

The Holy Sabbath I

How Serious is God's Sabbath?

Fred R. Coulter—August 8, 1998

This is the first in a series that we're going to do concerning the Sabbath Day vs Sunday. We're going to make this very thorough, cover all the ground, cover all the Scriptures, all of the arguments. We're not going to let any stone unturned to understand that God wants us to keep the Sabbath and His Holy Days. It's a shame right now that there many thousands of brethren that used to be in one of the largest Churches of God and kept the Sabbath, kept the Holy Days, and now they're going back to Sunday. Just recently, down in Pasadena [California] at the world headquarters of Worldwide Church of God, they had their very first Sunday meeting in the auditorium. The auditorium was supposed to be 'the house for God.' Everything now is just being turned upside down!

There are ministers who say 'we don't believe at all anymore in the Sabbath or Holy Days.' They're going back to Sunday and they're going back to Christmas and Easter with all kinds of excuses and things to try and justify what they are doing. There has been 20-25 years of dumbing-down the ministry and dumbing-down the brethren to the point that they can't even read the Scriptures with clarity or understanding. These things now come in cycles, because we know how Satan works. He sends his agents to sit within and just wait for the right moment and then spring the trap and bring in all the false doctrines. We've seen how that has happened.

We are caught up in the centuries-old battle of the controversy between Sabbath and Sunday and which day is the day that God wants us to worship on. A lot of Sunday-keepers believe that the Sabbath is Sunday. I realized this from the time I was up in Salt Lake City pastoring up there and it is predominately Mormon. I was driving down the road one day and here's a great big sign which said, Remember the Sabbath Day, keep it Holy—see you in church on Sunday. That's about as bifurcated as you can get. I did a double-take on that sign.

That's how confused the people are today! Of course, God is not the 'author of confusion.' *Satan is the author of confusion!* When he comes in and causes confusion within the Church, it causes a lot of problems. Let's come to Hebrews, the fifth chapter, and let's understand where we're coming from in this. Let's understand what is happening in the Church and why these things are taking place and why people do not understand the Scriptures, and why they are so susceptible to giving up the

Sabbath and going to Sunday. This is a very important thing to really realize here.

Hebrews 5:12: "For truly, by this time you ought to be teachers... [Been in the Church for 10 years, 20 years, 40 years—whatever it may be. You ought to be able to teach your neighbor about God.] ...but instead you need to have someone teach you again what are the beginning principles of the oracles of God..." And the Sabbath is one of the very first principles of the oracles of God; the very first beginning that you can understand the Word of God and the Truth of God. We're really dealing with quite a tremendous problem here. Not only that, it also affects the people in the world with all the Sunday-keepers in the world. The time is going to come when we are going to have to say to them, 'Look, your Sunday is just plain wrong! We're going to see in this series why it's going to be wrong.

"...and have become those in need of milk, and not of solid food" (v 12). Too many people have not been fed *spiritually*. Too many people have not understood the Bible. ***Jesus Christ is going to hold accountable all those ministers***

- who would dare to say another word other than what God has said
- who would dare not to feed the sheep
- who would dare not to do the things that God would want them to do

But they themselves have become so dumbed-down in a spiritual stupor that they don't know right from wrong, up from down. They don't know the Truth of the Bible vs the false doctrines, which the churches of this world have.

Verse 13: "For everyone who is partaking of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness because he is an infant." It's one thing to have grown up in Christ to a certain extent then regress back to being a babe—back in spiritual diapers that you can't even tell which day is the day of the Lord. Cannot understand the arguments that are given against Sabbath-keeping or you can't see the errors that have been given in Sunday-keeping. That is a shame and God is going to hold you responsible for it.

If you're someone who is in that condition you'd better listen, you'd better listen to God, you better listen to His Word, you better wake up and realize and understand that God has not called you to a 'religion' or to do some physical thing. God has

called you to *eternal life!* Eternal life is going to be based upon God's Spirit, His grace, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and keeping the commandments of God.

In Revelation 22—right at the end of the whole Bible I want you think about the reward that you may or may not receive; think about what maybe you have thrown away, that you still have a chance to go back and recuperate, that you still have a chance to go back and recover yourself from the error of your ways.

Revelation 22:12: "And behold, I am coming quickly..." I tell you one thing, that *quickly* is a whole lot quicker for us today than when we first believed. I don't know about you, but I have been baptized for 38 years and very soon it's going to be 40 years. This quickly is a whole lot quicker for us! If you're getting up to being a 'senior citizen' like a lot of us are, it's coming to you—to call you to death, to put you in the grave—right around the corner. For you, His coming is going to be when you expire. That's it! Your next breath is either you're going to meet Christ in the air at the resurrection, or you're going to go into the Lake of Fire—one of the two. That's how serious this whole issue of Sabbath/Sunday-keeping is.

- Salvation is at stake!
- Truth is at stake!
- Righteousness is at stake!

Jesus said: "...I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me to render to each one according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who keep His commandments...*" (vs 12-14)—'doing' (KJV) comes from the Greek word 'poieo'—*to practice*.

- Are you practicing the commandments of God or not?
- Do you love God?
- Do you love His commandments?
- Do you love His Word?
- Are you trying to keep it?

or

- Are you willing to say with all of those sinners that God did not mean what He meant concerning the Sabbath Day, that was for the Jews—'we have the first day of the week'?

If that's the case, you are not doing His commandments, and you won't have eternal life. It says here, "...that they may have the right to *eat of the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city*" (v 14). *It is a salvation issue!* I can say, very frankly, that no one's going to be in the first resurrection who does not keep the Sabbath of God.

That is a very first point of fellowshiping with God.

Hebrews 5:14: "But solid food is for those who are fully grown, who through repeated practice have had their senses trained to discern **between good and evil.**" Sometimes things that are evil, on the surface appear good. It has come to the point that a lot of people are willing to be satisfied with the righteousness of men rather than the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

- *if* you have not been exercising the Holy Spirit
- *if* you have not been studying the Word of God
- *if* you have not been keeping the commandments of God in Truth and in deed

then you are in deep trouble when the Sunday problem comes around to you. You may choose the wrong thing and join the ranks of those who are in the Christian-professing world.

Let's come to Jeremiah 7 and let's see exactly what it is with conducting Sunday services down at the worldwide headquarters of the Worldwide Church of God right in the auditorium that says that 'this is the house of God.' *That is a really serious thing!* They even had a Christmas tree in there last year!

I remember when we first got the letter that we were going build and auditorium that was going to be a house for God: 'Oh, brethren, let's sacrifice and do extra.' We all did. We all sent in millions and millions of dollars to do it—didn't we? Then other things happened and lo and behold, when it came time to build it, all the money was gone so they borrowed the money. The whole thing started off on the wrong foot to begin with.

Here in Jeremiah 7:1 is what it needs to be; this is exactly what is happening in the Church: "The Word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 'Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this Word, and say, "Hear the Word of the LORD, all Judah, who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD"' (vs 1-2). Let's just modify that just a little bit: 'Hear the Word of the Lord all you that worship the LORD, that enter into Sunday and think that you can do it in the house dedicated to God and get away with it.' God may not send an earthquake or a lightening bolt to strike you down immediately, because there is a 'pleasure in sin for a while.'

Verse 3: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not trust in lying words, saying, "The temple of the

LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these”” (vs 3-4). Or, you can say today, *the house of God, we’re God’s people!* Don’t trust in those words. **You trust in the Word of God,**

- not in what you may think
- not in what some minister may preach
- not in what some theologian will say
- not in some doctrinal dissertation

—which makes it sound all nice and smooth, that ‘Christ has fulfilled everything for us.’ You need to understand!

Verse 5: “For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor; *if* you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your hurt” (vs 5-6).

Brethren, let’s understand something very true, very right: **You cannot worship God the way the pagans worship their gods!** If you worship God that way, you are in fact, worshipping other gods. That’s what’s happening! That’s what you’re doing! God says *don’t do that!* If you don’t do that:

Verse 7: “Then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever.” We can apply that *spiritually*—if you do what is right and don’t do these things ‘I will cause you to dwell in the Church and then you can be in the Kingdom of God.’

Verse 8: “Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit.” We’re going to show that every doctrine concerning Sunday is lie! Who is the father of lies? Very important to understand; I want you think about this *spiritually*.

Verse 9: “Will you steal...” Will you steal time? Sabbath time? Holy Day time? *God says that the Sabbath is His, and what we should do on it!*

“...murder...” If you’re keeping Sunday and rejecting the Words of God, are you not murdering Christ all over again?

“...and commit adultery...” Go out and eat and drink with the drunkards of this world—the religious drunkards—and do their thing?

“...and swear falsely, and burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know; and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name... [stand in the very Church of God] ...and say, ‘We are delivered to do all these abominations’?” (vs 9-10). I want you to think about it, because that’s exactly what is happening when you do that. You turn your back on God.

When we talk about Sunday—there are many *professing* Christians who keep Sunday, but they don’t think they are required to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. No, they don’t! They say that when God gave the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai, He gave them to the Jews, and the Jews are the ones who are to keep the Sabbath, not Christians. So, we need to really understand that.

What happens here is that according to the commonly accepted traditions and doctrines of men, it is claimed that professing Christians are justified in rejecting the commandment of God—the fourth commandment of God! Yet, they go back and appropriate nine of them to themselves. It almost incongruous to say, ‘Oh yes, we’re delivered to do this.’

- Are these claims true?
- What does the Bible record for us?
- What did Jesus really teach and do?
- What is the New Testament actually teach?

To understand the Truth we need to begin with the basics.

- Do you love God?
- Do you love Jesus Christ?

Let’s put you to the test!

John 14:15—Jesus said to His disciples; if you’re a disciple of Jesus this applies to you, these words are here for us: **“If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments.”** The Greek is even more strong: “If ye love Me, commandments My keep” (Greek Interlinear).

Verse 23: “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, **he will keep My Word**... [We will see concerning the words of Christ. We need to go back and understand Who Jesus really was. We need to go back and understand Who has created the Sabbath.] ...and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the Word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s, Who sent Me” (vs 23-24). You need to really think about it, that if you’re not keeping *His sayings* then you don’t love Him. If you don’t keep *His commandments*, you don’t love Him.

We’ll see what John had to write about it in the Epistle of 1-John 5:2—very important: “By this *standard* we know... [you have to know] ...that we love the children of God: **when we love God and keep His commandments**”—*all of them!* It doesn’t mean *part* of it. It doesn’t mean with *what you agree with*. If you don’t agree with the Sabbath, you’re judging God, and that can lead to some fatal mistakes.

1-John 3:23: “And this is His commandment: that we believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and that we love one another, exactly as He gave commandment to us. And the one who keeps His commandments is dwelling in Him, and He in him... [Christ is dwelling in you and you are dwelling in Christ **IF** you’re keeping *His commandments!*] ...and by this **we know** that He is dwelling in us: by the Spirit which He has given to us” (vs 23-24). And there comes a time when there is, despite none, to the spirit of grace, if you’re not keeping His commandments—of which the fourth commandments is the second longest commandment in all of the ten—you can agree with nine.

Think of it this way: take the body and divide it into ten parts. Cut right out of the middle of the body that which equals the amount of the fourth commandment out of the ten and you’ve got a dead body. That’s why you have a *dead religion* if you keep Sunday. There may be other life there temporarily, but you have to ask:

- Is that from God?
- or
- Is that from human beings?
 - Is that from Satan the devil?

You can be guaranteed that God is not going to put His nose into a Sunday meeting because He never made the day Holy.

Let’s go one step further; we’re going to see something very important that Jesus said. Let’s understand something here, right now, when Jesus was conducting His ministry it was under the terms of the New Covenant. It was not under the terms of the Old Covenant. That’s one of the false arguments that people have: *Well, when Jesus came, He was under the Old Covenant.* NO! He was under the New Covenant of eternal life. Notice what He said during the temptation:

Matthew 4:2: “And when He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, afterwards He was famished. And when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”’” (vs 2-4). Who was Jesus? *Jesus was God! Jesus was the One Who created the Sabbath!* A basic, fundamental thing we need to understand.

- Have we forgotten that?
- Can you throw out the Sabbath and say you’re ‘living by every Word of God’?
- Can you deny that and say that you can ‘choose any commandment’ you want?
- Are you going to go ahead and do that?

Since Jesus said ‘your Word is Truth’ (John 17:17), can you throw out Truth, live a lie and say you’re justified before God? Think on that! This is something! We need to really understand it. We need to really get into the Word of God.

Let’s go back to Psalm 119 and let’s refresh our memory concerning the commandments of God. Listen, brethren, God has given us the greatest thing He can possibly give us: *His Holy Word!* Then He gives us His Spirit in order to keep it:

- which is greater than His Word
- which gives us understanding
- which gives us knowledge
- which gives us Truth
- which leads us and guides us

Are we going to turn our back on the Holy Spirit? Are we going to go back and say that it really is meaningless and doesn’t mean anything to us? That we can now choose the commandments of God *we* want to keep? What if someone says, ‘We don’t keep the Sabbath, so why should I keep the commandment concerning adultery? ‘Adultery’s all right as long as *I think* that it’s really good.’ Or how about murder? Can you do the same thing and throw that away? **NO!** Let’s understand something: ***You cannot throw away the Truth of God!***

Psalm 119:142: “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness... [All the commandments of God are everlasting righteousness—are they not? Are they not done in righteousness and Truth? Is not the Word of God the Truth of God?] ...and Your Law is the Truth.”

Verse 151: “You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are Truth.” Very profound! You need to realize and understand that!

Verse 160: “Your Word is true from the beginning, and every one of Your righteous ordinances endures forever.” {see sermon *Jesus and the Prophetic Words of the Law*} This is how Jesus viewed the laws of God. After all, He’s the One Who made and created them and set it all in motion.

Let’s understand one other thing concerning the Word of God as a basis to begin with, so we know where we’re going in this. Let’s understand that God has given us, *by inspiration*, His Word. The reason I’m going over this and being very clear on this is because we need to understand that you can’t do as the Sunday-keepers say and do away with the Sabbath and keep Sunday, and by your own choice think that you can make Sunday Holy and have God accept it. Let’s realize that!

2-Timothy 3:15—Paul is writing to Timothy: “And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings... [the Holy Scriptures: Old Testament and

New Testament, because a lot of the New Testament was written by this time.] ...which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which *is* in Christ Jesus.” Notice that he didn’t say that you have faith in Christ Jesus and the Law is done away. ALL Scripture is given by the inspiration of God.

Verse 16: “**All Scripture is God-breathed**... [Think on that! Jesus said that ‘man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God.’ And ‘all Scripture is given by *inspiration*.’] ...and *is* profitable for doctrine... [Teaching, and doctrine concerning the Sabbath is profound and important, and we need to understand and realize it.] ...for conviction... [There’s going to be some reproof in what I’m going to say.] ...for correction, for instruction in righteousness... [so that you may lead a Godly life] ...so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work” (vs 16-17). We are to become perfect in Christ. Let’s understand that great part of this has to do with the Sabbath.

Now, let’s come clear to the beginning. Let’s see when the Sabbath was made. God wanted it understood from the beginning, no doubt about it. He wanted all mankind to know and to realize. He doesn’t even let you get done with two chapters before He let’s you know about the Sabbath. He wants you to understand about the Sabbath in a profound way. The Sabbath is not just something of a willy-nilly thing, but it was planned by God for the purpose of giving it to mankind.

Genesis 2:1: “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And by *the beginning of* the seventh day God finished His work which He had made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (vs 1-3).

Let’s look at this verse and understand a little bit more, because there’s a lot more for us to understand from this verse, and we can realize what is happening and what it’s really telling us. First of all, Who does the blessing? *God!* Nowhere here does it say Adam blessed the day. *Nowhere* do we find that Adam kept the first day of the week Holy. ***God blessed it and sanctified it!*** Man cannot make something Holy, because man is not Holy; ***God alone is Holy.*** God sanctified it; set it aside; made it Holy. Why? *Because* “...God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

In other words, God put His very presence into that day. Picture this: right after the creation of Adam and Eve, God rested, instructed them, told

them, ‘I’m your God; you’re My creation; I’ve got a fantastic plan for you and all your children. I want you to increase, multiply and replenish the earth. I’m going to bless you, and I’ve got a tremendous plan. This plan is going to be absolutely marvelous and you are the first man and you are the first woman, and you are going to be the mother of all the living.’ Can you imagine the instruction that they had on that first Sabbath?

Let’s also understand something here, too, because a lot of people say that the Sabbath is not grace. They were in a perfect state of grace in the presence of God, in the Garden of Eden; right there living and dwelling with God. So, right from the beginning ***God intended all mankind to keep the Sabbath!***

Now let’s jump forward to the New Testament, Mark 2, and let’s understand something very important. We need to realize how important this is—New Testament doctrine. Let’s understand one thing clear: One of the arguments is that since it’s not restated in the New Testament exactly like it is in the Old Testament, therefore, we don’t have to do it. *Not so!* ‘Man shall live by every Word of God.’ Is that not restated? Why should everything have to be restated? That is a carnal, satanic, salacious argument that has no standing at all. You need to realize that.

Mark 2:27: “And He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man...’ What does that mean? *Man* in the Greek—‘anthropos’—*mankind!* We’re going to see that even in the languages, this side of the Tower of Babel, we have Saturday listed as ‘Sabbatismos’ *or* ‘Sabbaton’ in almost every language on earth. Let’s understand, that is meaningful and that is highly significant. “...The Sabbath was made for man...” That’s why God created it; so:

- He could have a day of fellowship with man.
- He could have a day where they could come together to worship Him.
- He put His presence in this day.
- It is Holy time.

“...made for man, *and* not man for the Sabbath...” (v 27). God created mankind first and then the Sabbath. That’s the first thing that man observed—the Sabbath Day. God wanted them to know right away *Who* was God; their Creator. That’s the first thing that they were told.

Verse 28: “Therefore, the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” *Nowhere* does it say Sunday. He is Lord of the Sabbath Day! Which day is the Lord’s Day? *The Sabbath!* *Jesus said so!* Nowhere did He ever, *ever, ever* say that Sunday was the Lord’s Day. That is a concocted lie by men.

It is absolutely not true and does not hold any water whatsoever. We need to realize that.

I know people are going to say, ‘Well, after Gen. 2 you don’t find any place for keeping the Sabbath until you get to Exo. 20 in giving the Ten Commandments.’ I understand; that’s what people will say. But let’s examine that argument for just a minute. Let’s go back and see and understand that that also is a salacious argument. Let’s look at the facts of the Bible; let’s let the Bible teach us and give us the understanding that we need.

Here’s something we need to understand and it’s very important for us to realize. If we are Christ’s ‘then we are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.’ A lot of people will put up the concocted argument that Abraham did not keep the Sabbath. If it says there in Rev. 22:14 that ‘blessed are those who do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life’ and it says that you’re going to see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God and ‘you yourselves thrust out’—Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees—that means He kept the commandments—didn’t He? That means He kept the Sabbath. It doesn’t have to say specifically that He did, because these verses here tell us exactly that He did. There can be no question whatsoever about it. There may be an argument, but that is only the disputations of men.

God told Isaac that the reason he was going to receive these blessings was, Genesis 26:5: “Because **Abraham obeyed My voice...**” I want you to know and understand some very important, fundamental things. Everything we have in the Bible is from the voice of God, or the inspiration of God. Read the New Testament, since ‘in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God’—Jesus Christ. He’s the One Who inspired the Old Testament *and* the New Testament. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and 99% of the words there are the words of Christ and His teachings. When you read that, *you’re reading the voice of Christ*. When you read about what God said to Israel, ‘The Lord said to Moses, *Moses, say unto the children of Israel* thus says the Lord God...’ *That is His voice*.

“...obeyed My voice and kept My charge, **My commandments, My statutes, and My laws**” (v 5).

- Which laws and commandments and statutes did God give to Israel?
- Are they not the same ones?
- Does He not say ‘these are My laws’?
- Since Christ is the ‘same yesterday, today and forever,’ do you think that He’s going to change it?

- If He started out from the beginning with the Sabbath, created it and made it for mankind, do you think that Abraham kept Sunday?
- Do you think Abraham kept any of the holidays of the world for the pagan gods around the nations that God was going to destroy and give his descendants that inheritance?
- *Spare me!*

If you believe that, you’re not even at the ballpark, let alone getting a chance to get up and bat. You need to think about that and cover these things. Let’s carry this forward a little bit further. When the children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt, they didn’t have an opportunity to keep the Sabbath. Moses came in and said, ‘We want them to have a day of rest.’ Pharaoh said, ‘Who’s the Lord that I should give them rest.’

Exodus 16—this is a profound chapter when you understand everything that is here. This tells us concerning the Sabbath and God has performed some special miracles on it. We need to understand and realize that when this message was given about the manna and about the quail, that it was given on the Sabbath Day.

Exodus 16:4—the whole assembly was there: “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from the heavens for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain amount every day, **that I may prove them**, whether they will walk in My law or not.’” God’s Law is in existence whether it is stated in a particular place that you may think it needs to be. That’s neither here nor there; that’s a false judgment. God’s laws are God’s laws at all times. Whether people in the world know God’s laws or not, that’s neither here nor there. God’s laws are spiritual and active and moving and they are in place and in operation all the time, just like the law of gravity.

Verse 5: “‘And it shall come to pass on the sixth day, they shall prepare what they bring in. And it shall be twice as much as they gather day-by-day.’ And Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, ‘At sunset, then you shall know that the LORD has brought you out from the land of Egypt. And at sunrise, you shall see the glory of the LORD, for He hears your murmurings against the LORD. And what *are* we that you murmur against us?’ And Moses said, ‘You will see when the LORD shall give you flesh to eat at sunset and bread to the full at sunrise, for the LORD hears your murmurings which you murmur against Him. And what are we? Your murmurings *are* not against us, but against the LORD.’” (vs 5-8).

You've got sunset, Sabbath ends, quail comes, they eat them that night between the two evenings—between sunset and dark. In the morning, sunrise, bread to full. God sent it and here's all the instruction that He gave them to do.

Verse 11: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, "Between the two evenings you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall be filled *with* bread. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God'" (vs 11-12).

They went out and found the manna in the morning the way they were supposed to. Some of them brought in more than they should have during the week and it bred worms and stunk and rotted. Then when they went out on the sixth day they were to bring in twice as much.

Verse 22: "And it came to pass, on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said to them, 'This *is that* which the LORD has said, "Tomorrow is the rest of the Holy Sabbath to the LORD...."' (vs 22-23). The Sabbath was in existence before the Ten Commandments were given. Don't let anyone kid you and say 'the Sabbath did not come into existence until God gave it to the children of Israel.' *Nonsense!* He created it right at the beginning—didn't He? *Yes, He did!*

"...Bake what you will bake *today*, and boil what you will boil. And that which remains over, lay up for yourselves to be kept until the *next* morning." And they laid it up until the *next* morning as Moses said. And it did not stink; neither was there any worm in it. And Moses said, 'Eat it today, for today *is* a Sabbath to the LORD. Today you shall not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, in it there shall be none.'" (vs 23-26). From that day forward six days a week the manna came, even all during their wanderings for 40 years. There was no doubt when the Sabbath was.

Verse 27: "And it came to pass *that some* of the people went out on the seventh day in order to gather, but they did not find *any*."

- What does it take for people to *understand* the Word of God?
- What does it take for them to *believe* the Word of God?
- What will it take for you to *believe* the Word of God?

If you've gone to Sunday-keeping:

- Do you really believe it?
- Do you really think you can turn your back

on God?

Think about it! They didn't find any. They still went out to work. They didn't find any.

- How do you feel when you work on the Sabbath?
- How do you feel now that a *man* has come along and said, 'If you have to, it's okay to work on the Sabbath Day. After all, you've got to feed yourself. You've got to take care of your family.'

This is the lesson, brethren, that God is showing us, that He'll take care of us! He will feed us! He will cloth us! He will watch over us! It doesn't say that we won't have trials. He doesn't say that there may not be difficulties, but He'll still take care of us. That's all fundamental in *believing* God.

Verse 28—a key and important verse: "And the LORD said to Moses, '**How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?**'" There it is! God's laws are living, eternal, a spiritual creation. They, therefore, are *never* done away.

When we come to the New Testament, and you want some New Testament arguments, we are going to see that God did not do away with a thing. Yes, He changed the terms of the covenant, but He amplified the Law to make it more binding. That's what He did, not doing away with any of His laws.

Can you do away with the law of gravity? *No! You can't!* If the law of gravity were done away with, what would happen? *The whole earth would fly apart and we would become so much junk floating around in space!* It's the same thing with the Sabbath Day. ***The Sabbath Day anchors you to God.*** If you are not anchored to God, you're going to fly away *spiritually*, and become *spiritual junk* as it were floating out in the 'neether-neether' of religious stupidity.

Verse 29: "See, because the LORD has given you the Sabbath..." Has God ever given us anything that wasn't good for us? *Even His chastisement is good for us*—right? *So that we learn not to sin*—isn't that true? Think of it! God gave the Sabbath Day! Are you then going to turn around and say, 'God, I hate Your gift; God, I don't want what You've given me; God, I have something better, I have Sunday'? Maybe you've never really put it that way, but that's exactly what you're doing. Just exactly as these people who went out there on the Sabbath Day to try and find manna when God told them it wouldn't be there. You need to really think on that, and you need to understand it.

Let's understand something about *obeying the voice of God*. This is very important. Exodus 19:3: "And Moses went up to God... [this is quite a

scene] ...and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel.' The greatest event to happen before the coming of Christ: the giving of the Law at Sinai. God gave all the commandments for the good of the people *because He loved them*.

- God wanted to bless them
- God wanted them to prosper
- God wanted them to love Him and serve Him and have that close relationship with Him

God said, v 4: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you unto Myself. Now therefore, **if you will obey My voice indeed...**" (vs 4-5).

Go through Jeremiah and it's all based upon *obeying the voice of God, harkening to the voice of God and not doing it!* That's very important.

- Do you hear and obey the voice of God today?
- Do you hear Jesus?
- Do you hear the words of Truth?
- Do you hear the Word of God?

God wants it in your mind and in your heart. Is it there? Are you willing to obey?

"...if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant... [the New Covenant also has laws] ...then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine." (v 5). Apply that *spiritually* to the New Covenant. Didn't we read that 'if you love Me, you will keep My words'? Isn't that what Jesus said? Was not Jesus Christ the Lord God of the Old Testament?

Let's see the words of God; this is the voice of God. He spoke this to the people. If you claim nine of these and you reject any one of them, you're going to fall into the same category as James said. *If you keep all the Law but offend in one point of the Law, you have broken the whole Law.* Let's read the one concerning the Sabbath:

Exodus 20:8^[transcriber's correction]: "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.... [It's not a principle of one day in seven. This is *the* seventh day. That's why it needs to be stated: it is from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. That is *the* Sabbath Day.] ...But the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God...." (vs 8-10).

- He owns it
- it belongs to Him
- He created it
- it's Holy and special time

"...In it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter; your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your livestock, nor the stranger within your gates; for *in* six days the LORD made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it" (vs 10-11).

Brethren, no other day has been made Holy except the Holy Days, and those are also called Sabbaths. Here we have it right there. If you keep the Sabbath, you'll never believe in evolution of any kind, no question about it.

Let's understand something else concerning the Sabbath. Let's go to Deuteronomy, the fifth chapter, where the commandments are given again. There is another reason why we keep the Sabbath. In particular for us today, living in the end of the age, very important for us to understand and realize. This world, brethren, out there is a slave hole! Just exactly like Egypt! If you don't keep the Sabbath you're bound up in that slave hole; you're wrapped up in the world!

Deuteronomy 5:12—where He again talks about the Sabbath Day: "**Keep** the Sabbath Day to sanctify it... [How can you *keep* the Sabbath Day if you reject it? How can you *keep* the Sabbath Day if you cast it behind you?] ...as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your livestock, nor your stranger within your gates, so that your manservant and your maidservant may rest as well as you. And **remember** that you were a slave in the land of Egypt... [Where you couldn't keep the Sabbath. Brethren, we keep the Sabbath to remember that God has called us out of the world. We're going to see that Sunday-keeping is part and parcel with the world.] ...and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath Day" (vs 12-15).

Are you going to go to God and say, 'I don't want to keep the Sabbath Day'? That's something! Keep it in mind! To be called and receive God's Holy Spirit is the greatest blessing that you can receive in this life. Do you understand that? There can be nothing greater! What are you going to compare it to?

- God is giving you the opportunity for eternal life.
- God has begotten you with His Holy

Spirit.

- God has made you a part of His Family, to be the sons and daughters at the resurrection.
- He has brought you up with a ‘mighty hand.’

Furthermore, we know that God the Father is the One Who ‘*draws us*. No one can come to the Father except through Christ and He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.’

Let’s realize that there’s another aspect to it, which goes on in a perpetual situation. Let’s understand that this is a profound section of Scripture. This is not only part of the Old Covenant, but also part of the covenant, which perpetuated beyond the Old Covenant. *Covenant merely defines the terms by which God engages with you.* There are commandments, laws, statutes that we are to keep. They are to be in our hearts and our minds, in our inward parts, a very part of our being, of which the Sabbath Day is that. God says, ‘I will write My laws into their hearts and inscribe them upon their minds!’ This is part of it here:

Exodus 31:12: “And the LORD spoke to Moses saying, ‘Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, “Truly **you shall keep** My Sabbaths...”’” (vs 12-13)—plural—meaning also the annual Sabbaths. Of course, the world doesn’t understand God’s plan because they don’t keep the Holy Days. What a shame that even in the Church of God, the Holy Days have been so just ‘skeletonized’ that it really has virtually no meaning.

I had one woman tell me that she never knew that the Days of Unleavened Bread had more to do with it than just putting leavened bread out of her home and eating unleavened bread. That’s how far down some people have gotten. Brethren, the Holy Days are so full of understanding and meaning, and portray for us the great plan of God. Marvelous and wonderful indeed! Yet, people are willing to turn their back on it. What you’re doing is turning your back on God.

He says, “...Truly **you shall keep My Sabbaths...** [and He means just that] ...for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations... [a perpetual generation, not only just to the children of Israel, but the Israel of God today—the Church] ...**to know that I am the LORD Who sanctifies you**” (vs 12-13). It puts you in contact with God. *The Sabbath is the very first day that gives you the understanding of Who God is.* In other churches and ‘religions’ you may know some things *about* God, but to *know* God is profound!

- Do you *know* God?

- Do you have a *relationship* with God?
- Do you *fellowship* with God?
 - ✓ When you pray
 - ✓ When you study
 - ✓ When you keep the Sabbath
- Is it a day in which you fellowship with God

Let’s see what else it tells us concerning commandment-keeping. God says, “...Truly **you shall keep** My Sabbaths...” I don’t know how you can get around that. That’s pretty straightforward. When they had different false teachers coming around them—this is not the first time that people in the Church of God have been giving up on the Sabbath.

1-John 2:3: “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.” We read earlier that His commandments ‘are not burdensome and grievous.’ That’s how *we know* that we ‘love God and the children of God when we keep His commandments.’ Notice this: *We know that we know!* I want to ask you a question and I want you to answer it in your heart and mind right now:

- Do you *know* God?
- Does God *know* you?

You think on that! I hope you do!

“And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments. The one who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him.... [Who is the father of lies? *Satan the devil!* Very important!] ...On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is **being perfected**. By this *means* we know that we are in Him” (vs 3-5).

It’s the same way back in Exodus 31:13 and let’s see how this ties in. This is a commandment of God: “...Truly you shall keep My Sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations... [Are we still human beings? *Of course, we are!*] ...to know that I *am* the LORD Who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath therefore, for it is Holy to you. Everyone that defiles it shall surely be put to death... [If you defile the Sabbath you’re going to be put to death *spiritually!* You’re going to die the death little by little by little. There may even be a ‘fool’s elation’ in keeping Sunday. There is ‘pleasure in sin’ for a season, but it’s going to happen: *you’re going to be cut off!*] ...for whoever does *any* work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people” (vs 13-14).

The greatest punishment that you can ever have is to be cutoff from God! That’s the greatest punishment! And you don’t even know it. The people out here in the world don’t even know it.

They don't *know* God. They don't care about God. They're out there shopping on Saturday, polluting and destroying the Sabbath. You can go in the stores on a busy day. I was in Costco yesterday and it just struck me as I was pushing the cart around there, I could hear this Boop! Boop! of all the checkout stands going. I just stopped and listened and it's just money, money, money! Saturday is their biggest day. They've polluted the Sabbath! They're cutoff from God! They don't have any spiritual values—

- no Truth
- no understanding
- no hope of life
- no purpose where they're going
- no love of God

Oh, but they have goods; they have services, and oh yes, they have all these physical things—don't they? But they're cutoff from God, walking in blindness. Their spiritual leaders are blind. Christ said, 'Let the blind lead the blind and they both fall into the ditch.' They're cutoff from among the people.

Verse 15: "Six days may work be done, but on the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of rest, Holy to the LORD. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath Day, he shall surely be put to death.... [The *wages of sin is death!* That's New Testament doctrine.] ...Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath..." (vs 15-16). Three times it says within these few verses: *keep the Sabbath!* I don't know how people can get around it. How can theologians and ministers have the gall the stand up in a pulpit and say you don't need to keep it when God says you do need to keep it? We'll show that there's New Testament doctrine, yea, you better keep it!

"...to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as a perpetual* covenant." (v 16). This, brethren, is a separate, perpetual covenant in addition to the Old Covenant that is to go down in time through all history. That's why it's listed as separate. That's why God wanted to make it sure that it was understood, because He knew that there would be clever men coming around with clever arguments, that would blaspheme the Truth. Men who have *stealthily* snuck in for the day when they can undo the Truth of God and destroy the Church of God, destroy the faith of brethren. Perpetual means *never ending*.

- Does God still exist? *Yes!*
- Do the people of God still exist? *Yes!*

Therefore, in a perpetual covenant you are to keep the Sabbath, no question about it!

Verse 17: "It is **a sign** between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh

day He rested, and was refreshed." It always goes back to creation. The Sabbath Day has been in effect since creation.

Let's see what the children of Israel did in the wilderness and what their fathers did when they got into *the land*, and what the priests and the prophets did—turned their back on God and reject the Sabbath Day. Ezekiel 14 is a very profound chapter. This is something that is so important for us to realize. I want us to understand a profound principle that we need to understand concerning not only the Sabbath Day, but everything that we do.

They were in captivity for their sins; God had destroyed the temple and destroyed the land, removed them out of it for sinning, for breaking the Sabbath, for destroying the knowledge of the Holy Days, for worshipping pagan gods which meant keeping Sunday, Easter, Christmas and all that sort of thing. Maybe under different names, maybe in a different fashion than some people do today, but it's still exactly the same principle.

Ezekiel 14:1: "And some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts...' (vs 1-3). God took them out of the land; God destroyed the idols and sent them off into captivity and yet, they still had them in their heart. Do you have any idols in your heart? If you are not keeping the Sabbath any longer, are you not idolizing another day? Think on it! You can't make it Holy, but you can make an idol out of it.

"...and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I at all be inquired of by them?... [Are you going to go and inquire of God? Will you reject His way?] ...Therefore speak to them, and say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Every man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him according to the multitude of his idols: So that I may take the house of Israel in their own heart because they have deserted Me for their idols—all of them.'" Therefore say to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Repent and turn yourselves from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.'"" (vs 3-6).

Ezekiel 20:1: "And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth *month*, the tenth day of the month, that some of the elders of Israel came to ask of the LORD, and sat before me." Isn't that what people do on Sunday? Don't they all come and sit before the Lord, 'We're here!' But God says, 'Yesterday I was there.'

Verse 2: “And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel and say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Have you come to inquire of Me? As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I will not be inquired of by you.’” Will you judge *them*, son of man, will you judge them? Cause them to know the abominations of their fathers. And say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD; ‘In the day that I chose Israel, and lifted up My hand to the seed of the house of Jacob, and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt; when I lifted up My hand to them, saying, “I *am* the LORD your God;” In the day *that* I lifted up My hand to them, to bring them out from the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, flowing *with* milk and honey, which *is* the glory of all lands”’” (vs 2-6)—a beautiful place!

Verse 7: “Then I said to them, ‘Let each man throw away the abominations of his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. **I am the LORD your God.**” Let’s understand one thing about Egypt: one of their main gods was sun-worship. Guess which day they kept. *Sunday!* Think on it! That’s an abomination of Egypt!

Verse 8: “But they rebelled against Me and would not hearken to Me. They did not each man throw away the abominations of their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. And I said, “I will pour out My fury against them to fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.”.... [God was going to destroy them right then!] ...But I worked for My name’s sake, that it should not be profaned before the heathen among whom they *were*, *for* I made Myself known to them in their eyes, by bringing them out of the land of Egypt. And I caused them to go out from the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. And I gave them My statutes and showed them My ordinances, which *if* a man do, he shall even live in them” (vs 8-11). Today we’re to live in Truth and the Spirit.

Verse 12: “And also I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that *they* might know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies them.... [Were they pleased of that? Were they thankful of that? *No!*] ...But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes, and they despised My ordinances, which *if* a man does, he shall even live in them. And they greatly polluted My Sabbaths....” (vs 12-13). That’s what’s happening today; people are polluting the Sabbath by counting it nothing!

- What of God’s way would you count as nothing?
- What commandment of God to you is worth so little that you throw it away?

You need to think about it, because we’re talking about a profound thing!

“...And I said, “I will pour out My fury on them in the wilderness to destroy them.”.... [But again held back His hand.] ...But I worked for My name’s sake, so that it should not be profaned before the heathen in whose sight I brought them out. And also I lifted up My hand to them in the wilderness, *and swore* that *I* would not bring them into the land which I had given *them*—flowing *with* milk and honey, the glory of all lands—because they despised My judgments and walked not in My statutes; and **they polluted My Sabbaths**; for their heart went after their idols” (vs 13-16). There it is! When you start having idolatry and Sabbath-breaking, they go hand-in-hand—no question about it

Verse 17: “Nevertheless My eye spared them—from destroying them; nor did I make an end of them in the wilderness. But I said to their children in the wilderness, “Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols. **I am the LORD your God. Walk in My statutes, and keep My ordinances, and do them, and keep My Sabbaths Holy...** [plural] ...and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I *am* the LORD your God”” (vs 17-20). Notwithstanding, they didn’t do it!

Verse 21: “But the children rebelled against Me. They did not walk in My statutes, nor keep My ordinances to do them—the ordinances which, *if* a man do, he shall even live in them. And they polluted My Sabbaths, and I said, I would pour out My fury on them, to fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness. Nevertheless I withdrew My hand... [Look at God’s mercy time and time again, over and over again.] ...and worked for My name’s sake, that it should not be polluted in the eyes of the heathen, in whose eyes I brought them out. I also lifted up My hand to them in the wilderness, *swearing* that I would scatter them among the heathen and scatter them throughout the lands, Because they had not done My ordinances, but had despised My statutes and had polluted My Sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers’ idols. Wherefore, I also gave them over to *their own* statutes that were not good, and *their own* ordinances which they could not live” (vs 21-25).

Whose statutes and judgments is this talking about? He turned them over to their own devices. He turned them over to the statutes and judgments which their fathers had created, the pagan abominations based upon their idols, which had Sunday-keeping, Christmas, Easter and all the pagan things that they were doing. Those were the ‘judgments, which were not good.’ All of God’s

ways are good. It says here, "...which they could not live." You can't live in those things.

Verse 26: "'And I defiled them in their own gifts... [Listen! If you're keeping Sunday, God is going to pollute you in your own way. It is going to come upon you!] ...in that they caused all that opened the womb to pass through *the fire*, that I *might* make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I *am* the LORD.'" Look, there are two ways that you can *know* the Lord:

1. by keeping His Sabbath
2. by keeping His commandments

'We know Him if we keep His commandments.'

There's another way you're going to know God: *You go your way, you go do your sin and God's fury and judgment is going to land on you, and you're going to **know** that God is the One Who has done it!*

Brethren, that is how serious Sabbath-keeping really is! We need to understand it!

Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*
by Fred R. Coulter

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- 1) Hebrews 5:12-13
- 2) Revelation 22:12-14
- 3) Hebrews 5:14
- 4) Jeremiah 7:1-10
- 5) John 14:15, 23-24
- 6) 1 John 5:2
- 7) 1 John 3:23-24
- 8) Matthew 4:2-4
- 9) Psalm 119:142, 151, 160
- 10) 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- 11) Genesis 2:1-3
- 12) Mark 2:27-28
- 13) Genesis 26:5
- 14) Exodus 16:4-8, 11-12, 22-29
- 15) Exodus 19:3-5
- 16) Exodus 20:8-11
- 17) Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- 18) Exodus 31:12-13
- 19) 1 John 2:3-5
- 20) Exodus 31:13-17
- 21) Ezekiel 14:1-6
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