

Religious Surgery

remember His crucifixion and to do so by partaking of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20-29). Therefore, if a change was to be made in the Sabbath commandment what Scriptural assurance do we have that Sunday is the proper day to substitute for the seventh-day Sabbath?

Then, too, it seems strange that God would be satisfied to have man rewrite one of the commandments. If He is, then we wonder why He bothered to write any of them. Why did He not just leave it to man to write an entire code of law for himself? It is for the same reason He did not give him freedom to work over the fourth, and this reason is in Jeremiah 10:23: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

Some do not seem to consider all the commandments equally important. They regard the fourth as being unimportant. They deceive themselves into thinking that they can be Christians without it, and that God does not mind if they amputate a little of His law.

Christians today must follow Christ and not the Pope of Rome and become aware that there is no Scripturally-stated reason for observing Sunday as, or for, the Sabbath, and that *religious surgery* is a most dangerous practice. Peter said: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29), and we believe this is the only safe course for Christians to pursue. 5-1169

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We continue to quote.

"You may read your Bible from Genesis to the 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." —*Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 111, by Cardinal Gibbons.

Now we cite a passage from the writings of another well-known Catholic authority:

"Every one knows that Sunday is the first day of the week while Saturday is the seventh day, and the Sabbath consecrated as a day for rest... It was the holy Catholic church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday; and not only compelled all to keep Sunday, but... anathematized those who kept the Sabbath, and urged all persons to labor on the seventh day under penalty of anathema. The Bible says, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy'; but the Catholic church says, 'No! keep the first day of the week, and the whole world bows in obedience.'—*Lectures of Father Enright, C.S.S.R.*

This is what we mean by *religious surgery*—cutting out part of the law of God and substituting something else in its place. Where does God give man liberty to do such tampering with His divine precepts? If it is to be found it must be in the "Book of Imagination," for there is no hint of such in the Bible. Why should anyone think it necessary to make changes when His law is perfect (Psa. 19:7) and when His commandments are to stand fast for ever and ever (Psa. 111:8)?

Many approve of religious surgery when it is used to cut the Sabbath out of the

-C 144- What Has Been Cut Out of God's Law?

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Pet. 2:1, 2).

Any heresy is false, but Peter speaks of damnable heresies that bring swift destruction upon those who teach them. One of the most damnable heresies being scattered abroad today is the common belief that any sort of worship is Christianity and is acceptable with God—that a positive command of God may be disobeyed with impunity and/or ignored or replaced with something else if done in the name of religious worship. Not only is this believed, but it is a common practice.

Thus, we might say that when any part of God's commandments has been altered in any way, and/or when the commandments of men are substituted therefore that "religious surgery" has been performed.

Such "operating" on God's law should not be undertaken for two main reasons: (1) "The law of the Lord is perfect..." (Psa. 19:7), and, therefore, it is impossible for man to improve it; and (2) "...all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness" (Psa. 111:8). Thus it would be impossible to either change or annul them. Then, too, it is dangerous to

fourth commandment, but we hear no one advocating the need of removing or changing any of the other nine. Why is the fourth more offensive than the rest? It is strange that if God "slipped" when He wrote the fourth commandment (having requested something that was a grievous yoke and impossible to comply with) that He would not have discovered His mistake and directed a change. The popular belief seems to be that He did not realize His blunder, and that man later found this mistake and undertook to correct it—by changing the Sabbath to Sunday. If God made a mistake in asking that the Sabbath be observed for "ever and ever" (Psa. 111:8) how can anyone be sure that Sunday is the day He should have asked, or meant to ask, us to observe as the Sabbath? We ask this question because no Bible writer tells us that a change to Sunday was ever to be made. Thus, how can we be sure that we are not today expected to observe, say, Friday? It is widely believed that Christ was crucified on this day, and it was by His death that we are reconciled to God (Rom. 5:10), that we are cleansed from sin (1 John 1:7), that we are justified (Rom. 5:9), that we have redemption (Eph. 1:7), and that we are sanctified (Heb. 13:12).

Yet the Christian world says Sunday should be the Sabbath because Christ arose from the grave on that day, although no such Scriptural significance is attached to His resurrection as we have just cited as being associated with His crucifixion. The revealing fact is that there is not even one verse of Scripture that so much as hints that the day of His resurrection should be commemorated in any way. On

tamper with God's word or laws. This we glean from Revelation 22:18, 19:

...If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Many seem to think that God will overlook such meddling with His law if it is done in the guise of religious (?) worship, but such worship is ungodly and vain, because Jesus said: "...in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9).

Vain worship is even worse than no worship, for by it others are deceived. Peter tells us (and we repeat v. 2): "...many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not" (2 Pet. 2:2, 3).

Yes, "the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" by vain worshipers. They are loud and boastful in their worship, but become very angry when the truth is presented to them. They have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof (2 Tim. 2:5). Godliness is to obey God. Those who do not may have a form of obedience (godliness), but it is not through complying with God's Word and obeying His laws. It only comes by adhering to "a form" that they have devised to take the place of God's standard of righteousness.

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is to be found that it was dedicated by sun worshipers to their god, the Sun, to honor him and they called it *Sun'sday*. Later the possessive "s" was dropped to make it *Sunday*.

In A.D. 321 Emperor Constantine, the Roman ruler, after being reared to manhood in the worship of the sun and having embraced the Roman church faith and wishing to please the sun worshipers, issued, on March the 7th, a Sunday edict as follows:

"Let all the judges and town people, and the occupation of all trades, rest on the venerable day of the sun; but let those who are situated in the country, freely and at full liberty attend to the business of agriculture; because it often happens that no other day is so fit for sowing corn and planting vines; lest, the critical moment being let slip, men should lose the commodities granted by heaven."

The foregoing manuscript written in Latin by Emperor Constantine is said to be in Harvard University (U.S.A.). Concerning this edict we quote from *Book of Facts*, p. 542, art. *Sunday*, edited by H. M. Rouff, as follows:

"The first law, either ecclesiastical or civil, by which the Sabbatical observance of Sunday is known to have been ordained, is the Edict of Constantine A. D. 321."

The Council of the Catholic church held at Laodicea, A. D. 365, strictly forbade any manual labor to be done on the venerable day of the sun and commanded all to labor on the seventh day of the week under penalty of anathema. Concerning this *religious surgery* the historian, Fryne, said:

"The seventh day Sabbath was solemnized by Christ and the Apostles, and primitive

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rest is religious surgery being performed, and although some may be maliciously guilty of such an act, we are assured that many others are unaware they have been disloyal to God and His Word by having been involved in an illegal operation upon it. One may be honestly mistaken very easily or guilty of something ignorantly.

The religious surgery to which we wish to draw attention in this leaflet has to do with the day God expects His people to observe as a time for rest, fellowship, and worship. There are those who contend that the Ten Commandments are in force today and profess to observe them, but only after an "operation" has been performed to remove the seventh day out of the fourth and to substitute in its place the first day of the week. It is our contention that God has not authorized such an operation and will deal harshly with those who are party to this act.

There is a reason why this change was originally made and why so many advocate that there was justification for so doing and why it is being so generally embraced today. Pointing out this reason is the motive for this work.

Customs have a great influence in molding lives. Because of custom, many people think that the word *Sunday* means *Sabbath day*, not realizing how the seven days of the week got their idolatrous names. We can not take space in this brief tract to detail how all the days of the week received their Roman names. However, anyone who is interested can find this information by consulting a *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*. In regard to the first day of the week, it

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Christians, till the Laodicean Council did in a manner abolish the observance of it in A. D. 365."

After this, the Pope of Rome claimed to be infallible; state and church were united, and the people were taxed to support this church of Rome. Furthermore, the armies of the world were used to enforce the Pope's mandate. We quote *Myers General History*, p. 419, 1869 edition:

"The Pope thus came to be regarded as the fountain of Justice, and in theory at least, the supreme Judge of Christendom, while emperor and kings and all civil magistrates bore the sword simply as his ministers to carry into effect his sentences and decrees."

People then were compelled to obey the State church or suffer martyrdom. In those dark ages no one dared to question the power of the Pope in public. That church still boasts of having the power to make laws binding on the conscience. We quote from their church catechism, to wit:

"What warrant have you for keeping the Sunday preferable to the ancient Sabbath, which was Saturday? Answer—We have the authority of Apostolic tradition." —*Catholic Christian Instructor*, p. 231.

Yes, traditions of the church are to them better, or more to be honored, than Bible commands. Again we quote:

"Like two rivers flowing from Paradise, the Bible and Tradition contain the words of God, the precious gems of revealed truth. Though these two divine streams, are in themselves of equal sacredness, both are full of revealed truths. Still of the two, Tradition is to us more clear and safe." —*Catholic Belief*, p. 45.

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