



The Bible Speaks

WHY DO SO MANY KEEP SUNDAY?

Millions of sincere Christians conscientiously go to church and refrain from ordinary activities on the first day of the week, which is called Sunday, believing that they are doing what God has asked them to do.

If one were to ask a dozen different Christians why they do not keep God's day but worship on the first day instead of the seventh as God has commanded, he would receive at least five or six different explanations. There is no uniformity in the reasons given for altering God's day of worship. Some will say that the day was changed. Others will say the Christ, at His death, instituted another day. Still others will frankly admit that they do not know why the change was made. They accepted their day of worship believing that it was right because their relatives kept it and they are merely following tradition. One large body of Christians believes that God gave them the right to alter any of His commands if tradition indicates the need of such a change.

There is only one safe guide to follow in this world of religious confusion. There is only one rule of right - the Bible. The "Bible and the Bible only," should be our motto. What does the Bible say concerning the first day of the week? If Christ or the apostles or anyone else had the right to change what God has commanded us to do, there should be a record in the Bible to indicate upon what basis the change was made - when, how, and where the change was instituted.

Let us not depend upon tradition; let us build our faith on Bible facts as we take up the study of this important subject.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

1. What special day does the Bible indicate that God has blessed and set apart for rest and worship? Genesis 2:1-3

The Bible Answer: _____

2. How long did Solomon say God's blessing would remain on anything that He blessed? **1 Chronicles 17:27**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: Man cannot reverse it. **Numbers 23:20**

3. What day has God claimed as His own and commanded man to keep? **Exodus 20:8-11**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: We have seen how God set apart the seventh day as His holy day. If another day has been instituted to take the place of the Sabbath, we should be able to find some act of consecration or command from God to indicate the reason for the change. There are only eight texts in the New Testament that deal with the first day of the week, or Sunday. We will now examine each of these.

4. What does Matthew say the women did early the first day of the week? **Matthew 28:1**

The Bible Answer: _____

5. For what purpose did the women come to the tomb after "the Sabbath was passed"? **Mark 16:1**

The Bible Answer: _____

6. To whom did Christ appear later the first day? **Mark 16:9**

The Bible Answer: _____

7. What did the disciples and the women do on the respective days listed below: **Luke 23:54-56, 24:1**

The Bible Answer: _____

The preparation: _____

The Sabbath: _____

The first day: _____

Note This passage of scripture written thirty years after the crucifixion still calls Friday the preparation, Saturday the Sabbath, and Sunday the first day of the week. There is no indication either of a change of the day of worship or that the writer of the book of Luke or the Holy Spirit knew about any change.

8. What did Mary find when she came to the tomb Sunday morning?
John 20:1

The Bible Answer: _____

9. Why did the disciples meet late in the afternoon on the first day of the week? **John 20:19**

The Bible Answer: "The disciples were assembled _____"

Note: The disciples did not believe that Christ had arisen at this time. Read **Mark 16:11-14 (NT 50)** and **Luke 24:36-40 (NT 81)**. In this meeting they could not have met to celebrate His resurrection.

10. Upon what part of the first day of the week did Paul hold a farewell meeting with the church at Troas? **Acts 20:7,8**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: This was on the dark part of the first day of the week. In **Genesis 1:5 (NT 9)** we find that the dark part of the day in Bible reckoning comes before the light part. Hence, this was a Saturday night meeting. The **New English Bible** translates this text thus: "On Saturday night, in our assembly for the breaking of bread, Paul, who was to leave the next day, addressed them, and went on speaking until midnight." **Acts 20:7 (NT 126)**.

11. What did Paul do on the light part of the first day which indicates that he considered it an ordinary day? **Acts 20:7,11,13,14**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: The distance between Troas and Assos was 19 miles, which was quite a long journey. This shows that Paul did not consider this day a rest or holy day.

12. What did Paul do EVERY SABBATH? **Acts 18:4**

The Bible Answer: _____

13. What did Paul say the Christians should do on the first day? **1 Corinthians 16:1,2**

The Bible Answer: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you _____ as God has prospered him."

Note: This does not indicate a church service. The person to whom this is written is "to lay by him in store." The **New English Bible** translates this text thus: "Every Sunday each of you is to put aside and keep by him a sum in proportion to his gains so that there may be no collecting when I come."

14. What did Jesus say concerning the worship of man when he sets aside the commands of God and keeps the traditions of men? **Mark 7:7-13**

The Bible Answer: _____

Not one of these texts indicates that God, Christ, or the disciples believed or taught that the first day of the week was a holy day. Surely, if God intended that His day should be abolished and another one instituted in its place He would have given us evidence of this change in His Word.

John challenges us to follow our great example, Christ, in all things. "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." 1 John 2:6 (NT 208). It was Christ who consecrated the seventh day in honour of His work of creation. It was He who kept it on this earth. It was He who told the disciples to pray that they could keep it after His death. It was He who commanded us to keep His commandments as an expression of love. Let us decide that we are going to do what He has indicated is His will for us.

(If you wish to respond to the following questions, place a cross in the boxes.)

I am determined to follow my Saviour all the way and do as He has asked me to do.

I would like free literature on the historical facts concerning the change of the Sabbath.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____