

## IS THE SABBATH BINDING TODAY?

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Seventh Day Adventists as well as followers of Herbert W. Armstrong maintain that the 7th-day Sabbath is the only God-ordained day for rest and worship, and that Sunday worshippers have the mark of the beast.
- B. Although Armstrong borrowed much of his doctrine from same source as the Adventist, he actually went a step further because his followers also keep the Passover as the only day on which to partake the Lord's Supper). Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles.
- C. Both, however, make basic argument that Sabbath is a part of God's moral law & has been binding since the beginning of man's existence.
- D. These confuse and make prey of those who have been taught that we need to keep the Ten Commandments.
- E. When shown Sabbath was indeed 7th day (Sat.), some are persuaded Christians need to keep this as Lord's Day
- F. We need to study what the Bible says about the Sabbath and also to consider the relationship of the Gospel to the Law of Moses (which included the Ten Commandments)

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. THE SABBATH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. The Sabbath is not mentioned by name until Moses
  1. Gen 2:1-3 states God blessed the seventh day
  2. However, there is no way to prove this day was ordained to be kept by man before time of Moses
- B. Only undeniable facts about giving of Sabbath are:
  1. When? After Israel left Egypt Ex 16:23-30
  2. Where? Mt. Sinai Neh 9:13,14
  3. By Whom? The Lord Deut 5:1-3,15
  4. To Whom? Israel, Deut 5:1-3,15
  5. Why? As a sign Ezek 20:10-12
- C. Laws regulating Sabbath show it's for Jewish worship
  1. No fires must be built Ex 35:3
  2. They must neither bake nor boil Ex 16:23
  3. One must not go out of house Ex 16:29
  4. Priests must offer two lambs Num 28:9,10
  5. Compel all among them to keep this day Ex 20:10
  6. Cattle must rest Ex 20:10
  7. All who broke it must be stoned Ex 31:14
  8. It was to be kept from sunset to sunset Lev 23:32
- D. The Sabbath was to be perpetual "Throughout their generation" Ex 31:16,17

1. It was as lasting as other commandments of the law (Passover Ex 12:14; Burning incense Ex 30:8)
2. The Sabbath was not given to Gentiles, only to the Jews Deut 5:1-3,15
3. It could not be in force longer than the law of which it was a part, nor could it be required of those other than to whom it was given,
4. If it is binding on Christians today, then either the covenant in which it was given has never been abolished and is binding on all men; or it has been adopted into the new law that superseded the old.

#### II. THE SABBATH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath Mk 2:27,28
  1. As a Jew in the flesh He kept the Sabbath as well as other commandments of the law Gal 4:4 (circumcision Lk 2:21; Passover Matt 26:17-25)
  2. His statement indicates His superiority to and authority over the Sabbath Matt 12:11,12
  3. Matt 5:17, 18 shows he did not violate the law during His life; however, Christ fulfilled the laws and therefore it was taken away!
- B. God promised a new covenant Heb 8:8-13; Jer 31:33
  1. Moses law was not intended for all people or ages
  2. Its purpose: To identify sin Rom 7:7 and bring men to Christ Gal 3:21-25
  3. This middle wall of partition between Jews And Gentiles was taken away Eph 2:14-16
    - a. Man can now be redeemed from the curse of the law Gal 3:13; Heb 7:18,19
    - b. Christ no effect to its followers Gal .5:4; 2:21
    - c. No longer under this Schoolmaster" Gal 3:24,25
- C. "The Law" including "moral" & "ceremonial" done away 2Cor 3:7-16
  1. That which was "written and engraved in stones "was to be done away" v.7; "is done away" v. 11; "is abolished" v,10; "is done away in Christ" v. 14
  2. "Dead to the law by the body of Christ." Rom 7:4
    - a. "We are delivered from the law Rom 7:6
    - b. Refers to "the law" including commandments specified by "thou shalt not covet" Rom 7:7
  3. Nine of ten incorporated into gospel. Only Sabbath not commanded of Christians 1Cor 8:4; 10:14; Eph 4:29; Eph 6:1-3 Rom 13:9
  4. The terms "moral" and "ceremonial" are man-made descriptions. In 2Cor 3 Ten Commandments were taken away as well as the rest of the law!

5. God did not divide the law by using different terms in fact, the Bible only speaks of "two covenants" God has given his people; not three (moral, ceremonial, spiritual ) Gal 4: 21-26
  6. A distinction is made between the "Law of Moses" and "Law of God." The reasoning which makes this distinction is invalid
    - a. They conclude that only the "law of Moses" (which they say is "ceremonial") was done away
    - b. They conclude also that the "law of God" (which they say is the "moral") Is still binding
    - c. Scriptures use both terms to describe same law; therefore, if one is still binding, so is the other, and if one is done away then so is other! Ezra 7:6,12; Neh 8:1,8; Lk 2:22,23
- D. The Law, including Sabbath nailed to cross Col 2:14-17
1. The term "Sabbath" is in the genitive plural in Col 2:16 which is identically the same form in which it is found in Ex 20:8 in the Septuagint
  2. Since the other special Sabbaths are obviously intended by the terms used, the apostle was including all Sabbaths. The pattern is much like that used in the Old Testament when describing all the Sabbaths which were kept.
    - a. Compare 1Chron 23:30,31; 2Chron 2:4; 8:13; 31:3; Neh 10:33
    - b. Col 2:14-17 Sabbaths which were taken away by the cross: MEAT OR DRINK (daily); HOLY DAY (yearly); NEW MOON (monthly); Sabbath (weekly)
- E. Seventh-Day Adventist claim that somewhere during the first five centuries after Christ, the Pope changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.
1. They cannot produce reliable historical proof.
  2. They need to give the time, manner, place, persons, facts and reasons for so remarkable an occurrence.
  3. If Catholics claimed this, it wouldn't make it so
    - a. We reject claim that the pope is infallible
    - b. why not repudiate all other unproven claims
- F. Christians worship on the first day of the week.
1. This is the "Lord's Day" Rev 1:10
    - a. On first day of the week the Lord arose Mk 16:9

- b. The Holy Ghost fell on the apostles on this day Acts 2:1-4 Pentecost = 50 days after Passover 7 weeks and one day = first day of week
  - c. This is the time when the disciples met to break bread Acts 20:7
  - d. A regular assembly is indicated 1Cor. 16: 2
2. First day of week is never called the "Sabbath".
- a. Word "Sabbath" literally means "cessation or rest", a rest was appointed by God for the seventh day, not the first
  - b. There may be Christians who take this day to rest, but this is not the Christian Sabbath".

### III. WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN'S SABBATH? Heb 4:1-11

- A. A promise is left us of entering into it Heb 4:1
1. Parallel made with Israel Journeying to Canaan Heb 3:11-19
  2. We too can fall from grace Heb 3:12; 4:1,11
- B. Children are to enter into God's rest v.3
1. God rested on the seventh day Gen 2:2
  2. Israel was promised the ante type of the Christian's rest
    - a. Primarily, the "rest" was the possession of Canaan.
    - b. Here means that better "Rest" of which Canaan was a type.
- C. Children of Israel failed because of unbelief Heb 4:2
1. Verses 3 and 5 are rendered "they shall not enter into my rest"(NKJ & RV) (same as in Heb 3:11)
  2. Apostate Jews did not enter, thus there remains the "rest" to be entered.
  3. The argument that Joshua led the Jews into that rest is refuted by David Psa 95:7-11
- D. We must labor to enter the rest Heb 4:10,11
1. We will then cease from work Rev 14:13
  2. Now we need to finish the course 2Tim 4:6-8

### CONCLUSION;

- A. When Christians keep the Sabbath they are observing a Day which was made holy only to the Jews.
- B. A study of the books of Galatians, Hebrews, and Romans should help the Christian understand he does not serve under the Law of Moses.
- C. In fact, the Christian should heed the warning: "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" Gal 2:21. "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace" Gal 5: