

## LAW VERSUS GRACE (37)

**QUESTION #26** – What was the actual purpose of the Old Testament Sabbath?

**Purpose #1** - It was a sign between Jehovah and Israel in the O.T. economy. **Ex. 31:12-17**

**Purpose #2** - It was never a sign between Jehovah and Gentiles.

**Purpose #3** - It was a reminder to Israel that as a nation she was separated unto Jehovah.

**QUESTION #27** – What characterized the Old Testament Sabbath Day?

**The thing that characterized the O.T. Sabbath was that it was a day of complete physical rest from any sort of physical activity.** No fire was to be kindled; no food was to be prepared; no journey was to be undertaken; no buying or selling; no burden was to be borne; no work was to be done. Whoever broke this legal requirement of the O.T. law was in grave danger of being put to death (**Num. 15:32-36; Ex. 31:12-17; 35:3; 16:22-26; Neh. 10:31; 13:15-21; Lev. 25:4**).

**QUESTION #28** – When exactly did the dispensation of the law end?

It ended with Jesus Christ and specifically it ended with His work on Calvary. **John 1:16-17; Rom. 6:14; 7:6; Gal. 3:19-25; Col. 2:14**

**QUESTION #29** – What did Christ mean when He said that He was Lord over the Sabbath?  
**Mark 2:27-28; Luke 6:5**

**What Jesus meant was that He had absolute authority to change and even abolish the Sabbath Day.**

**QUESTION #30** – What is the significance of **Mark 2:27** to Sabbath Day theology?

In the original Greek text there is an article “the” before each noun “man.” This clearly indicates that Jesus had a specific man in mind. If we take into consideration that: 1) The Sabbath is never applied to Gentiles; 2) That man is used in the O.T. many times as a reference to Israel, it becomes very clear that Christ’s meaning is the Sabbath Day was made for Israel and not Israel for the Sabbath Day.

Dr. Chafer picked up on this point when he said, “...the word man is used in the Old Testament no less than 336 times, when referring to Israel alone...It is therefore evident that Christ said, in harmony with all Scripture, that the Sabbath was made for Israel; for there is no Biblical evidence that Christ ever imposed the Jewish Sabbath on either Gentiles or Christians...” (*Grace*, p. 255).

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**QUESTION #31** – Did Christ make any mention of the Sabbath in His Upper Room discourse in **John 13-17**?

The answer is No! This particular discourse is given to present Church Age and Grace Age theology after Jesus would be raised from the dead, and there is absolutely no mention of a Sabbath Day being imposed on Christians.

**QUESTION #32** – What are two key Biblical observations that indicate the Sabbath is gone?

**Observation #1** - There is no record of early Christians observing the Sabbath.

**Observation #2** - There is no mention of keeping such a day in all of the Scriptures which present grace teaching.

**QUESTION #33** – Is there any evidence that the Sabbath day was observed during the Church epistles?

The answer is No! There is not one Christian who is said to have observed such a day. In fact, Christians were being criticized because they did not observe Sabbath Day things (**Col. 2:16; Rom. 14:5**).

**QUESTION #34** – Is there any evidence that the Sabbath day was observed during the **book of Acts**?

There was not one reference to believing Christians in Acts observing the Sabbath Day. The Sabbath Day is referred to nine times in the **book of Acts** and it is used in reference to unbelieving Jews (i.e. **Acts 13:14-16, 43**).

**QUESTION #35** – What is the significance of **Colossians 2:10-17**?

This passage clearly teaches that a New Testament believer is complete in Jesus Christ (**Col. 2:10**); the law is nailed to the cross of Jesus Christ (**2:14**); and, therefore the Sabbath is no more (**2:16**).

**QUESTION #36** – What is the significance of **Galatians 4:9-10**?

Paul specifically warns believers not to put themselves under enslavement to the Law, specifically as it relates to days. In fact, Paul fully believed and taught that if believers, whom he had taught, were participating in Sabbath Day observances, his teaching concerning grace was empty and vain; not worth anything.

**QUESTION #37** – What is the significance of **Hosea 2:11**?

This is a clear O.T. prophetic prediction that the Sabbath Day would cease. This is a description of a time when God would not be dealing favorably with Israel. That time is now. This present Age, the Church Age, is the time when Israel's relationship with God is not one of harmony and her house has been left desolate (**Matt. 23:38**). This is clearly the Age of the Gentiles (**Acts 15:13-18; Rom. 11:25**).

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**QUESTION #38** – Will the Sabbath Day be reinstated in the future?

The answer to this question is Yes! Apparently the Sabbath or a form of it will be reinstated for Israel after the Church Age is complete. There are two passages which are very significant on this point:

**(Passage #1) - Matthew 24:20** - This implies that there will be some form of special Sabbath fully operative during the Tribulation probably supported by the antichrist.

**(Passage #2) - Isaiah 66:22-23** - This indicates that there will be some form of special Sabbath Day for Israel during the Millennium and after the creation of the new heaven and new earth.

**QUESTION #39** – Why do we in the Grace Age worship on Sunday and not the Sabbath Day?

There are six main reasons why we worship on Sunday:

**Reason #1** - Because the law has ceased. **Col. 2:16**

**Reason #2** - Because a new day for worship has been appointed under grace.

**Psalm 118:22-24** speaks of a day of rejoicing, which will occur when the stone which the builders rejected becomes the head stone. According to **Acts 4:10-11** the resurrection of Jesus Christ was crucial to the fulfillment of this prophecy. That great day of rejoicing occurred on the first day of the week (**Luke 24:1**). Thus a new day of rejoicing and worshipping has arrived.

**Reason #3** - Because many significant events occurred on the first day of the week:

- 1) Christ arose. **Luke 24:1**
- 2) Christ first met His disciples after the resurrection. **John 20:19**
- 3) Christ commanded His disciples to preach the new message to all the world.  
**Luke 24:1, 44-48**
- 4) The Spirit descended in **Acts 2** on the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, exactly 50 days after the Passover feast.
- 5) The disciples met on the first day of the week for worship. **Acts 20:7**
- 6) The Church collected its offerings on the first day of the week. **I Cor. 16:2**

**Reason #4** - Because the new day typifies grace.

On the Sabbath day man rests from works required for blessing.

On Sunday man receives blessing before he works.

**Reason #5** - Because the new day was recorded as the day of worship in Church history.

- 1) Justin Martyr – A.D. 135
- 2) Clement of Alexandria – A.D. 194
- 3) Cyprian, bishop of Carthage – A.D. 253
- 4) Eusebius – A.D. 315