

**The Faith of God part 5**  
**The Sabbath/The Lords Day**  
**3/01/15**

Today I want to continue the thought of what The Apostle Paul called "The Faith of God." Last week we talked about the Seventh Day Sabbath. Christians around the world celebrate one day of the week as the Sabbath. That day for most Christians is Sunday. My question for us is "Is Sunday the day that God intended for us to Honor when He said in Exo 20:8, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.?"

We understand from our study over the last three weeks that biblical Judaism was God's preferred Faith, (or religion} God gave to the Jews His teachings, the oracles of God as expressed in Romans 3:1-4.

Let me say here at the start that God receives our worship on whatever day we choose to worship Him as long it is in true sincerity and in earnest. There are also great reasons to recognize the first day of the week, (Sunday) as a special day since Jesus arose on that day, Also the Day of Pentecost and the out pouring of the Holy Ghost took place on the first day of the week. There is also evidence that very early in church history they at least acknowledged the first day of the week as the Lords Day, as we see in Rev 1:10 and I quote, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." My question is, "Was it God's intention to abandon the seventh day Sabbath and replace it with a new day?"

If we look into history and examine how this came to be and the means that were employed to force the early Christians to abandon Sabbath for Sunday we will easily see that something was very wrong with how it was done.

Lets remind ourselves of several major points that God makes about the Sabbath. Jesus makes a very profound declaration when He states when He was asked what is the greatest commandment as read in Mat 22:36-40, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

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The balance between honoring God in the first four commandments,  
1. Have no other Gods before Him. 2. Don't make Idle gods to  
worship. 3. Don't take God's name in vain. 4. Remember the Sabbath  
Day. These first four commandments are relevant to God. The other  
six are all relevant to our fellow man. 5. Honor our parents. 6. Do not  
commit murder. 7. Be faithful to your marriage partner. 8. Do not  
steal. 9. Do not bear false witness. 10. Do not covet what is not yours.

Keeping the Sabbath honors God! Isaiah 58:13-14, "If thou turn away  
thy foot from the Sabbath,... and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the  
LORD, honorable; and shall honor him,..." Notice the term, "Honor Him"  
Keeping the Sabbath honors God!

Isa 56:4-5 it tells us, "For thus says the LORD unto the eunuchs (Gentiles)  
that keep my Sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold  
of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within  
my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I  
will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."

Note the phrase "choose the things that please me," Honoring His special  
day pleases God! This is not a matter of legalism, but an effort to do all we  
can to be obedient to God's will. Gal 2:16 tells us, "Knowing that a man  
is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus  
Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be  
justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by  
the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." So we honor the Lord  
on the Sabbath, not because we have to, but because we want to!

The Sabbath is a prophecy of the Great Day of rest that is ahead as Jesus  
returns to rule the world for one thousand years of peace, We are reminded  
each week that there is a wonderful day of rest coming with Jesus on the  
throne of David ruling the world in peace for a the thousand year millennial  
reign! That great period did not come in the first thousand years of Man's  
history, but it is coming in the seventh (Next) thousand years of man's  
history. I say "Come Lord Jesus!"

How did we get to where we are now with Sunday counted as the Christian  
Sabbath? We need to look into history to tell us the story. The early church  
based in Jerusalem led by the Apostles continued to honor the Sabbath on

seventh day. But as the church began to grow and many thousands of the gentiles from the Roman empire were converted to Christ there was a great push to abandon anything that smelled of Judaism. The Roman empire was in constant conflict with the Jews and a great hatred was developed between them. In the fourth century AD, the Roman emperor Constantine was converted to Christianity and made Christianity the official religion of the empire. His hatred for the Jews was profound! He made every effort to force the church away from anything Jewish. In the book by Samuele Bacchiocchi, "Anti-Judaism and The Origin of Sunday." P 87 We quote, "Let us then have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd. ..All should avoid participating in the perjured conduct of the Jews."

In the first century AD there was great persecution and wars between the Roman empire and the Jews, the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 by Titus is just one example, so there was a push to separate the Christian church from the Jews.

The Romans levied a special tax against only the Jews, so that was an incentive for the Christians to bring a distinction between themselves and the Jews.

In an effort to bring a dread for the Sabbath, the Roman Bishops instituted a Sabbath fast and a Sunday feast, so they began to dread the Sabbath and look forward to Sunday because they were hungry.

Although the early Christians were considered another sect or denomination of Jews and continued to worship with their fellow Jews in their synagogues, after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, the Jews in their Synagogues pushed the believers out because they felt the Christians had abandoned them in their time of need, since they had followed Jesus' instructions to flee Jerusalem as spoken of in Mat 24:15-26 where we read, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,... Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:" According to history, not one believer died in Jerusalem because of that war! They all obeyed Jesus and got out!

For well over a hundred years the Christian church considered themselves another denomination of Jews. As time went on more and more pressure was applied to bring a distinction between them. Abandoning the Sabbath for

Sunday was just one of many ways that happened in that time to bring that about.

The Jews, who had rejected Jesus as their Messiah, now excepted a Jewish general, Barkokeba as their messiah in AD 132-135. He ruled in Jerusalem for a short time, but brought horrible persecution against the Christian, adding to the trend to separate between the Jews and Christians of their time.

As we can see by these examples, the change from the seventh day Sabbath to the first day, Lord's Day, was slow in coming and not brought about by Biblical truth, but by coercion and persecution. Also because of severe anti-Semitism by many of the early Christians of Roman, (Pagan) heritage.

The change from Sabbath to Sunday is just one of a number the holidays that were changed from their proper biblical roots to satisfy the trend away from things Jewish as we shall see as we develop this radio broadcast over time. I do hope you will tune in each week to listen. If you have questions or subjects that you would like for us to address, please contact us at "The truth as we know it." 750 Oil Mill Rd, Oil Mill Rd. Piedmont, SC 29673.

Listen again next week.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?

Until Next week, God Bless.