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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

The Sabbath Day.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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The Sabbath Day.

Topics.

- No work is to be done on the Sabbath Day.
- The Sabbath Day was a sign between God and Israel.
- On the seventh day you shall rest.
- Whoever does any work on the Sabbath Day shall be put to death.
- The Sabbath Day is a day of rest.
- Esteeming one day as better than another.
- Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?
- Emperor Constantine and the council of Nicea.

INTRODUCTION: some Christians believe Saturday is the true Sabbath of God while others believe Sunday is the day Christians should gather together to worship God. Many of those who worship on Saturday believe those who worship on Sunday are following a pagan practice while many who worship on Sunday believe that those who worship on Saturday are bound to Old Testament Jewish law. This study sets about to discover who is right.

No Work is to be done on the Sabbath Day.

Exodus 20:8-11 ----- ⁸"Remember the SABBATH DAY, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a SABBATH to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Israel is told to strictly set every seventh day which on the Jewish calendar is Saturday and keep it as a SABBATH DAY for the LORD meaning they were to do no secular work and especially work involving business, money and profit.

Exodus 23:12 ----- ¹²"Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed.

The idea of the Sabbath Day is that it would not only be a day set aside for the LORD, but a day set aside for rest and relaxation for the people as well as their work animals.

The Punishment for Working on the Sabbath Day.

Exodus 31:12-14 ----- ¹²the LORD said to Moses, ¹³"You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. ¹⁴You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

These verses highlight the truth that the Sabbath Day was given to the nation of Israel and not the Gentile nations this is because it was to be a sign to the Israelites that they would remember that it was the LORD who had set them apart to be His chosen people. The words, "You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you" means they were to do no secular work on the Sabbath Day.

These verses also shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Christian churches or believers who place themselves legalistically under God's command to keep the Sabbath Day and think others are lesser Christians should also be placing themselves under the punishment that is linked to it and be putting those of their members who do not keep the seventh day or who work on the Sabbath Day to death since it is hypocritical to own one part of a commandment and not the other part. Surely if we embrace a law we should embrace the whole of that law and not just the part of it that suits us.

The Sabbath Day was a Sign between God and Israel.

Exodus 31:15-17 ----- ¹⁵Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. ¹⁶Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. ¹⁷It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.' "

Again we see that the Sabbath Day was to be: -

- Totally free from any form of secular work.
- A day of rest and relaxation so that all would be re-energized and revitalized.
- Whoever does not keep the Sabbath Day or does any form of secular work on it was to be put to death.
- A sign and covenant between Israel and the LORD forever.

On the Seventh Day you shall Rest.

Exodus 34:21 ----- ²¹"Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.

Here we see that there were no exceptions it mattered not if it was time to plant or the time to harvest the Sabbath Day was to be kept.

Whoever does any Work on the Sabbath Day shall be put to Death.

Exodus 35:1-3 ----- ¹Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do. ²Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. ³You shall kindle no fire in all your dwelling places on the Sabbath day."

Here we see that the Sabbath Day was given to the entire congregation of Israel (meaning all the men, the woman and the children of Israel) and that they were not even to chop any wood to put on their fire places. This is why the Bible talks of a Day of Preparation prior to a Sabbath Day. Israel was to prepare everything on this Day of Preparation so that they would not have to work on the Sabbath Day.

Deuteronomy 5:12 -- ¹²Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you (Deuteronomy 5:12).

The Sabbath Day is a Day of Rest.

Leviticus 23:3 ----- ³"Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places.

Convocation: in this context means the arranging or calling of a formal meeting.

This verse shows us that it mattered not whether the people of Israel dwelt in the land of Israel or a Gentile nation they were still to set the seventh day aside and keep it as a Sabbath Day.

Esteeming one Day as Better than Another.

Romans 14:5-10 ----- ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord.

The Jews had four-thousand years of history keeping the Sabbath for God thus the ones who esteem one day above another would be the Jews while those who consider all days alike refers to the Gentiles, but by extension the application of the principal Paul is teaching applies to all who belong to the body of Christ throughout all generations. Paul no doubt was fully aware that there is a danger for those who legalistically and strictly adhere to keeping the seventh day as a Sabbath Day to become puffed up in spiritual pride and view themselves as superior Christians to those who do not.

Some Christians believe it is right before God to keep Sunday as their Sabbath Day, others believe it should be Saturday while others believe any day of the week is OK all are being true to their own conscience and therefore neither should judge the other as lessor especially since each one is doing what they are doing for the Lord and it is certain Christ will not cast the faithful out of his eternal Kingdom simply because they did or didn't keep the Sabbath on a particular day.

Who are you to Pass Judgment on the Servant of Another?

The focus of what Paul is saying in this letter is not about those in Christ doing things for their own self- gain or selfish ambition nor is it about sinful actions, Paul is putting a floodlight on the attitude we are to have toward those who are faithful to Lord, but may have a different conscience toward religious customs and traditions to what we ourselves may have.

It is about wholesome acts of conscience Paul is saying that whoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ and faithfully follows him belongs to the Lord, he is their Master and their King and that no-one in the family of Christ has the right to judge the salvation of another brother or sister (especially on matters of conscience) since we are all servants of the Lord and only he has the power to grant eternal life or deny it rather our focus should be on making sure that we are fully convinced that what we are doing is in accordance with our own conscience before the Lord.

Paul is basically saying when it comes to matters of conscience each brother and sister should have the freedom to feel comfortable amongst the family of God to live true to their own conscience before the Lord rather than impose our conscience onto another person's conscience.

Each one of us should trust that the Holy Spirit is working with each brother and sister in Christ's family and understand that not one of us enter the family of God free of certain dysfunctions and aberrations and that all of us are on a spiritual journey of discovery into the endless and unfolding glory of God much like a miner hunting for gold digging wherever he can to find that nugget of gold that surpass all others.

Further examples of what Paul is saying: -

- In the Lord Supper (Communion) some believe it is extremely important to use unleavened bread while others do not think it matters since is only acting as a symbol of Christ's body.
- Some believe it is proper and right for women to wear hats in church while others believe it is totally unnecessary.
- Some Christians put stickers on their car to show they belong to Christ others think it is wrong because none of us are perfect drivers.

And the list could go on and on, but in all these things each one is doing what they believe in their conscience is right before the Lord and are doing what they are doing not for selfish gain or ambition, but for the Lord. No one in the Lord's family should judge the eternal salvation of another brother or sister or think less of those

that belong to Christ just because they do (non-sinful) things according to their conscience differently to what our conscience might allow or not allow.

We should all keep the following words of Paul in the forefront of our mind: -

- Each of us will give an account of ourselves to God and therefore should not pass judgment on one another, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another brother or sister in Christ (Rom. 14:12-13).

CONCLUSION.

Nowhere in the New Testament does Jesus or the apostles command Christians to keep the Sabbath Day, but they do encourage the keeping of the other nine commandments because the Spirit underlying the Ten Commandments is love they are all about loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Each of the six commandments concerning mankind protect another human from hurt and harm physically, financially, emotionally, sexually, verbally and spiritually showing that love is the Spirit behind the Ten Commandments.

The principal Jesus, the apostles and Paul teach is to let each person be convinced in his or her own mind. The brother and sister who is convinced in their own minds that it is right and proper to keep Saturday, Sunday or any day of the week as the Sabbath do right before God and should not judge each other since each group is acting in faith and being true to their own conscience before the Lord. God accepts all three groups providing they are not keeping the day, because of a legal requirement of the law, but are acting in honest faith before God.

NOTE.

Keeping Saturday or Sunday as a Sabbath Day has nothing to do with salvation. It is simply a matter of conscience and convenience to the culture and nation one lives in and in many cases simply tradition. If all Christians around the world decided to gather together to worship on Wednesday to many people's surprise God would still be in the service.

Emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicea.

Some religious groups say that because Emperor Constantine at the council of Nicea established Sunday as the day of worship for the Christian church those who worship of Sunday are following a pagan practise, but long before Constantine stamped Sunday as a day for Christians to gather together the New Testament records believers gathering together on a Sunday the first day of the week to fellowship in the Lord.

This more than likely was a natural progression of the Jews persecution of those who confessed to believe in Christ which meant they could not attend the synagogues and so began to hold church meetings in the homes of faithful brothers and sisters on the Sunday the day of the Lords resurrection.

Though it is not a command of God it is a most appropriated day to set aside because the only other day that will be celebrated with such tremendous heartfelt joy as the day Christ rose from the grave will be the day he returns in glory. The focus of New Testament Christians became the glory of the resurrected Christ; thus Sunday the day of the resurrection became the day of celebration before the LORD.

It is strange that the same groups who legalistically claim that Sunday is a false day to gather together to worship God based on the fact that Emperor Constantine of Rome an unbaptized convert and new believer in (325 AD) called the first ecumenical church council of Nicea and at this council declared Sunday to be the official Christian day, yet they embrace the doctrine that claims Jesus is God and teach this doctrine as absolute truth and yet it was Emperor Constantine and his selection of religious bishops who at the same meeting also stamped this doctrine as the official Christian teaching.

From this time forward any faith opposing or holding a different view that was established at the council of Nicea were considered heretics and put in prison or burned at the stake and in this manner the doctrine that Jesus is God was imposed onto the masses.

Even in many churches today, if a person says, they believe Jesus is the most beloved and glorified Son of God and Saviour of the world, but do not believe that he is God Himself they are not regarded as a Christian and often labelled as a cult because much of traditional Christianity has embraced this false concept of the Father and the Son.

Words of Comfort and Encouragement.

Since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life.

Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God 'and' Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).

For further information see the title: -

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).
- A Heavenly Courtroom.

Both titles are found in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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