

(cont.) Paul & the others while waiting for Sunday, just as any other day of the week.

We also can find that Christians were commanded to take up a collection (as an aside, this is NOT a tithe; there is no command to tithe given to Christians in the New Testament) together at an assembly, again identified as the first day of the week (I Corinthians 16:1-2). We must conclude that this is the same assembly which they met to partake of communion.

From these points, what can we conclude about New Testament Christians and the First Day of the Week?

1. The First Day was a day when Christians met to partake of communion and take up a collection.
2. This is the Worship of the Law of Christ.
3. Sunday is the Day of Christian worship.

Conclusions

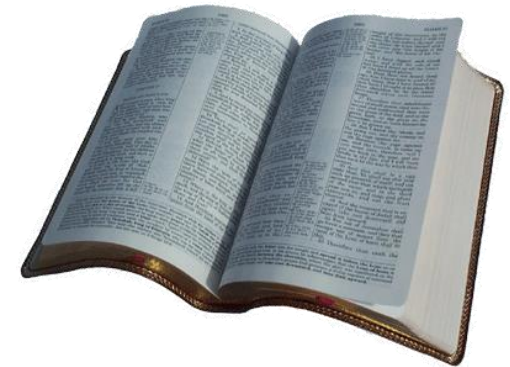
Christians do not “keep” the Sabbath (obey the command not to work on that day) because we are not commanded to do so. According to James 2:12, we are to act as those judged by the law of Liberty (Christ). As well, we are given a day of worship (NOT corresponding to the Sabbath), the first day of the week, the Lord’s Day (Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:1). If we study the Scriptures, we find that the fundamental purpose of the Sabbath was as a shadow of something to come in Christ (Colossians

2:16-17). What did it fore-shadow?

According to Hebrews 4:1-11 a “Sabbath” yet remains for the people of God. That Sabbath is the eternal rest with God in heaven at the end of our lives; we can see that the Old Testament Sabbath represented/foreshadowed heaven and eternal life. The Hebrew writer said we need to be diligent to enter it; we can fall short of it by: disobedience; being hearers only; being hard hearted.

To “remember the Sabbath” means to live in hope. Worldly hope is merely wishing for something, and is futile. Divine hope means we look to something promised by God and believed by faith (Hebrews 11:1). We are saved in this hope (Romans 8:24). Living in hope means believing in the reality of Heaven and living for heaven, not this life.

Should Christians Worship on Saturday or Sunday?



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There are several denominations today that meet for worship on Saturday, the last day of the week. They hold that the commandment to “remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8) obligates all Christians to meet on that day of the week. Is it the case that Christians are to meet on Saturday (the Sabbath), or on Sunday (the first day of the week)?

To answer these important questions, let us consider what the Bible says about these days. It does not matter what human tradition are about these days, but only what the Bible says (II Peter 1:3, II Timothy 3:16-17)

The Sabbath Day

The Sabbath day command was one of the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai in Exodus 20. These particular laws represented the entire Covenant God made with Israel at that place according to Deuteronomy 4:13. Since the entire law WAS the covenant, the Ten Commandments were a physical representation of all the laws of God given to Moses (Exodus 24:7). They were written in stone to symbolize that they could not be changed by men. When God spoke later of a new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31, He said that the New Covenant laws would be written on the heart, indicating it was a Spiritual law (in contrast to the carnal law of Moses as seen in 2 Corinthians 3:3).

When we read the Sabbath commandment

in Exodus 31:15, several things can be determined. First, the Sabbath was Saturday, the seventh day. Second, it was a day of rest, NOT a day of worship. In fact, the word “Sabbath” means “rest” in Hebrew. Under the Law of Moses, days of worship were days like the Passover, Pentecost, and other feast days (Exodus 34:22, John 12:20). Not once is the Sabbath called a day of worship in the entire Bible.

Another important thing to understand is that, according to Scriptures, the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14, Ephesians 2:15). In particular, we are told that the Sabbaths of the Old Testament were merely a shadow of the things to come in Christ (Colossian 2:16-17). Therefore, the authority of the Ten Commandments (and the rest of the Law of Moses) is no more.

However, many of the same laws in the Old Covenant became laws of the New Covenant as well. We understand that it was the legal basis and purpose of the Ten Commandments that was ended on the cross. It is similar to the transition of a territory into a state in our country; when the Oregon Territory became a state, many laws remained in place. However, the authority of law changed entirely. All laws had to be reaffirmed to be valid. What is interesting to note is that when we examine the Law of Christ (the New Testament) the Sabbath commandment is uniquely missing.

Law of Moses	Law of Christ
No Other Gods	Mark 12:32
No Graven Images	I Corinthians 8:4
No Blasphemy	Colossians 3:8
Honor Sabbath	-
Honor Father & Mother	Ephesians 6:2
Do not murder	James 2:11
Do not commit adultery	Galatians 5:19
Do not steal	Ephesians 4:28
Do not bear false witness	Romans 13:9
Do not covet	Romans 13:9

From these points, what can we conclude about Christians and the Sabbath?

1. Sabbath was a day rest, NOT a day of worship.
2. Sabbath observance ended with the death of Christ on the Cross.
3. There is no commandment to worship (or even rest) on the Sabbath in the Law of Christ.

The First Day

When we examine the New Testament, we find that there was a day called “The Lord’s Day” (Revelation 1:10). In Acts 20:7 we find that Paul waited for six days for Christians to meet together “*on the first day of the week*”, the time which we are then told that they met “*to break bread*” (take communion). It makes sense that Christians would take communion on the weekly anniversary of the day Jesus arose from the grave. In this same passage, we see that the Sabbath day (Saturday) was passed over by (cont.)