

The Holy Sabbath II

A Perpetual Covenant Essential for Salvation

Fred R. Coulter—August 22, 1998

Let's understand something about the Sabbath Day, brethren. Let's understand the real purpose why God has given it. *He has given it with His grace so that we can fellowship with Him, so the Sabbath can be the very best day of the week*, the very highlight of our whole lives, every week. On the Sabbath:

- We fellowship with God!
- We fellowship with Jesus Christ!
- We fellowship with the brethren!
- We grow in grace and knowledge!
- God presence is with us!

That's why when He created the seventh day He made it a special time.

Genesis 2:2: "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." He rested so that He could be with Adam and Eve personally:

- to teach them
- to tell them that He is their God, their Creator
- to show them, being newly created, as much of the plan of God as He could

In that then the Sabbath is a integral part of our fellowship and our relationship with God. We need to see and realize something very important {see sermon series: *Why God Hates Religion*}: God is not interested in a 'religion.' God is interested in a **relationship**. The Sabbath Day is a relationship day between you and God the Father and Jesus Christ and all the brethren together.

As God looks down upon the earth and when the Sabbath begins, say over in Australia, and then the Sabbath is coming to all the people that are on the earth for a whole 24-hour period the Sabbath Day is beginning. Then when it ends in Australia, it's beginning to end all around the world for another 24-hours. From God's perspective, His Sabbath Day and fellowshiping with His people is actually 48 hours on the earth. But it's one day wherever you are from sunset to sunset. This is why it's so important.

Verse 3: And God blessed the seventh day... [we don't find that He blessed any other day except the Holy Days] ...and sanctified it... [set it aside and made it Holy; that's why the Sabbath is called *the Holy Sabbath of God*] ...because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

Let's go to another place where it talks about the beginning, the Epistle of 1-John, the first

chapter. Let's tie these two together so that we understand that the Sabbath is a very profound and important part of our relationship with God. The truth of the matter is this: ***If you don't keep the Sabbath, you don't fellowship with God!*** You just think on that! That is the only day that God has put His presence in so that He can have that time to fellowship with those that He has called.

This is why God was writing here in 1-John 1:1: "That which was from *the* beginning... [That's what we just read about where the first Sabbath was created. We're talking about the beginning here.] ...that which we have heard... [referring to Jesus Christ and His ministry. We are going to see how Jesus kept the Sabbath and the example that He set for us.] ...that which we have seen with our own eyes, that which we observed... [to intently gaze upon in an earnest, deep, drinking in of Who He was as a person.] ...for ourselves and our own hands handled, concerning the Word of life." He's the One Who created the Sabbath.

Verse 2: "(and the life was manifested, and we have seen, and are bearing witness, and are reporting to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us)." Let's understand something else that's very important, too: ***We are not going to have eternal life unless we are keeping the Sabbath!*** You just think on that! That may come as a shock or surprise to you. If you're a Sabbath-keeper, you may say, 'How ridiculous.'

Verse 3: "That which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you in order that you also may have fellowship with us; for the fellowship—indeed, **our fellowship—is with the Father and with His own Son Jesus Christ.**" So, on the Sabbath Day we are to have this relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ, because this is the time that They have set for it.

Once we understand how important that that is, then we need to realize something else. Let's go to Exodus 31, and this is very important for us to understand, because God is a *covenant* God. Let's understand what is called a *perpetual* covenant. We will see that this is a separate covenant; this is not the Old Covenant. This covenant is a Sabbath covenant, which is perpetual. This covenant was made *after* the covenant with Israel was already sealed—signed, sealed and delivered. It was ratified in Exo. 24. Let's review this very carefully, and let's analyze what God is saying and how important that

this is. We're also going to see that this covers not only weekly Sabbath, but it also covers the annual Sabbaths.

Exodus 31:12: "And the LORD spoke to Moses saying..." Let's understand and reiterate again that Moses never said a word that God didn't tell him to say. This is not from Moses; *this is from God*. Too many people say, 'If Moses said it, then we can just forget it.' Moses never said anything that God didn't tell him to say.

Verse 13: "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, 'Truly **you shall keep My Sabbaths**... [plural; refers to all of the Holy Days. Let's look at it carefully. Not any other day. Sunday never was a day that God ever approved of under any circumstances.] ...for **it is a sign** between Me and you throughout your generations..."

It is something that is a sign, referring to Sabbath-keeping being the sign, not the Sabbath alone is a sign, but the Sabbath-keeping is the sign. Without keeping it, it is of no value to you—

- you're not fellowshiping with God
- you're not fellowshiping with each other
- you're not learning of His Word

—unless you keep the Sabbaths. God made it a very special time that

- He would fellowship with His people
- you can study from His Word
- learn of God and Jesus Christ
- grow in grace and knowledge

—so that we can prepare for eternal life for all eternity; that's how important the Sabbath is.

"...to know..." We have to *know* God! There are a lot of people who ask: 'Do you know God?' or 'Do you know the Lord?' Their Sunday-keeping doesn't do them any good in knowing God. It says, 'The Sabbaths are those things which help you to *know* God. That also follows by extension then Christmas, Easter and all the pagan holidays **do not** teach you about God.

- God is a God of Truth—correct?
- God is a God Who cannot lie—right?
- *Yes! No question about it!*

All the holidays in the world have lies in them.

- Can you worship a God of Truth with a lie? *No, you can't!*

Sunday is a lie!

- Can you worship God truly on Sunday, which is a lie? *No, you can't!*

"...that I *am* the LORD Who sanctifies you." (v 13). God is the One Who makes you Holy. If you keep any other day—if you keep Sunday, which a

lot of people are reverting to now—then you are committing an act of a *work of self* so that you can save yourself and tell God how righteous you are and then God must, indeed, save you. But He won't do that, because **no one tells God what to do!**

Verse 14: "You shall keep the Sabbath therefore... [it comes every week] ...for it *is* Holy to you. Everyone that defiles it shall surely be put to death... [*the wages of sin is death*] ...for whoever does *any* work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people." Have we not seen that happen? Has not the Church been split up? Have not those who have gone to working on the Sabbath and worshipping on Sunday been cutoff from the knowledge of God? They may have found a lot of friends in the world, but are those the people of God?

Then He reiterates it here and wants to make it clear, v 15: "Six days may work be done, but on the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of rest, Holy to the LORD.... [because He made it Holy] ...Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath Day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore, the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath..." (vs 15-16). We also need to understand that the Church is *spiritual Israel*, so this applies to the Church. We'll see that this covenant follows all the way down through to the Church. The Apostle Paul shows that the Gentiles are 'grafted into the olive tree'—the olive tree is Israel, and we are *spiritual Israel*. This *perpetual covenant* continues right on into the New Covenant; this runs parallel with the New Covenant. It is part of the parallel, just like it was part of the parallel of the Old Covenant.

Verse 16: "Therefore, the children of Israel shall **keep** the Sabbath, to **observe** the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a **perpetual** covenant." This is a separate and additional covenant that is bonded to us by death. He says if you don't keep it, you're going to die. A *perpetual covenant*, meaning *it goes on, it runs along side every covenant that God has*—parallel to and part of.

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." That's so important for us to realize.

Let's review again what the children of Israel did. Instead of following God and doing the things even in the *letter of the Law* that God would have blessed them in—because that's what He required of them—they went after their idols and their hearts, went after the things that they wanted. Right in here is part of the argument that some of those who are Sunday-keepers look at and say that

‘God gave the Sabbath as a curse; that God gave the Sabbath as something you should not live in. Therefore, God cursed the views in giving the Sabbath.’

Nothing, brethren, could be further from the truth than that! That is nothing but a satanic lie! God gave the Sabbath as a blessing; He blessed it and He made it Holy. He sanctified it, and He wants to fellowship with you on this day. That’s how important the Sabbath really is.

Ezekiel 20:18: “But I said to their children in the wilderness... [after those who had rebelled all died] ...‘Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers... [and those who were following their own gods] ...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” (vs 18-19).

You can read in the book of Deuteronomy and Exodus where God says, ‘I’ve given these things to you for your good that you may live; that you may go in and possess the land. I’ve given you these Ten Commandments because I love you, and I love your father, and I’m fulfilling My Word to you.’ This is what’s important! His statutes and judgments are right. Read all of Psa. 119 about the laws of God, commandments of God, statutes of God:

- they are right
- they are good
- they are whole
- they are perfect
- they are righteous

All the ‘precepts of God are right altogether.’ When we come to that conclusion, then we begin to have the mind of Christ and the mind of God to understand these things. But if, with our carnal minds, we are going to fight against God and ‘hedge our bets’ as it were and keep our little ole carnality reserved for us in the back of our minds, waiting for the day when we can just go out and do what we want to do—like a lot of people did when they first heard that they could eat unclean meats. That very Sabbath, before they even went home, the brethren were out there gathering together planning to go to the Red Lobster and have their shrimp, their clams, their lobster and all of those things, which God says those things ‘are an abomination!’

Don’t reserve that part of your mind for yourself, because that carnal reserve is going to trip you up and cause you to walk away from God. God wants you to love Him ‘with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your being.’ It is a wholehearted thing between you and God.

“...Walk in My statutes, and keep My ordinances, and do them, and **keep My Sabbaths Holy**... [plural—Holy Days. Lev. 23 shows that all the Holy Days are Sabbaths.] ...and they shall be a sign between Me and you... [Remember what the *perpetual covenant* was: the children of Israel ‘through all their generations for a *perpetual covenant*, it will be a sign.’] ...that you may know that I *am* the LORD your God.’ 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...” (vs 19-22). God is merciful and kind and gracious and doesn’t desire that sinners die. He wishes that they would *repent!*

Later in Ezekiel He says, ‘Oh, Israel, why would you die? Turn you! Turn you!’ This is what God is saying today to the Church: ‘Oh, Church of God, why will you die? Why will you suffer anymore? Why will you go back into the world? Turn you! Turn you! Come back to God! Come back to the Sabbath! Come back to the Holy Days! Repent and turn your whole heart to them!’ That’s what he’s saying here.

“...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... [they did those three things] ...and their eyes were after their fathers’ idols. Wherefore, **I also gave them over to their own statutes that were not good**... [the statutes of the ‘religions’ of this world; those are not good] ...and *their own* ordinances which they could not live.... [God’s judgments are in those things whereby they *will* live. These are being turned over to all the pagan devices that their hearts went after.] ...And I defiled them in their own gifts, in that they caused all that opened the womb to pass through *the fire*... [Instead of the firstborn going to God, now they pass them through the fire to the god of Moloch] ...that I *might* make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I *am* the LORD” (vs 22-26).

There are two ways that you are going to know God:

1. *If you follow God* and do His way and keep His laws and commandments and have the Spirit of God.
2. *If you sin* and you go out and grievously

destroy your life and you come to the very end in trouble and tribulation and trial and difficulty, then you're going to know that God has done that.

You will *know* God through that! Then you have to repent and come to really know God, otherwise it's the end. For those who have once tasted of the Holy gifts and have received the Holy Spirit and have done those things, it's very important for you to understand that you cannot, under any circumstances, go back into this world and expect God to bless you. The blessing of God comes from His Spirit through Jesus Christ, through doing the things that please Him.

Let's go to 1-John, the third chapter for just a minute and let's see something that very important and profound for us to understand. This is how we *know* that we are in Christ. This is how we love one another. 1-John 3:22: "And whatever we may ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and practice those things that are pleasing in His sight."

- Is it pleasing that you keep His commandments, His laws, His statutes and His judgments? *Of course it is!*
- Is it pleasing that you keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days? *Certainly, it is!*
 - ✓ God gave those to us to keep!
 - ✓ God gave those to us to fellowship with Him!
 - ✓ God gave those to us so we can learn of the Lord!

To do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Verse 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." Again, the Sabbath brings us into a *created* relationship with each other. That's why we are to have brotherly love, but you can't have brotherly love unless you love God first. You can't have brotherly love unless you all agree and love God and keep His commandments, then you can love each other.

Verse 24: "And the one who keeps His commandments is dwelling in Him... [That's how you're dwelling in God. That's why the Sabbath is so important, that you are dwelling in Him.] ...and He [Christ] in him... [the one who has the Holy Spirit] ...and by this **we know**..." Brethren, put this test to yourself:

- Do you *know*?
- Do you *know* that you abide in God?
- Do you *know* that you love God?
- Do you *know* that you have the Spirit of God?

- Do you *really grasp* what this is saying?

"...that He is dwelling in us: by the Spirit which He has given to us" (v 24). That's important!

Now let's see what happens when people go against it. Let's see what has happened in the Churches of God. It has happened in the past. For those of you who are long-time church members and now understand what has happened in Worldwide Church of God—and also the Seventh Day Adventists, it's happened to them—because the Jesuits have an agenda to take down all Sabbath-keeping groups. ***We are up against the satanic assault against the people of God!*** That assault is not coming in a war that you would think of.

- It is coming in a war of ideologies.
- It's coming in a war of surreptitious doctrines.
- It is coming in clever sounding arguments that Satan has devised that sound blessedly true, but lead you to destruction.

Ezekiel 22:25: "There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst..." A conspiracy is a knowing, planned, plotted scheme to deliberately change and destroy. That's what has happened in Worldwide Church of God. There was a deliberate, planned schemed worked-out thing where the children of the devil—the tares—came in and planted themselves in the hierarchical structure of the worldwide Church of God, the hierarchical structure of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the hierarchical structure of the Church of God Seventh Day. All three have been infiltrated to take them down concerning the Sabbath; to take them down, especially the Worldwide Church of God concerning the Holy Days; and now to bring them back into the pagan Catholic days of Christmas, Easter and all the other occult holidays that are of the world. It is done by conspiracy! It is a planned infiltration! We'll see that Peter prophesied of that.

"...like a roaring lion tearing the prey.... [They're ravening the prey through false doctrine! They're ravening the prey through lying duplicities.] ...They have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure... [Have they not? *Yes!*] ...and precious things... [[Have they not? *Yes!*] ...they made many widows in her midst. Her priests have done violence to My law... [the ones who should keep it have violated it; the ones who should know have violated it] ...and have profaned My Holy things. They have put no difference between the Holy and the profane..." (vs 25-26).

How do you do that? *By saying that every day is alike, just like the Jehovah Witnesses—'every day is Holy to us.'* One man asked some Jehovah

Witnesses one time, ‘When do you work? If every day is Holy, when do you work?’ They put no difference between them.

“...and have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean... [now people are eating unclean foods] ...and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths... [What does this tell us? *If you hide your eyes, it is a deliberate conspiracy to avoid the Truth!* A conspiracy must have lies to replace the Truth. These false doctrines sound so blessedly true.] ...and I am profaned among them” (v 26).

That means that since they have hid their eyes from the Sabbath, they’re not fellowshiping with God the Father and Jesus Christ on the Sabbath, therefore, God becomes just like any other profane god in the world. That’s exactly what Satan wants you to do. There has been so much confusion because of these false prophets and teachers coming in that some people have given up studying the Bible, and given up saying that the Bible is confusing. *No! The Bible is not confusing if you let the Bible interpret the Bible!* The Bible is confusing if you listen to the satanic arguments of the ministers of unrighteousness who have come in.

As I told one woman who pointed this out to her husband, ‘Tell him that Satan has got him exactly where he wants him.’ He’s no longer going to study the Word of God. He’s not going to listen to the Word of God. Things for a while will go smooth, because Satan wants to draw you out even more, and then BAM! the vice is going to close. I hope that whomever is in those circumstances can recover themselves out of it. We’re talking about *eternal life!* We’re not talking about Sabbath-keeping or Sunday-keeping as a ‘religion.’ We are talking about *eternal life* and *eternal death!*

Let’s see what the tactics are, 2-Peter 2:1: “But there were also false prophets among the people, as indeed there will be false teachers among you, who will **stealthily**... [you don’t even know that they’re there; they don’t let you know they’re an agent of Satan the devil. In some cases, they may have a spiritual something about them that is rather magnetic. Jude said that those ‘are the spirits of demons.’] (let’s see what they do): ...introduce destructive heresies, personally denying *the* Lord who bought them, and bringing swift destruction upon themselves.” What are some of the damnable heresies that they bring in?

- Sunday
- Christmas
- Easter
- New Years

in the way of days of observance

- Christ was a created being and was not God

before He became human

- Christ was just a prophet
- Eating unclean meats
- Teaching things like going to heaven

You can just start adding up all the heresies of the Catholics and Protestants and you’ve got exactly the recipe that Satan the devil uses to take down Christians.

Verse 2: “And **many** people will follow *as authoritative* their **destructive** ways...”—pernicious, blasphemous—they blaspheme God, His Sabbath, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and **many** will follow them! Why? *Because that is the broad way*, as Jesus said: ‘broad is the way that leads to destruction and many go in that way. But narrow is the gate and straight is the way that leads to life.’

- Which path are you on?
- What do you believe?
- How many false prophets have you listened to?

There’s one man whose name coincides with ‘wreck’ and he’s gone around and wrecked all kinds of people with false doctrines, especially the Passover Day. He says that we should keep it at 3 p.m. in the afternoon, which is a ridiculous heresy. A self-appointed teacher and many are following his pernicious, blasphemous ways and have had their faith overturned.

Brethren, one thing for sure, the true keeping the Sabbath in spirit and in Truth is going to ground you in Jesus Christ; that you build on that foundation of Christ. Then none of these false teachers and prophets will come along and knock you off the beam.

Verse 3: “Also, through insatiable greed [covetousness] they will with enticing messages... [vain words; knowing they are deceptive; knowing that they are wrong] ...exploit you for gain; for whom the judgment of old is in *full* force, and their destruction is *ever* watching. For if God did not spare *the* angels who sinned...” (vs 3-4).

Think of it, brethren, what is sin? *Sin is the transgression of the Law!* Part of the Law is the Sabbath. If you have gone to Sunday-keeping you are sinning every single week with pre-determined, malicious forethought. Think on that!

Verse 4: “For if God did not spare *the* angels who sinned, but, having cast *them* into Tartarus, delivered *them* into chains of darkness to be kept for *the* judgment; and *if* God did not spare *the* ancient world... [flooded the old world; kill all that there was because of the sins of man] ...but saved Noah, *the* eighth, a preacher of righteousness, when He brought *the* Flood upon the world of *the* ungodly;

and having reduced *the* cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes, condemned *them* with a catastrophic *destruction*, making *them* an example *for those* who would be ungodly in the future; and *if* He personally rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the lawless ones *living* in licentious conduct” (vs 4-7). Take this to heart!

- If you want to come out of this thing, you can!
- If you want to turn to God, *you can!*
- If you want to come back to God, *you can!*
- ***But you have to repent!***

Verse 9: “*The Lord knows how to rescue the Godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unrighteous to the day of judgment to be punished.*” You can come out of it!

Let’s review a little bit more concerning the Sabbath Day. Here’s what we have learned so far:

1. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy—not some other day; not any day you choose.
2. God is the One Who gives the commandment.
3. God has given us six days to do all our work; we are to *rest from our labor and work* on the Sabbath Day.
4. The Sabbath is a memorial of God’s creation of heaven and earth. You will never believe in any form of evolution if you keep the Sabbath and know God, because you will know that He’s Creator.
5. It is a memorial of Israel’s slavery and lack of Sabbath observance while they were in Egypt.
6. It is the only day of seven in the week that God specifically blessed and made Holy.
7. The seventh day Sabbath is a Holy convocation; it is a day of assembly and worship.

When we get a little further on we will take one whole session and go through how to keep the Sabbath—what we can and cannot do according to the laws of God.

8. The Sabbath shows that God owns the Sabbath; it is His! Man has no jurisdiction over it. Man has no say so in it. It belongs to God. He made it for mankind. *The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord’s.*

Always remember that!

Can a man make something Holy? *No!* What does it take to make something Holy? *In order to make something Holy, whoever does it must be Holy himself! Only God is Holy!* Therefore, think on it this way: No man can make Sunday Holy. No

man—I don’t care what his office is, even if he’s the pope—can proclaim another day Holy. Man is not God! If we do that, we are rebelling against God. What would happen is that if a man commands something to be ‘Holy’ because of intrinsic power, and God were to accept that, then man would be telling God what to do. ***Man has no power to tell God what to do!*** ‘Shall the created thing say to the Creator, what are you making?’ *No! Of course not!* When we get to Sunday-keeping, keep that in mind.

Let’s understand something else. When we judge the Sabbath as something unworthy that we should keep, let’s remember that we are *judging God!* We are judging *the Law!* Let’s review this, if we haven’t done it already. This is a profound principle that you need to really understand and always keep in mind: ***If a man tells God what to do, man is then commanding God! If man commands God, then man becomes God and God becomes a servant of that man!*** You need to put it in that perspective so you understand.

James 4:11: “Brethren, do not talk against one another. The one who talks against a brother, and judges his brother, is speaking against *the Law*, and is judging the Law....” We have people who judge us because we keep the Sabbath and they keep Sunday. What is it that they are doing? *They are judging the Law!* How are they doing that? *They are looking at the Ten Commandments and picking out the fourth one and saying ‘we don’t want to keep this law!’* By conspiracy they have hidden their eyes to it with false doctrines. We’re going to go through every one of these false doctrines and see where they are false in Sunday-keeping.

“...But if you judge *the Law*, you are not a doer of *the Law*; rather, *you are* a judge.... [*Judging God!*] ...***But there is only one Lawgiver***, Who has power to save and to destroy. Who are you that you presume to judge another?” (vs 11-12). Who are you who judges God?

In reality what happens then is you say the Sabbath is not worthy to be kept and you are saying that God lied. You are saying that God gave something which was evil. You are judging the Law and you are judging God. Maybe you’ve never thought of it that way before. We’ve already seen that it is a perpetual covenant that we are to keep. We’ve already seen that Sabbath-breaking is against God, it’s polluting the Sabbath. Those who have done that have done so in a conspiracy.

Sabbath-keeping is essential to salvation:

Let’s understand that we need to have *faith*. We’re going to approach this from a little bit different point of view than maybe would otherwise,

but I want us to understand that when we come to the places in the New Testament what Jesus is doing—what He’s really doing and what He’s not doing.

Hebrews 11:6: “Now without faith *it is impossible to please God...*” Whatever is done, it is done by *faith*.

- We do Sabbath-keeping by faith.
- We do Holy Day-keeping by faith.
- We do all the Ten Commandments by faith.
- We do all the commandments in the spirit and in worshipping God in the spirit and Truth, and loving Him by faith.

If you don’t have faith you’re not going to please God. Sunday-keepers do not have faith—the true faith. They may have a false faith. But let me tell you something, *a false faith is going to fail you*, and it will certainly fail you for eternal life.

“...For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe that He exists...” (v 6). The Greek there means that he’s *obligated*; he’s under *obligation to believe that God is!* When you believe that God is, you believe

- everything that He is
- everything that He stands for
- everything that He says

God is:

- Holy
- Righteous
- Perfect
- Loving
- True
- Kind
- Gracious
- Longsuffering

We are coming to God! Therefore, we have to “...believe that He exists and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (v 6). If you excuse yourself from keeping the commandments of God, are you diligently seeking Him? You have to ask that question. I would say, *NO!*

Let’s see something that is very important and how Sabbath-keeping and salvation go hand-in-hand.

- Do you think that you can get into the Kingdom of God if you have another God before Him? *No!*
- Do you think you can get into the Kingdom of God if you have statues and idols? *No!*
- Do you think you can get into the Kingdom of God if you dishonor and neglect your parents, and do so willfully,

without repenting of it? *No!*

- Do you think you can get into the Kingdom of God if you are a willful, malicious murderer? *No!*
- A willful, malicious adulterer? *No!*
- A willful, malicious thief? *No!*
- A willful, malicious liar, bearing false witness? *No!*
- Or ravening in your covetousness? *No!*

Neither can you get into the Kingdom of God unless you’re keeping the Sabbath! Let’s understand what we need to do. We saw in Heb. 11 how we are to *seek God*. Notice something Isaiah tells us:

Isaiah 55:6: “Seek the LORD while He **may** be found...” This is also telling us that there is a time when He won’t be found. As a matter of fact, God told Jeremiah that the Jews were so bad that God said, ‘Do not pray for this people. Do not lift up your voice unto Me for them, for I will not hear!’ You need to ask yourself: Am I going to seek God while He may be found? *or* Am I going to be too late? *You* have to determine that. It’s a choice *you* have to make.

“...call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts...” (vs 6-7). That’s where all of this rebellion and rejection of the Sabbath comes in; from carnal, human reasoning, from the carnal mind that is ‘not subject to the Law of God and neither indeed can be.’

He says, ‘Let him forsake his lusts “...and let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways,’ says the LORD” (vs 7-8). How true that is concerning the Sabbath. I read an article where one man said, ‘I don’t believe that God still calls all of the unclean foods abominations.’ That’s *his* thought: ‘I don’t believe...’ Let’s think about it!

Verse 9: “‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’” Yet, we are to come to have the mind of Christ—are we not? How do we do that? *One of the best ways is by fellowshiping on the Sabbath! We need to repent!*

Let’s see what else we need to do. Come to Isaiah 56 and here is where salvation and Sabbath-keeping go together. I want you to understand the time setting; I want you to realize what this is really telling us:

Isaiah 56:1: “Thus says the LORD... [these are the words of God] ...‘Keep justice and do

righteousness; for My salvation *is* near to come, and My righteousness to be revealed.” What is judgment? What is justice? *He explains it!* You must have the right judgment to see that you need to keep the Sabbath.

Verse 2: “Blessed *is* the man who does this... [Not cursed! Sunday-keepers say that you’re ‘cursed.’ God says that you are *blessed!* Who are you going to believe? Men or God? Take the words of a man? *or* The words of God?] ...and the son of man who lays hold on it; who keeps the Sabbath from profaning it; and keeps his hand from doing any evil.” There’s a blessing for Sabbath-keeping, and it’s profound and important.

Verse 3: “And do not let the son of the stranger... [Gentile—the ones under the Old Covenant who did not have access to God the way that the children of Israel did. But under the New Covenant there is equal status with Gentiles, Jews and Israelites.] ...who has joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, ‘The LORD has utterly separated me from His people.’...”

One of the sins that we find in the New Testament is that the separation of the Gentiles and the Jews. Paul said that ‘we are all one in Christ.’ The stranger here is saying that he’s ‘separated from his people.’ God says not to say that, because now we’re dealing with the New Covenant and this is a prophecy of the New Covenant. This is a prophecy of the end-time when God’s salvation is ready to be revealed.

“...And do not let the eunuch say, ‘Behold, I *am* a dry tree” (v 3). ‘I have no family; I have no one! Christ said that ‘with Me you will have returned a hundredfold in this life, and in the next life: *everlasting life*.

Verse 4: “For thus says the LORD, ‘To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose things that please Me... [In choosing Sabbath-keeping it is pleasing to God—is it not? *Yes!*] ...and take hold of My covenant... [This is a prophecy of the New Covenant. This is also ‘taking hold’ of the perpetual covenant of Sabbath-keeping] ...even to them will I give within My house...” (vs 4-5). Jesus said, ‘I go to prepare a place for you and come again and receive you that where I am you may be also.’ This is a prophecy of that.

“...and within My walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters; I will give them an everlasting name... [the name of ‘My Father’ and the name of New Jerusalem. All of this is New Testament doctrine right here in the book of Isaiah.] ...that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the stranger, who join themselves to the LORD to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His

servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath, and takes hold of My covenant; even them I will bring to My Holy mountain...” (vs 5-7). That’s coming into the Kingdom of God: ‘Behold in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be exalted above the hills (Isa. 11). This is referring directly to that.

“...and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *shall be* accepted upon My altar... [now it’s getting back into the Old Covenant, but mingles right in with it then is the New Covenant and the New Covenant application of it.] ...for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people” (v 7).

Let’s see how the Sabbath is a blessing. Let’s really understand that the Sabbath is a blessing.

- What is wrong is *false doctrine!*
- What is wrong is *false teaching!*
- What is wrong are the *lies against the Sabbath!*
- What is wrong is *a conspiracy and hiding of the eyes to the Sabbath* and the unclean so that they can *perpetrate false doctrines!*

Isaiah 58:13: “If you turn your foot away from the Sabbath... [using the Sabbath for your ordinary day of work; ‘turn’ is *repentance*] ...*from* doing your own desires on My Holy Day... [Doing the things that please God should be the pleasure that you have on the Sabbath Day. Not doing the things of sports, shopping or other things; do the things that are pleasing to Him!] ...and call the Sabbath a delight...”

Not only do you have to call it ‘a delight,’ you have to with the Spirit of God, and with the understanding of God’s Word make it a delight. You do this through fellowship with God the Father:

- through prayer
- through study
- through fellowship with the brethren

If you’re all there and have the Spirit of God, whenever anyone shakes your hand, Christ is shaking your hand. Whenever anyone gives you a hug, it is God the Father hugging you through His Spirit, through that person to you. God joyfully loves the Sabbath! He is happy to be there through His Spirit and His presence. We prepare for the day spiritually, especially, so the day is a *delight!* Your whole perspective of the Sabbath is going to change. It is going to be the best and most wonderful day of the week, because you are fellowshiping with God the Father and Jesus Christ, and fellowshiping with the brethren, the heirs of eternal life! That’s a profound and precious thing, brethren.

“...the Holy of the LORD, honorable... [right and good and upstanding in every way] ...and shall honor Him, **not doing your own ways**, nor pursuing your own desires, nor speaking *your own* words, then... [Notice all the *ifs*; notice the responsibility of our part on the Sabbath for making it right until we get to the *then*. Let’s review that again—**IF**

1. you turn your foot away from the Sabbath Day
2. from doing your pleasure on My Holy Day
3. call the Sabbath a delight, the Holy of the Lord
4. you honor Him, not doing your own ways
5. you are not finding your own pleasure
6. nor speaking your own words

There are seven conditions to this *IF*. Now we come to v 14: “Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD...”

If you don’t do these things it’s going to be a pain in the neck, because your mind is somewhere else; your heart is somewhere else; your thoughts are somewhere else and you are sad when the sun goes down Friday night because you can’t do what you want to do, and you can hardly wait for sundown the next night so you can do what *you* want to do. If that’s your attitude, you don’t have a clue as to how to keep the Sabbath. You will never derive out of it what God desires for you to derive out of it, because you haven’t even started to worship Him in spirit and in Truth. Do you see how important that is? You’ve got to fulfill all seven of these conditions to make the Sabbath right.

Verse 14: “**Then** you shall delight yourself in the LORD...” Notice how it changes the whole perspective when you do that:

- then the Sabbath is a delight, it’s not a burden
 - then the Sabbath is a wonderful time, it’s not a drag
 - then the Sabbath is a time to learn and grow in grace and in knowledge; not a time where you’re frustrated because you can’t do what you want to do.
- Why, if you love God, would you want to do your things on the Sabbath Day?
- Why, if you love God, would you want to turn your back on Him to ignore Him on the day He set as an appointment to fellowship within?

Look at it that way and understand how marvelous the Sabbath is!

Verse 14: “**Then** you shall delight yourself

in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth... [a prophecy of entering into the Kingdom of God, to rule the world with Christ] ...and feed you with the inheritance of Jacob your father... [Going to inherit the inheritance of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—right? Which is the whole world—isn’t it? *Yes, it is!*] ...for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it.” It’s a guarantee! You’ll have something that guaranteed! You’ve got it right there, right in front of you. God has given that as a guarantee. That is a marvelous thing!

Let’s come to the New Testament; let’s look at some New Testament things. First of all, we need to knock down a satanic argument, which is this: *If it’s not stated in the New Testament you don’t have to do it*. That is a satanic argument because it is not true. We’re going to see, however, that keeping the Sabbath *IS* stated in the New Testament. How many times must it be stated? Since God is a God of Truth, if it’s only once, then it’s binding—is it not? *Yes, indeed!* Let’s understand something profound concerning Christ and His ministry: **Jesus Christ was not under the Old Covenant!** He was under the New Covenant, the firstborn under the New Covenant.

Notice the temptation that He had with Satan the devil; Satan is the one who wants to keep you from keeping the Sabbath; he is the one who wants you to reject it and forsake it. He is the one who wants you to keep Sunday, because that is *his* day, the day of the sun, the day of Baal.

After He fasted 40 days and 40 nights, Satan said to Jesus, Matthew 4:3: “And when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God... [this is the argument Satan always uses] ...command that these stones become bread.’.... [In other words, ‘If you don’t do this, You’re not the Son of God.’] ...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 3-4).

Did the command for the Sabbath proceed out of the mouth of God? *No question about it!* He spoke it on Mt. Sinai—didn’t He? Repeated it again in Deut. 5, before they went into the ‘promised land.’ How many times must God say, ‘keep the Sabbath Holy’ before you believe Him? This is an affirmation of the Sabbath—no question! Broad, inclusive statement: “**...by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God!**” That’s a profound statement! All inclusive!

Matthew 5:17: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.” There are two aspects of *fulfilling*:

1. For the law, to fill the Law to the full with

the spiritual requirements beyond the letter of the Law.

That's why in Matt. 5-7 He says, 'You've heard it said of old time, but I say to you...' He's bringing the Law to fulfill the Law to a high spiritual standard.

2. the Scriptures that pertain to Himself and His first coming.

Verse 18: "For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away... [God did a wonderful thing here, He took the greatest witnesses there could be, the universe and the earth and says that if these pass, then 'all My words have passed.'](Well, the heaven is here, the earth is here, so guess what?): ...one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law **until everything has been fulfilled.** Therefore... [All of you who believe in Sunday, I want you to stop and think. I want you to pull yourself up in the path that you are going and stop and plant your feet down and focus your mind on this verse]: "...**whoever shall break one of these least commandments...** [Sabbath-keeping is one of the least—isn't it? Any commandment that you think that you can throw away is a least commandment, because you don't want to be bothered with it.] ...**and shall teach men so...** [that is what is happening] ...shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven... [if you're least you're not even going to be there] ...but whoever shall practice and teach *them*, this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven" (vs 18-19).

- if you teach and preach about the Sabbath
- if you teach and preach about the love of God
- if you teach and preach about the commandments of God—serving Him and loving Him

God says that you'll be 'called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.'

Verse 20: "For I say to you... [Christ says—first person—you believe in Christ, you believe these words] ...unless your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees... [who did everything in the letter of the Law] ...there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." Why is that? *Because God now has a higher standard of worship!*

Let's see what that is. He has a higher standard of worship for you today, for all those who are the sons of God today, begotten of the Holy Spirit of God.

John 4:19—this is when He was in the city of Samaria: "The woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers

worshiped in this mountain, but you say that the place where it is obligatory to worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you shall neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem worship the Father.... [It's not going to be restricted to a physical place, because the kind of worship is going to change.] ...You do not know what you worship.... [they were worshipping demons] ...We know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.... [coming out of Christ] ...But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father **in Spirit and in Truth...**" (vs 19-23).

- you must have the Spirit of God
 - you must have the right heart
 - you must seek Him with all your heart, mind, soul and being
 - you must love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and being
- and it must be according to Truth!** Jesus said,
✓ God's Word is Truth!
✓ Sabbath-keeping is Truth!
✓ Holy Day-keeping is Truth!

That's how we are to worship God today. That is the only way that your righteousness is going to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. They were so punctilious in the letter of the Law that they had hundreds and hundreds of do this and that and don't do the other thing.

"...when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth; for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him **must**... [*under obligation or compulsion*] ...worship in Spirit and in Truth" (vs 23-24). That means with a *contrite spirit*, with a *yieldedness* to God.

Let's understand what God wants us to do. Let's go back and review one more verse. There are certain key verses, brethren, that are absolutely basic. All the teaching and doctrines of God come and cross through these certain, very key intersections of verses, because they are profound and everything hinges on them. If you liken the Word of God unto a sphere and all the doctrines and teachings and Word of God passes through this sphere, there are almost an infinite number of angles for it to go through, and an infinite number of angles where it crosses. In the core of this sphere is what we have here:

Matthew 22:35: "And one of them, a doctor of the law, questioned *Him*, tempting Him, and saying, 'Master, which commandment *is* the great commandment in the Law?'" (vs 35-36). There was always a debate of that: 'I will do the greatest

commandment.’ What did Jesus say? *If you do and teach the least, you will be called great!* Man’s perspective is always the opposite. Man wants to do the ‘great’ things. God wants you to do the simple and that becomes great.

Verse 37: “And Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is *the* first and greatest commandment; and *the* second *one* is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.... [Memorize this; make this a part of your very mind, soul and being]: ...**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**” (vs 37-40).

If someone says, ‘God is the God of love,’ therefore, we can teach Sunday,’ *that is a satanic lie!* by taking Truth and twisting and perverting, because all the Law and commandments are supported by and hung from the Law of the *love of God*. You need to understand how important that is.

How Jesus kept the Sabbath:

Mark 2:27 tells us which day the Lord’s day is. Remember, the One Who became Jesus Christ was the Creator of the Sabbaths. That’s why He’s Lord of the Sabbath. He made it! It’s just like if you have a house and you build the house, you made it, you are lord of that house—it is yours!—right? Oh, maybe you share it with the bank, but it’s yours! Christ made the Sabbath, let’s get that straight.

- If He made it, *He is Lord of it!*
- If He made it, *He owns it!*
- If He made it, *He tells us what to do on it!*

Mark 2:27: “And He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man... [The word for ‘man’ comes from the Greek ‘anthropos’—*mankind*; God intended all mankind to keep the Sabbath. The way that the day ‘Saturday’ is called today, in almost every language it means *the Sabbath Day!* That is a *perpetual witness* to all people in all languages that that is the day of God.] ...*and* not man for the Sabbath.”

This is telling us something very important that we need to know and understand: **God made it for us:** for our good, rest and fellowshiping with Him. God didn’t make the Sabbath Day and then create man. **God created man and then He created the Sabbath Day for him.** This means that man has no say-so on the Sabbath Day whether we ought to keep it or not. It’s given to us that we should choose to do so—and hopefully we should choose to do so—because Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath. Therefore, man has no jurisdiction over the Sabbath Day, meaning that no man can proclaim another day Holy. He can do that, but does that, in spiritual terms, change spiritual reality? *No, it doesn’t!*

Here’s why, v 28: “Therefore, the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” Which day is the Lord’s day? *The Sabbath Day!* Sunday never was and never will be, and never can be, the Lord’s day, because it—the first day of the week—is not seventh day of the week; it is not the Sabbath.

Let’s see what Jesus did. Jesus kept the Sabbaths. The perpetual covenant runs alongside all the covenants of God. Remember that! You can never do away with the Sabbath or the Holy Days because they are a *perpetual covenant*. That’s in addition to other covenants that God makes. Jesus has given us an example that we ought to follow in His footsteps. Yes, He did; Peter said so.

Luke 4:16: “And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and **according to His custom**, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. And there was given Him *the* book of the prophet Isaiah... [He read His very commission—didn’t He? The very purpose of His ministry!] ...and when He had unrolled the scroll, He found the place where it was written, ‘*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; for this reason, He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor...* [New Testament doctrine—right? Isn’t preaching the Gospel New Testament doctrine? He’s preaching this on the Sabbath Day—isn’t He? *Yes!*] ...He has sent Me to heal those who are brokenhearted, to proclaim pardon to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, to send forth in deliverance those who have been crushed, to proclaim *the* acceptable year of *the* Lord.’ And after rolling up the scroll *and* delivering *it* to the attendant, He sat down; and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him” (vs 16-20). They were all looking at Him, and He has something else to say:

Verse 21: “Then He began to say to them, ‘Today, this Scripture is being fulfilled in your ears.’” What day, brethren? *The Sabbath Day!*

Verse 31: “Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days.” That means Sabbath after Sabbath after Sabbath, Jesus Christ taught them. This is an important lesson for us today. If we are keeping the Sabbath—and keeping the Sabbath properly—and studying the Word of God, will not God’s Word teach us? Will we not have the promise of Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit will ‘lead us into all Truth,’ that it will teach us things? *Yes!* That’s why the Sabbath is important, because God’s Spirit is there. That’s why Jesus taught on the Sabbath days. He taught also during the week, but on the Sabbath Day it was especially important.

Verse 32: “And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.” That’s

something! With that power *He didn't change* the Sabbath to Sunday. Listen! The only way that Sunday-keeping could be considered worthy of considering is if Jesus Christ said, 'I, as Lord of the Sabbath, am changing the Sabbath from Saturday—or the seventh day—to the first day, and I seal it with My blood.' Can you find anything like that anywhere in the Bible? Old Testament or New Testament? **No! Nowhere!**

Let's see the example that Jesus Christ gave that we need to follow, Mark 3, right after He said that He was 'Lord of the Sabbath.' We have what He did then on the Sabbath Day. Let's notice what the Jews did. Let's notice the hostility that the Jews had.

Mark 3:1: "And again He went into the synagogue, and a man who had a withered hand was there. And they were watching Him *to see* if He would heal him on the Sabbath, in order that they might accuse Him." (vs 1-2). The Jews truly made the Sabbath a burden, because they had hundreds and hundred of laws and traditions. They were looking to see if He was going to break one of *their* laws and one of *their* traditions by healing. To heal on the Sabbath is proper, because it's part of what we read that He is to 'heal the brokenhearted, raise up those who are sick, set at liberty those who are held captive by Satan the devil.'

Verse 3: "Then He said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Stand up *here* in the center.'... [In the synagogues they had this area, so He told them come.] ...And He said to them... [He preached to them on the Sabbath Day] ...'Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbaths, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill?' But they were silent" (vs 3-4). Jesus knew how to say it in such a way that they couldn't answer back.

Verse 5: "And after looking around at them with anger... [because of their self-righteous 'religious' attitude in making the Sabbath a burden, and the fact that they were looking to accuse Him] ...being grieved at the hardness of their hearts... [What hardheartedness! Here's a man with a withered hand, that you would be so stingy and so selfish and so evil that you would not want to see him healed on the Sabbath!] ...He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And he stretched *it* out, and his hand was restored *as* sound as the other... [Notice, there wasn't one rejoicing person in the synagogue.] ...Then the Pharisees left *and* immediately took counsel with the Herodians against Him *as to* how they might destroy Him" (vs 5-6). That's something—*isn't it?* I tell you, that's really something the way that they did!

Here's another healing; we're going to see where the liars against the Sabbath come with their doctrines to say that Jesus 'broke the Sabbath.

Therefore, if Jesus broke it it's okay if we break it. Therefore, I will see you in church on Sunday.' *They know* they are breaking the Sabbath—correct? Think about it! We'll examine this very carefully.

John 5:1: "After these things *there* was a Feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And there is in Jerusalem at the sheep gate a pool, called Bethesda in Hebrew, which has five porches. And in these *porches* were lying a great multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame *and* withered. They were waiting for the stirring of the water" (vs 1-3). God wanted them to know that once a year, when that occurred, when the waters moved, the first one down there would be healed.

Verse 4: "For from time to time, an angel descended into the pool and agitated the water; and the first one to enter after the agitation of the water was made well from whatever disease he had. Now, a certain man was there who had been *suffering with* an infirmity for thirty-eight years" (vs 4-5). You think on that! If you had a sickness over a period of time, have you had it for 38 years?

Verse 6: "Jesus saw him lying *there*, and, knowing that he had been there a long time, said to him, 'Do you desire to be made whole?' And the infirm *man* answered Him, 'Sir, I do not have anyone... [and I imagine with tears in His eyes] ...to put me in the pool after the water has been agitated. But while I am going, another *one* steps down before me.'" (vs 6-7). Did he do that for 38 years and miss it every time? *I don't know!* But it was for a long time.

Verse 8: "Jesus said to him, 'Arise, take up your bedroll and walk.'... [What kind of bed did he have? *I'm sure that it was not a Simmons box-spring and mattress.* I'm sure it was a bedroll like we would call a sleeping bag. How much does one of those weigh? *Maybe if you have a big heavy-duty one, maybe 8-10 lbs.!*] ...And immediately the man was made whole; and he took up his bedroll and walked. Now that day was a Sabbath. For this reason, the Jews said to the man who had been healed, 'It is *the Sabbath Day*.... [Let's understand one thing that Jesus did: **Jesus released the Sabbath from all the letter of the law**, picayune traditions that the Jews added to the Sabbath Day. This is what He did here.] (so they said): ...It is not lawful for you to take up your bedroll.' He answered them, 'The one Who made me whole said to me, "Take up your bedroll and walk"' (vs 8-11). 'What am I to do, I'm walking, I'm healed!'

Verse 12: "Then they asked him, 'Who is the one Who said to you, "Take up your bedroll and walk"'? But the man who had been healed did not know Who it was, for Jesus had moved away, *and* a crowd was in the place. After these things, Jesus

found him in the temple and said to him, ‘Behold, you have been made whole. Sin no more, so that something worse does not happen to you’” (vs 12-14).

Now, let’s talk about the physical condition here for just a minute. There are things which cause debilitating things such as this man had. It doesn’t tell us what he had, he was just an impotent man who couldn’t walk. But it was a result of some kind of sin. We are not told what it is, but he is told, “...Sin no more, so that something worse does not happen to you” (v 14).

Let’s look at that in relationship to the Sabbath Day. If you reject the Sabbath Day and begin sinning, is something worse going to come upon you somewhere down the road when you are least expecting it? *Think on that!* If Jesus released this man on the Sabbath Day so he could keep the Sabbath and *loosed that law of the Jews* that said you can’t carry a bedroll on the Sabbath—that was a law of the Jews; that’s why Jesus loosed it—just think of our relationship if we’re turning our back on God with the Sabbath.

Verse 15: “The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had made him whole.... [I don’t know why the man did that, but he did!] ...And for this cause, the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on a Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I work’” (vs 15-17). God is doing a *spiritual work* on the Sabbath, and therefore, any physical thing that we do on the Sabbath—to keep the Sabbath spiritually—is allowable under the New Covenant. It was even allowable under the Old Covenant, but the Jews, trying to be so strict and more righteous than God, made the Sabbath a terrible, terrible burden. This blew the Jews’ minds! By saying on the Sabbath that ‘My Father is working.’ It blew their minds!

Verse 18: “So then, on account of this *saying*, the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, not only because **He had loosed the Sabbath**... [He did not violate the Sabbath because Jesus never sinned once! In the Greek ‘luo’—*to loose*. He *loosed* the Sabbath Day] ...but also *because* He had called God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”

- They just didn’t understand what Christ was all about.
- They didn’t understand what He was doing with the Sabbath Day.
- They didn’t understand that the spiritual aspect of the Sabbath Day was the spiritual work that was to be done.

Brethren, on the Sabbath Day spiritual work is to be done with us. That we:

- grow in grace and knowledge
- grow in understanding
- grow in the love of God

Those are the spiritual works that the Father is working today.

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

Scripture References:

- 1) Genesis 2:2-3
- 2) 1 John 1:1-3
- 3) Exodus 31:12-17
- 4) Ezekiel 20:18-26
- 5) 1 John 3:22
- 6) Ezekiel 22:25-26
- 7) 2 Peter 2:1-7, 9
- 8) James 4:11-12
- 9) Hebrews 11:6
- 10) Isaiah 55:6-9
- 11) Isaiah 56:1-7
- 12) Isaiah 58:13-14
- 13) Matthew 4:3-4
- 14) Matthew 5:17-20
- 15) John 4:19-24
- 16) Matthew 22:35-40
- 17) Mark 2:27-28
- 18) Luke 4:16-21, 31-32
- 19) Mark 3:1-6
- 20) John 5:1-18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

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- Psalm 119
- Leviticus 23
- Isaiah 11
- Deuteronomy 5
- Matthew 6-7

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