

PROBLEM TEXTS ON THE SABBATH

- 1 * James 2:10 To break one of the Ten Commandments is to break them all
- 2 * Galatians 4:9-11 Days, Months, Times, and Years-- some Christian Jews were falling back into the ceremonial laws
- 3 * Colossians 2:16-17 The ceremonial Sabbaths were shadows of good things to come
- 4 * Romans 14:4-7 We should not judge each other over ceremonies or tradition
- 5 * Revelation 1:10 This passage leaves to other scriptures to point out which day is the "Lord's Day"
- 6 * Romans 10:1-4 Christ is the end (Telos - uttermost) of the law for righteousness
- 7 * Romans 3:31 The apostles established the law
- 8 Deuteronomy 13:1-4 Obedience is more important than signs and wonders
- 9 * Ezekiel 22:26 The priests have hid their eyes from God's Sabbaths
- 10 Isaiah 8:20 The Bible test of the law and testimony is needed
- 11 Matthew 15:1-9 They teach for doctrines the commandments of men
- 12 James 4:17 To know good and not do it is sin
- 13 Isaiah 58:12-14 Turn away your foot from trampling on the Sabbath
- 14 * Exodus 16:23-25 The Israelites were to gather and cook food before the Sabbath
- 15 * Nehemiah 13:15-18 Unnecessary work, buying, and selling were displeasing to God
- 16 * Matthew 12:10-14 Necessary work is considered good by Jesus
- 17 Matthew 7:21-27 Obedience is more important than "Lord, Lord"
- 18 James 1:22 Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only
- 19 John 12:35 Walk while you have the light, lest darkness come upon you
- 20 * Proverbs 28:9 He that turneth his ear away from hearing the Law....
- 21 * Jeremiah 10:23 The way of man is not in himself; ...to direct his steps
- 22 I John 5:2-3 If we love God, we will keep His commandments
- 23 Revelation 22:14 They that do His commandments have right to the tree of life

It is a historical fact that many of the early church fathers indeed wrote concerning the law and the sabbath. It is true that Irenaus wrote around A.D. 120-202, Justin Martyr around A.D. 155, Tertullian around A.D. 225, Eusebius around A.D. 324, and Augustine around A.D. 430.

Regarding the epistle of Ignatius to the Magnesians, there was a man named Ignatius, called the overseer of the church of Antioch in Syria. According to tradition, Ignatius was taken prisoner by the Roman police during a persecution inflicted by the emperor Trajan, and transported to Rome, where the story has him put to death some time prior to the demise of that emperor, which occurred in the year A.D. 117. The same tradition has this martyr writing a series of letters while a prisoner on his way to Rome. The total number of letters attributed to his authorship is fifteen, but all scholars now agree in branding eight of these as gross forgeries. The remaining seven are looked upon with serious suspicion by all scholars who do not need to rely on the writings of Ignatius to support some institution of the church. Even these more complacent students accept only a short form of these seven letters.

Of these epistles of Ignatius, Dr. Philip Schaff, of the highest repute among church historians (not an Adventist), says:

“These oldest documents of the hierarchy soon became so interpolated, curtailed, and mutilated by pious fraud, that it is today almost impossible to discover with certainty the genuine Ignatius of history under the hyper- and pseudo-Ignatius of tradition.”---*History of the Christian Church*, 2nd period, sec. 164, vol. 2, p.660.

There exists a **lengthy interpolation** of the Magnesian letter, made perhaps between the years A.D. 300 and 400, which distorts passages in the original manuscript to make it apply to advocating the observance of both the seventh-day Sabbath and the Sunday. This statement appears in the volume, *Answers to Objections*, Dr. Francis D. Nichol (*Church Historian*), p. 784: “There is, as a matter of fact, no reference to a day of worship in the Magnesian letter or in any other of the early letters acknowledged as Ignatian.”

Christians should be skeptical of placing faith in such sources regarding matters of faith and practice, especially when the inspired Scriptures in Acts of the Apostles records at least 17 instances of Sabbath observance among Jewish and Gentile Christians.

Now we refer to the “Epistle of Barnabas”. The letter is said to be dated A.D. 100. This Barnabas was purported to be the companion of Paul, the Barnabas who had a nephew named John Mark. Now John Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas when he was a young man (probably in his twenties, if not older). This would put Barnabas in his forties, if not older. This first missionary tour occurred A.D. 45-47. Since Barnabas was in his forties, if not older, in A.D. 45, he would be **well** into his nineties by A.D. 100. It was extremely rare (though not impossible) that anyone lived to be that old during the time of Christ. This statement was also noted from the last historian quoted above:

There is also a forged second-century epistle, the so-called *Epistle of Barnabas*, which in chapter 15 quotes Old Testament condemnations of hypocritical Sabbathkeeping and pretends to make them an excuse for Sundaykeeping. It seeks further to establish Sunday by setting it forth as the eighth day of the week, and forcing it into line as a continuance of the Jewish principle of the eight-day circumcision. The inconsistency and futility of this argument, often used thereafter, must be patent to all.

It used a Jewish ceremonial requirement, occurring once in the lifetime of the male Jew, as a basis for a supposed Christian festival, expected to occur weekly in the worship experience of all believers. For all this no divine or Scriptural authorization is claimed. The date of the writing of this strange document is not known, but it cannot be earlier than mid-second century. Ibid, p.786.

It is obvious that Sundaykeeping was becoming more widely accepted by the time of the writings of Tertullian (A.D. 235) and Augustine (A.D. 430), but without Scriptural authority. In fact, the Apostle Paul warned of coming apostasy and heresies that would creep into the church after his departure. The historical fact can be proven that **both** Sabbath and Sunday were kept during the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

Martin Luther, the great reformer of the 16th century, said:

“When God’s Word is by the Fathers expounded, construed, and glossed, then, in my judgment, it is even as when one strains milk through a coal-sack, which must needs spoil and make the milk black; God’s Word of itself is pure, clean, bright and clear; but, through the doctrines, books, and writings of the Fathers, it is darkened, falsified, and spoiled.”---*The Table-Talk of Martin Luther* (Hazlitt trans., Philadelphia, 1868), p. 281.

Dr. Adam Clark, the great Methodist commentator, said:

“But of these [the Fathers] we may safely state, that there is not a truth in the most orthodox creed, that cannot be proved by their authority, nor a heresy that has disgraced the Romish Church, that may not challenge them as its abettors. In points of doctrine, their authority is, with me nothing. The word of God alone contains my creed”---*Commentary*, comments on Proverbs 8, vol. 3, p. 725.

PUZZLED? Why Not Talk to God About the Sabbath?

Tell me, Lord, do you have a special day of rest for your followers, or is every day alike?

Rev. 1:10---"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day."

But which day is the Lord's Day? Which day are you 'Lord' of?

Matthew 12:8---"The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day."

There are seven days in the week. Which day is the Sabbath day?

Exodus 20:10---"The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God."

Which day, according to our reckoning, is the seventh day, Saturday or Sunday?

Mark 16:1-6---"And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James...very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun... And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man... And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen."

Notice: Everybody knows that Sunday was the resurrection day. The Sabbath was past when it dawned. Thus it is evident that the Sabbath is Saturday, the day before Sunday.

But, Lord, didn't you abolish the law which contains the Sabbath commandment?

Matthew 5:17 (Goodspeed translation)---"Do not suppose that I have come to do away with the law or the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to enforce them."

Well, at least, didn't you change one of the commandments so that today your followers may keep another day?

Matthew 5:18 (Goodspeed translation)---"I tell you, as long as heaven and earth endure, not one dotting of an 'i' or crossing of a 't' will be dropped from the law until it is all observed."

But, Lord, isn't Saturday a Jewish Day? Isn't the seventh day the Sabbath of the Jews?

Mark 2:27---"The sabbath was made for man."

Notice: The Sabbath was made and given to man 2500 years before the existence of a Jew (see Genesis 2:1-3).

Someone told me that after your crucifixion, your followers no longer kept the seventh-day Sabbath according to the commandment. Is this true?

Luke 23:54-56---"And that day was the preparation and the sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment."

But didn't the Apostle Paul always meet with the early Christians on Sunday in honor of the Resurrection?

Acts 17:2---"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures."

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Perhaps he met with the Jews on the Sabbath and the Gentiles on Sunday. What about that?

Acts 18:4---"And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks."

Notice: In the New Testament there are no less than 59 references to the Sabbath. The book of Acts records 84 Sabbaths on which the Apostle Paul and his associates held religious services. Yet there is not one word in the entire Bible authorizing Sunday keeping.

What difference does it make which day I keep? A day is a day, isn't it?

Romans 6:16---"Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Then what shall I do, obey in keeping the Sabbath of God's commandment or keep the Sunday of man?

Acts 5:29---"We ought to obey God rather than men."

Well, Lord, what do you think of Sunday keeping?

Matthew 15:6,9---"Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition... But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

But surely the millions of people who keep Sunday can't be wrong, can they?

Matthew 7:13, 14---"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Notice: Only a few obeyed God in the days of Noah, in the days of Lot, in the days of Christ. The majority were lost.

But Dr. So-And-So is a very wise man. Why doesn't he and all the great preachers keep the Sabbath?

I Corinthians 1:26, 27---"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

Notice: The great religious teachers in Christ's day rejected the truth also. His followers were of the common people.

But I have accepted you, Jesus. You have accepted me and I have been keeping Sunday. Surely I would not be lost if I did not keep the Sabbath now, would I?

Acts 17:30---"The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."

I know you, Lord. You wouldn't condemn me for breaking the Sabbath, would you?

I John 2:4---"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

But isn't it sufficient that I love you, Lord, and that I live by the law of love?

John 14:15---"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

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Does that mean all ten of them?

James 2:10---"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

Well, I think that if we try to follow you, Jesus, that is all that is necessary. Isn't that right?

I John 2:6---"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

What was your custom regarding the Sabbath?

Luke 4:16---"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read."

But, Lord, that was over 1900 years ago. Wouldn't you keep some other day than Saturday if you should come to earth today?

Malachi 3:6---"I am the Lord, I change not."

Hebrews 13:8---"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Does my salvation depend upon my obedience to your commandments?

Hebrews 5:9---"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

Is it absolutely necessary to keep the commandments to receive eternal life?

Matthew 19:17---"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

But I still can't see why you insist on the seventh day, Lord. Isn't Sunday as good as Saturday?

Genesis 2:3---"God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it."

I Chronicles 17:27---"For thou blessest, O Lord, and it shall be blessed for ever."

Well, it seems to me that if I keep one day in seven, regardless of which one, that ought to be good enough.

Proverbs 16:25---"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

But, Lord, can't I do something else? Won't my prayers and my profession get me to heaven?

Matthew 7:21---"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

But I pray.

Proverbs 28:9---"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."

But, Lord, look at the people who work miracles. Some heal the sick, others talk in tongues; yet they do not keep the Sabbath. What about them?

Matthew 7:22,23---"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me."

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Yes, I know the Sabbath is right; but my business would suffer if I closed on Sabbath, I might lose my job.

Mark 8:36---"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Well, for myself I wouldn't care; but what about my family? Wouldn't it be better for me to work on the Sabbath than to let my family starve?

Matthew 6:32,33---"Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Psalms 37:25---"Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

My friends will laugh at me and ridicule me.

Matthew 5:11,12---"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you... and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven."

John 15:18---"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

But suppose my own family does not agree with me. Should I cause a division in my home?

Matthew 10:37,38---"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

Luke 14:33---"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

I am afraid I won't be able to withstand all these trials. I am too weak.

2 Corinthians 12:9,10---"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness... when I am weak, then am I strong."

Philippians 4:13---"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Then, Lord, what is the reward for being faithful to you and your commandments?

Luke 18:29, 30---"There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting."

Lord, I'm looking forward to a home in the earth made new. Will we keep the Sabbath there too?

Isaiah 66:22,23---"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord."

Then, Lord, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. With your help, I will keep your Sabbath.

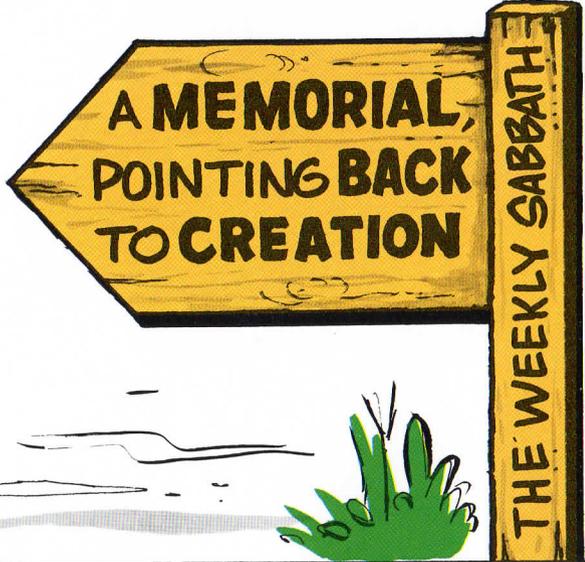
Matthew 25:21---"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

A KEY TO COLOSSIANS 2:14-17.



CREATION

GENESIS 2:1-3



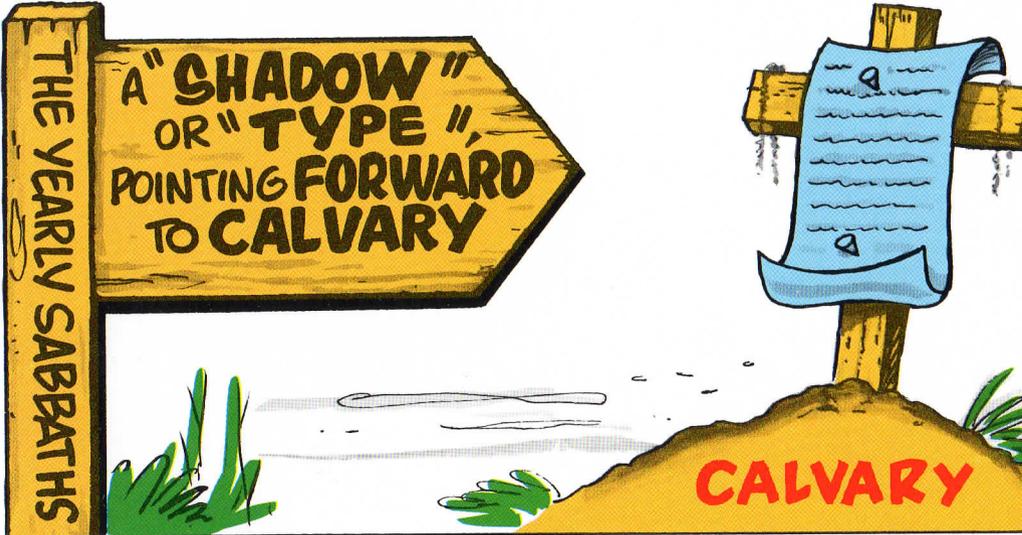
A MEMORIAL,
POINTING BACK
TO CREATION

THE WEEKLY SABBATH

THE **WEEKLY** SABBATH WAS APPOINTED BY GOD AT CREATION, BEFORE MAN SINNED, OVER 2,000 YEARS BEFORE MOSES.... ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO COMMEMORATE GOD'S REST AFTER CREATING THE WORLD IN SIX DAYS..... HENCE, THE WEEKLY SABBATH CAN NEVER BECOME OBSOLETE WHILE CREATION ITSELF STANDS....

THE **YEARLY** SABBATHS, WHICH WERE NOT TIED TO THE WEEKLY CYCLE, WERE APPOINTED WITH THE SANCTUARY-SERVICE AT MT. SINAI, OVER 2,000 YEARS AFTER CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN..... THEIR PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO FORE-SHADOW CHRIST'S REDEEMING WORK ON CALVARY.... THEY WERE TEMPORARY, AND BECAME OBSOLETE, WITH THE REST OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE, AT THE CROSS....

A "SHADOW"
OR "TYPE",
POINTING FORWARD
TO CALVARY



CALVARY