which in theory you deny?*" (Emphasis mine.) End of quotation. There it is, my friends, in words that no one can misunderstand. The Sabbath was never changed by Jesus Christ but the substitution of Sunday came from the Church of Rome. The four inspired Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, who recorded the life and teachings of Jesus, all agree that Jesus taught and observed the Sabbath day. Luke, who gives us 32 years of Church history in the "Acts of the Apostles," speaks of the Sabbath day as the day that was recognized and observed by the Apostle Paul and the churches of that time (Acts 17:2; 18:1-11; 16:3). The first day of the week is mentioned but once in all Luke's record of the "Acts of the Apostles" (Acts 20:1-14). This one meeting of Christians on Sunday was for the purpose of taking the evening meal, as he says that they came together to "break bread." (See Acts 2:42-46.) Paul gave his farewell message to these brethren at that time and left at daybreak for Assos. He walked some 18 miles that Sunday morning to join Luke and others who had been sailing that night around the peninsula to Assos. This one first-day meeting was a farewell meeting and not a word is said about a custom or manner of meeting on that day. Furthermore, Luke speaks of the day as the "first day of the week" and no sacredness is attached to the day at all.

The same Church that gave us the tradition of Sunday observance also forbade Christians from "Judaizing and keep the Sabbath" in 363 A.D. at the Council of Laodicea. See *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Art. "Sabbath." In Ancient Rome each day of the week was sacred to a Roman god and the first day of the week was known as sun's day. When Constantine the Great enacted the first Sunday law he was a heathen sunworshipper and his law commanded rest upon "the venerable day of the sun." Who was he venerating or giving reverence to in this law? It was his own favorite heathen deity, the Sun God. It was a crafty way of giving the heathen a weekly sabbath day and he chose to make it in honor of the Sun God. The churches in Rome

had drifted far from the teachings of Christ and many were seeking for advantage in the Empire. It was not long before their *church councils* were following Constantine's example and were making laws that commanded *all* Christians to observe "the venerable day of the sun" as the Christian's Sabbath day. And these same *church councils* also made laws that forbade Christians keeping the Sabbath that God blessed and sanctified at the Creation for *man* (Genesis 2:1-3; Mark 2:27,28).

Do you wonder now that God warned of the earthly power that would *think* to change *time* and *laws*? God's warning that *Jezebel's heathen* doctrines would again be accepted and taught as doctrines of the Church of God is most certainly *true*. Honest people in many churches are still observing those heathen customs because tradition has taught them to believe that God authorized them. But God says, "I have *not* spoken (Ezekiel 13:6,7). Sunday observance is *not* an honor to the Lord Jesus Christ because it was *never* authorized by *divine* authority, but, on the contrary, it is an honor that is *paid* to the heathen *sun God* by many unsuspecting people. It was *human* authority that gave to us Sunday observance and God is calling honest people to "come out of her, *my people*, that ye be *not* partakers of her sins" (Revelation 18:4). Does it really make any difference if people *do* observe Sunday? Yes, it *does* make a difference. The difference is the difference between heathen worship and the worship of the only true God. It is *sin* to worship other gods. All who knowingly honor or worship heathen gods must pay the penalty except they repent.

COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE

God would not send a special warning for honest people to come out of the sins of "great Babylon" if it made no difference in the end. *All* who refuse to heed the warning and continue in her sins will partake of her plagues, which bring utter destruction under the wrath of God (Revelation 18:4-8). Notice that the call is to "My people." That shows that God has people who are honestly partaking of the sins of Babylon. The warning message has not reached them enough to arouse them to serious study of the matter. God honors the faith of the honest-hearted Christian who may not be aware that some of his acts of worship are of heathen origin and without any divine authority. However, God does not expect him to remain in ignorance, else there would be no purpose in sending a warning message. Willful ignorance will lead to destruction (Hosea 4:6). "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is *sin*" (James 4:17). God does *not* endorse heathen worship, and those who love the Lord will be happy to forsake *all* such customs when they come to a knowledge of the *truth* of the matter. Sunday observance is one of those customs, my friends, that God is calling you to come out of.

In closing, we would like to draw a lesson from 1 Kings chapters 16,17, and 18. This gives the account of the time when wicked Jezebel became

queen of ancient Israel. Those things were written for our learning (Romans 15:4). This is especially important to us when we are studying of the time when the same thing happened in the Christian era, as it was prophesied in Revelation 2:18-23. Israel was God's *Church* in ancient time. When King Ahab married Jezebel and she brought her 850 heathen prophets into Israel, Baal worship was established in Israel and prophets of the true God were slain. Elijah escaped after prophesying that a great drought was coming on Israel because of this great sin. Remember that this was happening in the ancient church. Heathen worship was taught at the point of the sword (1 Kings 16:30-33; 18:4-13).

At the appointed time God sent Elijah back to King Ahab and to all Israel with a message: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: But if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:21-46). Elijah stood against 850 heathen prophets in a test before all Israel and won by his faith in Yah, the true God. Israel acknowledged Yah as God and slew the false prophets. Jezebel refused to repent like many today—and she paid with her life later on.

Today the Elijah message is going forth calling on professing Christians to come out of heathen doctrines and back to the true worship of God. Those who carry this warning message are *few* compared to the *many* who oppose the message; but as in the days of Elijah, God is with those who carry His message and those who accept and obey its call. Will you heed the call, my friends?

This message is to you just as Elijah's message was to Israel of his day, and you must decide for whom you will stand, for God or for the heathen gods of Jezebel of New Testament time. The judgments of God will soon be poured out upon all who refuse to heed the warning. The abomination of sun worship has no place in the true Christian worship (Ezekiel 8:15,16). God's *Law* says, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy . . . the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God" (Exodus 20:8-11). Roman *tradition* says that we must keep the first day of the week as a holy day of worship. *Which will you obey*, God or heathen tradition? Be further warned by reading Matthew 24:11-13; 2 Peter 2:1-3. The decision is yours, dear reader. My prayers are for you.

"Blessed are they that hear the Word
of God, and keep it" (Luke 11:28).



One of the purposes of the *Bible Sabbath Association* is to increase knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the *seventh-day Sabbath*, which is the only true Sabbath of Scripture, history, or reason.

Our readers are invited to write us about our Sabbath tracts and leaflets, about our Annual Calendars with the Sabbath in red, about our Lifetime Sunset Charts, about our Organization Magazine, about the seriousness of Sabbath desecration, and to ask any questions on any phases of these important matters.

Address: THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION, Fairview, Oklahoma 73737.