

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY

January 3, 2021

Matthew 12:1-21

“And he said unto them, the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” Mark 2:27, 28

The first four of the Ten Commandments present our duty toward God. (1) He must be worshipped exclusively. (2) He is to be worshipped in spirit, without the distraction of physical objects interjected as props or aids. (3) His name, signifying everything about Him, must be hallowed; treated with reverence and not used in a careless, meaningless manner. (4) The Sabbath of worship toward God must be observed.

Much confusion has arisen with regard to this fourth commandment. In the effort to clarify our understanding, we focus upon three questions:

1. How is the Sabbath to be understood?

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| A. Genesis 1:31-2:3 | Creation Sabbath |
| B. Deuteronomy 5:12-15 | The Legal Sabbath (Shadow Sabbath – Heb. 8:10; 10:1) |
| C. Psalm 95:6-11 | “Another Day” (Hebrews 4:8) |
| D. Hebrews 4:3-11 | Perfect Sabbath |

2. Why do we worship on the first day of the week, rather than the seventh?

- A. Matthew 28:1 Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week.
- B. Luke 24:13-35 Christ appeared to disciples on the first day of the week.
- C. John 20:11-18 Christ appeared to Mary on the first day of the week.
- D. John 20:26 Christ appeared to assembled disciples on the first day of the week.
- E. Acts 2:1 (Leviticus 23:15-16) Christ sent His Holy Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost, which was the first day of the week.
- F. Acts 20:7-12 The Church’s regular meeting was on the first day of the week.
- G. I Corinthians 16:1 Churches were instructed to give according as God has prospered them, on the first day of the week, signifying that as their meeting day.
- H. Revelation 1:10 It was on the “Lord’s Day,” that John received The Revelation from Christ.

This sequence and pattern reveals that from the resurrection on Christ onward, His people met on the first day of the week in observance of “the Lord’s Day.” It was the Lord’s Day because the first day of the week, by His resurrection, He then exhibited His lordship over all, even over death.

3. How are we to observe the Sabbath?

- A. By corporate worship, “not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together” (Heb. 10:25).
- B. By ceasing from the “rat-race,” from this-worldly preoccupations of mind and actions.
- C. By meditation upon and adoration of Christ and the wonderful works of God.
- D. By godly, spiritual labors: ministering, spiritual communications, prayer, reading.
- E. By nurturing and heeding a Spirit-informed conscience, rather than imposed rules.