

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

Study 14

SUNDAY VS. SABBATH

This is a Bible study to see what day of the week the Lord wants us to attend church and if we as New Testament Christians are to observe the Sabbath day as the Jews did in the Old Testament.

1) JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK.

Mark 16:9 ¶ Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Very clearly he rose early on Sunday according to this verse.

2) MARY CAME TO SEE JESUS AT THE SUNRISE ON SUNDAY.

Mark 16:1 ¶ And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

Matthew 28:1 ¶ In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

All these verses indicate that they came to see Jesus, as the sun was getting ready to rise, the dawn or morning of Sunday.

3) THE LORD'S DAY IS SUNDAY, THE DAY OF THE RESURRECTION.

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

The root word for the word "Lord's" is a word that denotes something belonging to the Lord. This day, Sunday, belongs to the Lord because it was the day that He rose from the dead. There is only one other verse in all of the New Testament that uses this same root word.

1 Corinthians 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

There is a supper that belongs to the Lord just like there is a day that belongs to the Lord. This supper represents what death Jesus died and the day represents the day that Jesus was victorious over what nailed Him to the cross.

4) JESUS TOOK THE ORDINANCES TO THE CROSS, NAILED THEM THERE, TAKING THEM OUT OF THE WAY AND ABOLISHING THEM.

2 Chronicles 2:4 Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Colossians 2:13 ¶ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

16 ¶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Verse 16 tells us what “ordinances” in which Jesus was referring. The word “ordinance” refers to the “ceremonial laws.” The ceremonial laws are listed in verse 16. The word “judge” is in reference to condemning someone. Jesus was teaching that we should not let anyone condemn us for not observing the Sabbaths and the other ordinances mentioned in this verse. He took them out of the way!

5) THE SABBATH WAS ONLY FOR THE NATION OF ISRAEL.

Ezekiel 20:12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Exodus 31:12 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

14 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Deuteronomy 5:15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

The keeping or remembering the Sabbath Day was ONLY for Israel! It was a personal commandment for Israel BECAUSE THE LORD BROUGHT THEM OUT OF EGYPT! This commandment was never intended for other nations to keep who have nothing to do with Israel. This is the only one of the 10 commandments that God gave specifically to Israel.

6) THE SABBATH DAY WAS NOT WRITTEN ON THE HEART OF MAN LIKE OTHER LAWS WERE.

Romans 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

The Sabbath was not a law that was written in the heart of the Gentiles. If it were, people all over the world would be observing the Sabbath Day. However, people all over the world know that murder, stealing, lying, adultery, etc. are things that are wrong to do. That is what was written on the heart of man, not the keeping of the Sabbath Day.

7) THE OLD TESTAMENT KEEPING OF THE SABBATH INCLUDED PUTTING TO DEATH THOSE WHO BROKE THE SABBATH.

Exodus 35:2 Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.

To be consistent, one would have to teach capital punishment for Sabbath breakers.

8) NO FIRES COULD BE LIT DURING THE SABBATH IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES.

Exodus 35:3 Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.

It is inconsistent to teach we should keep the Sabbath Day today and cook in an oven on the Sabbath Day.

9) THE OLD TESTAMENT SABBATH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

Exodus 16:29 See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

No one in the Old Testament was commanded to meet together in a service for the Lord.

10) NOT ONCE ARE N. T. CHRISTIANS COMMANDSED TO KEEP THE SABBATH.

When Jesus repeated the list of the 10 commandments, He never listed the Sabbath day!

Matthew 19:16 ¶ And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Mark 10:17 ¶ And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Luke 18:18 ¶ And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Nowhere in the N. T. are Christians commanded to keep the Sabbath day! When James sent out commandments for the Gentile believers to follow, he never told them to keep the Sabbath!

Acts 15:22 ¶ Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

If the keeping of the Sabbath were still in effect, they would have told them to observe the Sabbath Day. **BUT, THEY DIDN'T!**

11) GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO TURN AGAIN TO THE OBSERVING OF DAYS.

Galatians 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

The observing of days is equivalent to being in bondage!

12) JESUS TALKED DOWN OF THE SABBATH AND BROKE THE SABBATH.

Matthew 12:1 ¶ At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

3 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

4 How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

7 But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

John 5:16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

17 ¶ But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Jesus NEVER even one time said anything good about the Sabbath and the keeping of the Sabbath Day! In all the references where the Sabbath Day and Jesus are mentioned in the Gospels, Jesus always down played the Sabbath and even broke the Sabbath AND allowed His disciples to break the Sabbath as well. It stands to reason if the Sabbath Day is so important to keep in the New Testament time period, JESUS WOULD HAVE SAID SO!

13) THE SABBATH DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE MAJORITY OF N. T. BOOKS.

The only two good things that are mentioned in the New Testament in connection with the Sabbath are Jesus entered into someone's house and ate with him on the Sabbath and Jesus as well as others entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and read the Scripture and taught the Scriptures.

14) CHURCH SERVICES WERE ON SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION.

John 20:19 ¶ Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Acts 20:7 ¶ And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

It is clear that after the resurrection, the church assembled on Sunday, the Lord's Day. We should as well.

15) SOME MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.

Saturday is the Sabbath day of the Bible, Sunday is not the Sabbath Day, nowhere in the N. T. are Christians commanded to keep the Sabbath, the Sabbath was a special covenant between God and the Jews, Jesus never talked good about the Sabbath nor commanded us to observe the Sabbath, the N. T. Christians met on the first day of the week- Sunday, Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath for all who trust Him as their personal Saviour, Jesus took the Sabbath Day, among other things, out of the way by nailing it to the cross.