



Doctrine: the Sabbath and the Lord's Day
From sermon 2.2.20

Read *Mark 2:23-28*

Review and Questions from Sunday's sermon: although a holy and special day, with Laws coming later, God gave man no instructions or restrictions concerning the Sabbath until Moses. (3000 years?) During His earthly ministry, Jesus makes two things clear: 1) the Sabbath day was made for man—to be a blessing and a rest. 2) Jesus was/is Lord over the Sabbath and can fulfill it and make it obsolete. Note: some get confused because we call it the "weekend". But, like our calendars, Saturday has historically been the last day of week and Sunday the first.

The Sabbath in Jewish History:

Genesis 2:3—God proclaims the 7th Day holy (again, no regulations to Adam, Noah, or Abraham)

Exodus 20:8-11—God establishes a Commandment Law to observe the Sabbath Day

Nehemiah 13:17-18—God's people repeatedly violate all of God's Law, including the Sabbath

Mark 7:8-9 & 13—By the time Jesus comes, they had added law upon law to the Word of God.

Matthew 24:2—Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple = symbolic of Jewish religion/system

What was the Circumcision Controversy and how does it also pertain to the keeping of the Sabbath? In the new church, Gentiles were coming to the Lord. Jewish Christians, from Jerusalem, were saying all new converts had to keep the Old Testament Law, including circumcision. The early church leaders, including the living Apostles, met and determined it was not required.

See *Acts 15:28-29*. What were they also saying about the Sabbath? Also not required.

Note: even the restrictions here on food/diet (food offered to idols, things strangled, & blood) are shown in other New Testament passages to be issues of unity, not commands. All food is allowed.

Why did/does the Church meet on Sundays? It is clearly the day of Jesus' resurrection. It is a celebration of our new life in Him and death to our old self. But, also death to the un-keepable Law.

Share some of the changes you've seen in your lifetime regarding Sundays—both in the church and outside the church. What should that tell us, if anything?

What was the backward logic, Charley shared, of what group would most likely have gotten a day of worship wrong? If any church messed up on every aspect of Church function and life, it was the Corinthians. They got almost everything wrong. Paul has to write two scathing letters to them in the Bible. History tells us he wrote at least two more that didn't qualify as Scripture. Yet, there is nothing about them violating a Sabbath. [also good candidates: the Galatians who were going back to the Law. And, 5 of the 7 Churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3]

What are your thoughts on even Sunday mornings being adaptable for corporate worship? Various personal answers. It does seem to be clearly shown as the model for corporate worship. But, we (and many churches) have had to temporarily adapt to the situation given. There is no command. See *Romans 14:4-6*

What are Sabbatarians? Those who believe we should adhere to most of the Old Testament Law concerning the Sabbath, but on Sundays rather than Saturdays. Why do we not hold that view? There are just no New Testament commands or teachings to do so. Doing even a casual study of the Old Testament Sabbath shows it would be very complex to pick and choose (and define, like those Pharisees) which restrictions to obey on Sundays. Consider *Numbers 15:32-36*