

WHY NOT TALK
TO GOD
ABOUT THE SABBATH



WHY NOT TALK TO GOD ABOUT THE SABBATH

Lord, I have been thinking about the Sabbath. Some people keep it; some say it isn't important. Should I be concerned about it? "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." (Romans 14:5)

Then tell me about the Sabbath. Is every day alike or do you have a special day of rest for your followers? "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." (Rev. 1:10)

But which day is the Lord's day? Which day should be esteemed above the others? "For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day." (Matt. 12:8)

There are seven days in a week. Which day is the Sabbath day? "The SEVENTH DAY is the SABBATH of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work." (Fourth Commandment, Exodus 20:10)

But Lord, didn't you abolish the law which contains the Sabbath Commandment? "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." (Matt. 5:17)

Does not faith set aside the Law? "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." (Romans 3:31)

But are we not saved by grace? "For by grace are ye saved through faith." (Eph. 2:8)

Then why should we any longer observe the Law? "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2)

I know a Christian should not sin, but what does that have to do with the Law and the Sabbath? "Sin is the transgression of the Law." (I John 3:4) "Sin is not imputed when there is no Law." (Romans 5:13)

Which Law do you mean, Lord? Which Law reveals sin? "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." (Romans 7:7)

NOTE: The Law which reveals sin is the Ten Commandment Law.

Do you mean Lord, that it would be a sin not to observe the seventh day Sabbath as the Fourth Commandment teaches? "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is a sin." (James 4:17)

But Lord, didn't you change one of the Commandments so that today we Christians may keep another day than the seventh without sinning? "I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." (Matt. 5:18)

Then, is Sabbath-keeping a work of grace? "The Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." (Acts 13:42-44)

But isn't it sufficient that I love the Lord and live by the law of love? "If you love me, keep my Commandments." (John 14:15)

Does that mean all ten of them? "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10)

But isn't the keeping the Commandments a grievous yoke of bondage? "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (I John 5:3)

Yes, Lord, of course I love you and it will be a pleasure to keep the Commandments, but I always had the idea that the Sabbath was made only for the Jews. "The Sabbath was made for man." (Mark 2:27) NOTE: The Sabbath was made and given to man hundreds of years before the existence of a Jew.

If I could know for sure that Saturday was the Believer's Sabbath I would keep it. Did He leave an example of Sabbath-keeping for us to follow? "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read." (Luke 4:16)

But Lord, that was over 1,900 years ago. Wouldn't you keep some other day than Saturday if you should come to earth today? "I am the Lord, I change not." (Mal. 3:6) "Jesus Christ, the same today, yesterday, and forever." (Heb. 13:3)

Some one told me that after your crucifixion, Lord, your followers no longer kept the seventh day Sabbath according to the Commandment, is that true? "And that day was the

preparation, and the sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment." (Luke 23:54-56)

But didn't the apostle Paul always meet with the early Believers always on Sunday in honor of the Resurrection ? What was his regard as to a day of worship? "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures." (Acts 17:2)

Did he meet with the Gentile converts on the Sabbath also? Perhaps he met with the Jews on Sabbath and the Greeks on Sunday. What about that? "And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." (Acts 18:4)

What did the author of the Book of Hebrews teach in regard to Sabbath-keeping? "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." (Hebrews 4:9-10)

Is this, then, the instruction in regard to Sabbath-keeping? "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:27) If God had intended His people to keep Sunday in place of the seventh day, Paul or one of the apostles would surely have told us to. In the New Testament there are no less than 59 references to the Sabbath. The Book of Acts records 84 Sabbaths on which the apostle Paul and his associates held religious services. Yet there is not one word in the entire Bible, authorizing Sunday-keeping. The

observance of the seventh day is taught repeatedly and emphatically as a work of grace whereby the Believers show their respect and love for God. He does not try to earn salvation by keeping the Commandments, but he keeps them because they are right.

Lord, does my salvation depend upon my obedience to this Sabbath injunction? "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Heb. 5:9)

Then, by Thy GRACE, I will do what is right. I will obey the Commandments and keep the Sabbath as Thou desires. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14)

TALKGODSABBATH.MSW/CW4