

LAW VERSUS GRACE (39)

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

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Reason #6 - The new day has been blessed by God.

For nearly 2000 years believers in Christ have been meeting together on Sunday and God has greatly blessed the believers and the churches. It would be both foolish and futile to attempt to argue against the fact that God has blessed His people who gather on Sunday morning and Sunday evening to study His Word and fellowship together week after week. The history of the church clearly shows God has greatly blessed this day.

Our conclusion is that there are many good reasons why believers meet together on the first day of the week, known as Sunday. But this is not an Old Testament Sabbath Day. Any person attempting to put God's people back under the Old Testament law or under Old Testament Sabbath Day observances should be taught Grace Age truth and if they persist in rejecting that truth, they need to be silenced (**Titus 1:9-11**).

One final comment needs to be made on this point. It is certainly not our intent to impose any legal Sabbath Day restriction on God's people. However, I believe that it does need to be stated that much of what is happening to the Grace Age Lord's Day is a disgrace.

The words of Dr. Charles Ryrie are worth considering on this point:

“In Christianized countries the civil Sunday with its partial cessation of regular activities has become filled with other activities (special games, opportunities to shop, etc.). Believers too are caught up in these secular uses of the Lord's Day. Churches also abandon opportunities to use available hours on Sunday for their activities. The result may soon be that Sunday will be like every other day of the week, requiring normal work hours as well, and believers will be back to the first century trying to find early morning or late evening hours for worship. To neglect the Lord's Day is to slight Him, to blunt the testimony of His resurrection and to miss the benefits of the ministry and protection of corporate worship” (*Basic Theology*, p. 432).

We do not want to become legalistic about the Lord's Day, but we also do not want to become so loose that we miss the wonderful blessings God desires to give us on Sunday. There ought to be a healthy sense that I am going to church today to hear God's Word and enter into God's worship. If we ever lose sight of this, we have lost sight of a special day God gave us in His grace.

QUESTION #40 – Were there any rules pertaining to the Lord's Day?

The answer is NO! There were no rules or regulations that were specifically devised such as Sabbath Day rules. But there were certain elements that were and should be emphasized.

(Element #1) - It was a day that featured careful teaching of the Scriptures. **Acts 2:42; 6:4; 11:26; I Tim. 4:13, 16; II Tim. 2:15; 4:1-2**

(Element #2) - It was a day that featured fellowship with other believers. **Acts 2:42**

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(Element #3) - It was a day that featured a special angelic presence. **I Tim. 5:21; Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14**

(Element #4) - It was a day that featured prayer. **Acts 2:42; 6:4; 12:5; I Thess. 5:17**

(Element #5) - It was a day that featured giving offerings. **Acts 2:45-46; I Cor. 16:2**

Giving is an important New Testament Grace Age feature. In fact, Dr. Ryrie observed, “The New Testament says more about giving than about any other single aspect of church life” (*Ibid.*, p. 430).

However, it must be observed that the giving in the book of Acts is not to be the norm for every New Testament church. Dr. C. I. Scofield accurately observed: “The experience of the Christians of the Jerusalem Church in sharing their possessions is not to be taken as normative for all Christian churches or communities. This voluntary sharing of possessions in the time of persecution is a beautiful evidence of the oneness of believers. However, it should be observed that this communal sharing was 1) voluntary (**4:32; cp. 5:4**); 2) in time of persecution (**4:29**); and 3) evidently restricted to the Jerusalem Church” (*The New Scofield Reference Bible*, ft. nt. Acts 4:32, p. 1168).

(Element #6) - It was a day that featured the Lord’s Supper. **Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-34**

(Element #7) - It was a day that featured praising God. **Acts 2:47**

When one carefully studies Grace Age teaching, there are three stated sacrifices God desires that we make: 1) A sacrifice of our person (**Rom. 12:1**); 2) A sacrifice of our praise (**Heb. 13:15**); 3) A sacrifice of our possessions (**Heb. 13:16**).

(Element #8) - It was a day in which God sovereignly saved people. **Acts 2:47**

(Element #9) - It was a day that featured God’s people singing. **Col. 3:16**

(Element #10) - It was a day that featured God’s people using a variety of gifts.
Rom. 12:3-8; I Pet. 4:10-11

(Element #11) - It was a day when all things were to be done reverently, decently and orderly.
I Cor. 14:40; I Tim. 3:15

Dr. Scofield writes: “Among the factors which were present in the earliest days of the church were the following: fellowship, prayer, teaching, doctrine, divine illumination, baptism, the Lord’s Supper, miracles, and joy” (*Ibid.*, ft. nt. Acts 2:42, NASV, p. 1528).