

did many wonderful things in the Lord's name.

19. What does Jesus say to us about this problem?

a. **Matthew 15:3** "Why do you _____ the _____ of _____ by your _____?"

b. **John 14:15** "If ye _____ me _____ my _____"

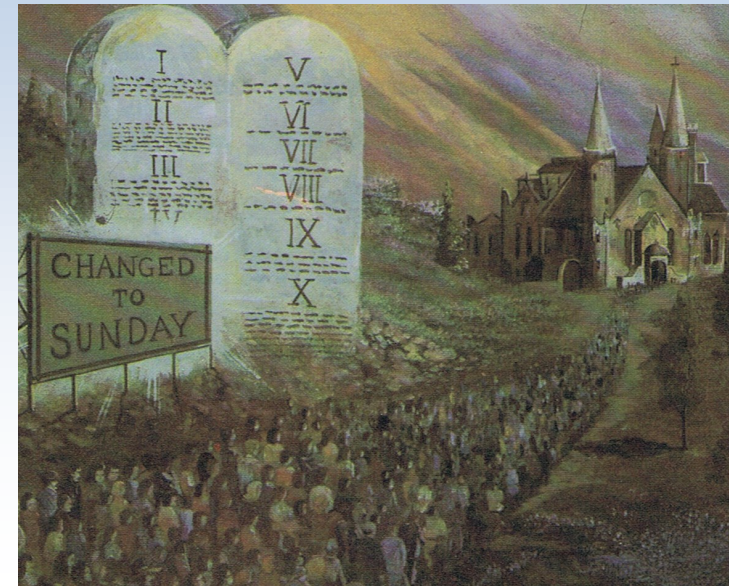
NOTE: We serve whomever we obey (Romans 6:16). Will we serve Jesus and worship on His holy day or will we serve, and thus worship, misguided men who were led by Satan to replace God's holy day with a substitute?

20. Do you want to be on the side of tradition and lose, or do you want to be on the side of truth and win?

Ans: _____

21. Do you want the blessings God gives those who keep the Sabbath?

Ans: _____



SUNDAY OBSERVANCE AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Since Revelation is a book for the last days, and since it centers on Jesus and His resurrection, one would expect to find some exciting comments in the book in regard to the church custom of keeping Sunday as a holy day in honour of His resurrection.

But, strangely, the day itself is not even mentioned. Stranger yet, though the day is mentioned eight times in other books of the New Testament, in no case is a command given to keep it holy. Since millions of sincere and loving Bible-believing Christians worship on Sunday, why is the Bible so strangely silent on this subject?

Could it be that much more is involved here than appears on the surface? The answer is "Yes!" One of the greatest prophecies of the book of Revelation involves the subject of Sunday worship. One of our seminar lessons will consider this crucial topic in detail.

Study Guide 011

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It would, however, be impossible to understand this important prophecy unless the topic in this lesson becomes crystal clear. So, let us examine the eight Scripture references in the New Testament which mention the first day of the week. Obviously, if there is a command to keep Sunday holy, we should find it in one of these Bible passages.

EIGHT SUNDAY TEXTS

1. **Do these three resurrection texts say Sunday is holy? Mark 16:9; Matthew 28:1; John 20:1**

These texts say: _____

Ans: _____

NOTE: The Bible always calls Sunday the first day of the week.

2. **Does this fourth text say the day is holy? Mark 16:1,2**

Ans: _____

NOTE: This New Testament text tells us something very interesting. Sunday is not the Sabbath, because the Sabbath is passed when Sunday comes.

3. **Does this fifth passage say Sunday is holy? Luke 24:1**

Ans: _____

NOTE: The book of Luke was written by a Gentile Christian, thirty years after Christ's ascension, but no change in the day of worship is mentioned.

4. **Does this sixth text reveal a regular Sunday meeting? John 20:19**

They assembled "for _____ of the _____"

NOTE: This could not have been a regular meeting to honour the resurrection, because until Jesus appeared in their midst they refused

BAPTIST: "There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week."—*Baptist Manual*

CATHOLIC: "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday."—James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers*

CHRISTIAN: "There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change."—*First Day Observance*

CHURCH OF CHRIST: "I do not believe that the Lord's day. ...was changed from the seventh to the first day."—Alexander Campbell, *Washington Reporter*, October 8, 1821.

EPISCOPAL: "Is there any command in the New Testament to change the day of weekly rest from Saturday to Sunday? None!"—*Manual of Christian Doctrine*

METHODIST: "Take the matter of Sunday...there is no passage telling Christians to keep the day."—Harris Franklin Rail, *Christian Advocate*, July 2, 1942

LUTHERAN: "The observance of the Lord's Day (Sunday) is not founded on any command of God."—*Augsburg Confession of Faith*

PRESBYTERIAN: "The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not in the Scriptures."—*Dwight's Theology*, Vol. 4

MY LOVE AND OBEDIENCE

18. **Does Revelation say God's people keep His commandments?**

Yes—**three times!** Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14

Why? Hebrews 5:9 "He became the _____ of eternal _____ unto _____ them that _____ Him."

NOTE: Jesus, in Revelation, is stressing that salvation is provided for the obedient and not for the disobedient. Matthew 7:21-23 makes it very clear that many active church members will be shocked when they are shut out of heaven for disobedience, in spite of the fact they

Sabbath on our calendar today is the very same seventh day that Jesus kept.

October 1582						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

(The weekly cycle was not broken)

NAILED TO THE CROSS

16. Which Sabbaths are no longer binding since the cross?

Colossians 2:14-17

Those that were a “_____ of _____ to _____.”

NOTE: The annual or yearly feast days were also called Sabbaths, and were a part of the CEREMONIAL LAWS which foreshadowed some aspect of Christ's ministry in the plan of salvation. They came on different days of the week each year and symbolized Jesus' coming sacrificial death and priestly ministry (Hebrews 10:1). By this means he taught Israel the gospel (Hebrews 4:12). For example, the annual Sabbath of the Passover foreshadowed Christ's suffering and death (I Corinthians 5:7). All of these yearly Sabbaths came to an end at the cross. They were not a part of God's perfect Ten Commandment Law which will stand forever and tells us to observe the seventh-day Sabbath (Psalm 19:7; 111:7, 8).

17. What do Sunday churches say about this problem?

to believe He was raised (Mark 16:14).

5. The seventh text answers several questions. I Corinthians 16:1, 2

a. Does this passage say the first day is holy? _____

b. Does it say, "Give money when the collection plate is passed in your church on the first day"? _____

NOTE: To the contrary. It says, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store."

6. What is the significance of "by him"?

Do it privately at _____!

NOTE: The New Testament in the Language of Today says, "Each of you should at home lay aside some money he makes, and save it." Paul was requesting money for the Jerusalem Christians, who were suffering famine (Acts 11:27.30; Romans 15:26).

So he wrote ahead to the churches he would visit, asking each believer to save money at home weekly, so it could be ready when he arrived. These Christians kept Sabbath holy and usually reviewed their weekly financial accounts on Sunday. So it was an ideal time to plan their giving.

7. The eighth and final New Testament text is Acts 20:7-11.

Does it say to observe Sunday as a holy day? _____

Does it say the Sabbath was changed to Sunday? _____

Does it say they met every Sunday for worship? _____

NOTE: Paul was on a farewell trip to the churches. Acts chapters 20 and 21 mention at least five other churches Paul visited on this same farewell trip. This meeting at Troas was a special farewell meeting. That is why it lasted until midnight.



THE LORD'S DAY

8. Would Paul have told us if the Sabbath had been changed?

Yes! Acts 20:27 says Paul gave us all of God's _____!

NOTE: The book of Acts covers a period of 23 years after Jesus' ascension and mentions the Sabbath in eight different chapters, but without any hint of change.

9. Could the disciples have changed the day if they wanted to? Matthew 5:18; Deuteronomy 4:2

Ans: _____

10. Satan's strategy is to get us to break just one of God's commandments! Why? James 2:10-12

When you offend in _____ point, you are _____ of all.

NOTE: God's Law is like a ten sided fortress. Only one side needs to be broken down to permit the enemy to enter.

11. John speaks of the Lord's day—which day is it? Revelation 1:10; Exodus 20:10; Isaiah 58:13; Mark 2:28

The Lord's Day is the _____

NOTE: People sometimes call Sunday the Lord's Day, but the Bible calls the Sabbath the Lord's Day.

MEMORIAL OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

12. What does the Bible call Sunday? Ezekiel 46:1

One of the six days.

13. Where did the Sunday sacredness come from? Matthew 15:3-9

From the tradition and commandments of _____

NOTE: Misguided men have substituted another day of worship for the Sabbath.

14. What did Jesus give us to honour His death, burial and resurrection? Romans 6:3-6; Colossians 2:12

Ans: _____

NOTE: Neither Jesus nor the disciples gave any command whatsoever to honour Sunday as a memorial to the resurrection. Rather He gave us BAPTISM and the LORD'S SUPPER as memorials of His death, burial and resurrection.

CALENDAR CHANGE EXPLAINED

15. Have calendar changes made it impossible to find the Sabbath?

No! The seventh day on our calendar is the same seventh day that was on the calendar when Jesus was here.

NOTE: The Romans who ruled in Jesus' day gave us our modern calendar. Only one change has been made and it did not affect the weekly cycle. In October of 1582, ten days were removed. Thursday the 4th was followed by Friday the 15th. Therefore the seventh day