

Semester 2 – Week 5 - Class 9

GOD’S TEST OF LOYALTY

Today’s class has been both shocking and eye-opening for some as it is a controversial subject. But this much is sure. It is not controversial because it is difficult to see in the Bible. It is actually very simple.

Acts 17:10-12 **“And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”**

Notice the two groups. The Thessalonians and the Bereans. The Bereans searched the scriptures daily.

Daniel 12:4 **“But thou O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”**

Revelation 13:3 **“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death, and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.** So we see that there is a beast power in the picture

Revelation 13:8 **“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** We see that this beast power is religious in nature as it is to be worshipped by all the world.

Revelation 14:9 **“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, ...”** Now we see a warning against worshipping this beast power and receiving his mark. We will address this later.

Hebrews 4:12 **“For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”** The Word of God is compared to a two-edged sword, and that is because it cuts both ways. When scripture cuts into our long held beliefs based on traditional error, we must be ready to embrace God’s Word alone.

John 3:21 **“But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”**

Sometimes, the truth as you will see, surprises a lot of people unfamiliar with it; that is Catholics, Protestants and Atheists alike.

The final messages to the final generation the servant John recorded in Revelation 14 as angels flying in heaven.

Revelation 14:6, 7 **“Then I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him: for the hour of his judgment is come: and *worship* him who made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”**

What is the basis of worship?

Revelation 4:11 **“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”**

Revelation 14:12 **“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”** God has a people who are obedient and do keep His Ten Commandments.

John 4:24 **“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”**

Questions: Has God given us a symbol of His creative power? Has He given us a refuge in this stress filled world? What is the sign of His creative authority? Does God specify the characteristics of true worship?

Exodus 20:8-11 **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”**

Question: When did God establish the Sabbath? For this we will go back to the book of Genesis.

Genesis 2:1-3 **“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.” And on the seventh day God ended 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:”**

Let us stop here and analyze that first week of creation. On the first day God created light and divided the night from the day. Gen. 1:1-5; The second day He created the atmospheric heaven. Gen. 1:6-8; The third day God separated the dry land from the waters and created vegetation. Gen. 1:9-13; The fourth day God created the sun, moon and made the stars appear. Gen. 1:14-19; The fifth day God created sea life and birds. Gen 1:20-23; The sixth day God created animal life, then man and woman. And finally on the seventh day God made the Sabbath.

Of all the seven days, only the seventh, the day God rested from His work of creation, was blessed and sanctified, which means set apart for holy use.

Question: Did God make the Sabbath rest only for the Israelites?

Mark 2:27 **“And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for MAN, and not man for the Sabbath.”**

M-A-N is a funny way to spell **J-E-W**.

Let us not forget that man was created a day before the Sabbath was made, and Adam and Eve were not the first Jews.

The Sabbath is no more Jewish than is the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill."

Exodus 20:8-10 **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:”**

In the command, God says, I want you to remember the sabbath. But why Lord? Why did God give us this commandment?

Exodus 20:11 **For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”** God made an eternal memorial of His creation.

Revelation 4:11 **“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”** God is to be worshipped on His memorial day because He is the Creator.

The Sabbath is God’s love gift to the entire human race.

What is the sign of His creative authority? Throughout the Old Testament the Sabbath was a sign between God and His people. Let us look here in Exodus..

Exodus 31:17 **“It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth...”**

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

Has God given us a symbol of His creative power? Has He given us a refuge in this stress filled world?

John 14:15 **“If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”**

Exodus 20:8 **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...”**

Every church in town that says that God's law is done away with and you don't have to keep it any more, not a single church in town really believes it. There's only one commandment that bothers them.

Say you had a very bad infected finger. Would you amputate all 10 fingers in order to get rid of the bad one? But in effect, that's what the churches have done. Because the 4th commandment testifies against them, they are willing to say all ten were done away with at the cross. Satan hates God's Sabbath and God's Law, and so he has attacked all Ten Commandments.

But Jesus said in Matthew 5:19 **“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”**

You see dear friends, the devil knew that he didn't have Scripture to support the breaking of God's law in any way, so instead he uses arguments. Arguments carefully designed and crafted to draw a person's attention away from the obvious truth and fix it on a lie.

The devil deceives people to think the Sabbath is legalistic. Is keeping any of the other commandments legalistic? Well, the simple answer is that it depends on your motive for doing so.

Some will say, “Well, I don't have to keep the actual Sabbath holy because I keep the spirit of the law in my heart.” All of the law has two sides--a letter and a spiritual side. What's more important? Can you have the spirit of the law without the letter?

For example: Can I say, “I'm going to tell a lie, but I'm going to keep the spirit of honesty?” OR Can I say, “I'm going to kill a man but I'm going to keep the spirit of love in my heart?”

James 2:10 James wrote this about A.D.44 **“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”**

Question: What day of the week is the Sabbath?

Exodus 20:8-10 **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God...”**

Question: Can we really be sure which day the “Seventh” day is? What about the calendar?

Calendar - There has been one calendar change that took place in the year 1582 AD. We switched from the Julian calendar, which Jesus used, to the Gregorian calendar we use today. The Julian calendar had the amount of time in one year as 365 days and 6 hours. But this was 11 minutes more than it was supposed to be. Using the Julian calendar from 46 BC until the year 1582 AD, those 11 minutes accumulated for more than 1600 years, putting the calendar 10 days out of harmony with the solar system. The weekly cycle was still going as it always had, but in 1582 they made the only calendar change since the days of Jesus.

It was Thursday October 4th. And in order to get back in harmony with the solar system, Friday should have been the 5th, but they simply made the correction of the 10 days by making Friday the 15th, and Saturday the 16th, and time went on as it had. The weekly cycle has never, ever been broken, or confused. Time has never been lost and there is no question that the seventh day that is in the world today, is the same seventh day that Jesus kept, when He was on the earth. In addition to all that, the Jewish people have been observing the seventh day from the time of Abraham, and they still keep it today.

Dictionary – The dictionary identifies the Seventh day of the week as Saturday.

According to the Naval Observatory in Washington, DC, there has never been a change in the weekly continuity.

In over 105 languages in the world the word for the seventh day of the week is "Sabbath." Portuguese, Spanish and Italian, it is "Sabbado;" Russian, "Subbata;" Bulgarian, "Shubbuta;" Arabic, "As-Sabt."

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

Exodus 20:10 **"But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God..."**

Matthew 12:8 **"For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day."**

Mark 2:28 **"Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."**

Isaiah 58:13 **"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words."**

The Sabbath is the only Lord's Day.

7 Churches, 7 Candlesticks, 7 Stars, 7 Eyes, 7 Horns, 7 Spirits of God, 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 last plagues —1st day of the week? NO! 7th day of the week

Revelation 1:10 **"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day..."** Based on the evidence, the Lord's day can only be the seventh day Sabbath.

Somehow the Sabbath was changed from the seventh day to the first day. The Bible describes such as a beast power that we will study in detail soon.

The Bible even predicted in Daniel 7:25 that God's law would be changed. **"...and think to change times and laws..."**

Can the New Testament show us which day the seventh day is?

Luke 23:54 **"And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on."** The preparation day was the sixth day of the week and always the day before the Sabbath. It was the day they were to be preparing for Sabbath. Jesus died on that day, commonly called Good Friday today.

Mark 15:42, 43 confirms that fact. **"And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathaea... went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus."**

Luke 23:56 **"...and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment."** This is after Jesus died, they are still keeping the 4th commandment.

Luke 24:1, 2 **"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre."**

The Bible order is Preparation day, Sabbath, First Day of the week. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Good Friday, Sabbath, Easter Sunday.

If Jesus rose on the 1st day of the week, the day before had to be the 7th day. Even in death, Jesus rested according to the commandment.

Question: With the Sabbath positively identified, when does the Sabbath begin and end?

Leviticus 23:32 **"... from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath."**

Mark 1:32 **"And at even, when the sun did set..."** The day begins at sunset (evening). Each day of creation in Genesis, the evening started the day. Genesis 1:5; 8; 13; 19; 23; 31.

Question: Which day did Jesus keep holy?

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

Question: Did Jesus intend for His people to keep the Sabbath after He died for their sins? Jesus was very clear in His instructions on this very point.

Matthew 24:19-20 **“But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.”**

Jerusalem was surrounded by the Roman armies and destroyed by Titus in 70 AD. Why would Jesus encourage His disciples to pray that their flight be not on the Sabbath if at that time they wouldn't be keeping it?

Hebrews 4:1 **“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.”**

Hebrews 4:9 **“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.”**

The Greek word for rest is “Sabbatismos” means Sabbath keeping.

Question: Did the apostles also meet with the Gentiles on the Sabbath?

Acts 13:14 **“But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.”**

Acts 17:2 **“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.”**

Acts 13:42-44 **“And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.”** Christians that are saved by grace through faith in Jesus keep the seventh day Sabbath.

Acts 18:4 **“And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”**

Acts 16:13 **“And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; ...”**

The New Testament church kept the Bible Sabbath. The disciples loved Jesus enough to obey Him.

John 4:24 **“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”**

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

John 17:17 **“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”** The seventh day Sabbath is the truth found in His Word, and those who are being sanctified are worshipping Him on the Sabbath, in Spirit and in Truth.

Matthew 4:4 **“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”**

Question: Does it really matter which day we keep holy?

John 3:21 **“But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”**

(There are occupational exceptions pertaining to Sabbath: fireman, police, paramedics, hospital nurses. These are for life-saving and to relieve human suffering and offer aid according to Matt. 12:12; **“Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.”**)

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

Even though the seventh day Sabbath can be upheld with both the Old and New Testaments, most of the Christian world uphold Sunday. Why?

In *“The Convert’s Catechism,”* p.50 we read the following:

Question – Which is the Sabbath day?

Answer - Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Question – Why do we observe Sunday instead of Sabbath?

Answer - ...because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.

In *“A Doctrinal Catechism,”* by Stephen Keenan, p.174

Question – Have you any other way of proving that the church has the power to institute fetivals of precept?

Answer – Had she not had such power, she could not have done that which all modern religionists agree with her – she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.

Catholicism and Fundamentalism, by Karl Keating, p.38

...fundamentalist meet for worship on Sunday, yet there is no evidence in the Bible that corporate worship was to be made on Sundays. The Jewish Sabbath, or day of rest, was, of course, Saturday. It was the Catholic Church that decided Sunday should be the day of worship for Christians, in honor of the resurrection.

The Catholic Encyclopedia, vol. 4, p.153

The church, after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath of the seventh day of the week to the first made the Third Commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord’s Day.

Faith of Our Fathers, by Cardinal James Gibbons, p.561

You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday.

Our Sunday Visitor, February 11, 2007

In the story of creation, God rested on the seventh day. Not because He was tired, but because He wanted to give us an example of how to Live... When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He reminded us “to keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord”... The Sabbath is not just another to run errands... and we are to honor Him through going to mass. Keep Sunday Sacred.

Acts 20:27 **“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”**

BIBLE OR TRADITION? SABBATH OR SUNDAY? The evidence is overwhelming. The Choice is yours.

In the year 1416, after having suffered a year from great cruelty, Jerome was brought forth from his filthy dungeon, and was again threatened with death by burning at the stake if he did not recant his Christian faith and pledge allegiance to the Papal council.

Upon hearing their threats, Jerome was unmoved by their rage. His faith had been bolstered by the courage and faithfulness of John Huss who was martyred before him, and Jerome exclaimed: "What! Do you suppose that I fear to die? You have held me for a whole year in a frightful dungeon, more terrible than death itself. You have treated me more cruel than a pagan, and my flesh has literally rotted off my bones alive; and yet I make no complaint, but I cannot but express my astonishment at such great barbarity toward a Christian."

Certain dignitaries of the church, desiring to save his life, urged him to submit to the council, a submission which would have meant apostasy from the true faith. "Prove to me from the Holy Writings that I am in error," he said, "and I will recant it. Are the traditions of men more worthy of faith than the gospel of our Saviour?"

replied Jerome. "Paul did not exhort those to whom he wrote to listen to the traditions of men, but said, 'Search the Scriptures.'"

As he was led to his death, he went singing on his way. Even his enemies were struck with his heroic bearing. His countenance lighted up with joy and peace. When the executioner, about to kindle the pile, stepped behind him, the martyr shouted: "Come forward boldly; apply the fire before my face. Had I been afraid, I should not be here."

As the flames rose about him, his last words were, "Lord, Almighty Father, have pity on me, and pardon me my sins; for Thou knowest that I have always loved Thy truth." —Bonnechose, vol. 2, p. 151-153, 168.

And so perished another of God's faithful lightbearers. But the light of Jerome's example could never be extinguished. The martyr's of past ages such as Jerome, and Huss, stood for truth as they knew it to be. How can we when we understand from the Bible, do any different?

John 14:15 **"If ye love Me, keep My commandments."**

End Semester 2 – Week 5 - Class 9
GOD'S TEST OF LOYALTY

Next Class Semester 2 – Week 5 - Class 10
"History's Greatest Religious Cover-Up"

The Following Class Semester 2 – Week 6 - Class 11
"The Subject Satan Hates"

The Next Following Class Semester 2 – Week 6 - Class 12
"God's Way of Salvation"