

The Doctrine of the Sabbath

God alone has the power to sanctify time (Gen 2:3, Deut 12:32), therefore, humanity should observe the weekly and annual Sabbaths as sacred time (with the obligation to rest from labor and assemble for worship). There is clear evidence that God sanctified these days (Lev 23), that He expects Gentiles to observe them (Ex 12:19, Lev 16:29, Deut 5:14, Mark 2:27), and that they have never been annulled (Isa 66:23, Ezek 45:17, 21, 25, Zech 14:16-17, 1Cor 5:7-8).

The Bible also mentions the existence of certain secular festivals as national days of celebration for the Jews (Esther 9:20-22, John 10:22), but those festivals were never considered to be sacred time. Americans celebrate July 4th and Thanksgiving in a similar fashion.

According to Canon 1246 and 1247 of *The Code of Canon Law*, the Roman church has sanctified Sunday and ten annual (variable) Holy Days of Obligation as sacred time by its own authority, which includes: the Feast of Mary (New Years Day), Ascension, the Assumption of Mary, All Saints (Halloween), the Immaculate Conception, and Christmas. Easter always falls on a Sunday, so it is not considered to be a variable feast. Many countries have moved some of the variable days to Sunday; for example, American Catholics only observe six variable feasts.

The Roman church does not have the authority to declare these days to be sacred time in place of God's holy Sabbaths (Matt 5:17-20). Many Protestants continue to observe these days based on tradition; thus, they tacitly recognize Rome's authority over them, deny of the principle of *Sola Scriptura*, nullify God's law through the traditions of men and worship God in vain (Mark 7:6-8, John 4:23-24).

In addition, many of these man-made festivals are based on pagan holy days and rituals that were incorporated into the Roman church by apostates long after the time of the apostles and imposed on God's people by the power of the Roman state (Dan 7:23-25). This kind of worship is not appropriate or acceptable to God (Deut 12:29-31, 1Kgs 12:32, 13:34); therefore, Christians should proactively abstain from observing these man-made days.

The Sabbath is a sign that identifies God's holy people (Ex 31:12-13, Ezek 20:12); this applies to Gentiles as well as Israelites (Isa 56:6-7). Similarly, Sunday worship is a sign or mark that identifies Satan's servants whether they know it or not (2Cor 11:13-15).

There can be no partnership between righteousness and lawlessness, no fellowship between light and darkness, and no harmony between Christ and the Adversary; God's command on this matter is clear: "Come out from their midst and be separate" (2Cor 6:14-17).

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Scriptures

Gen 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Deut 12:32 Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.

Ex 12:19 Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is an alien or a native of the land.

Lev 16:29 This shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you

Deut 5:14 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

Mark 2:27 Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

Isa 66:23 "And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD.

Ezek 45:17 "It shall be the prince's part to provide the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the drink offerings, at the feasts, on the new moons and on the sabbaths, at all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel; he shall provide the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering and the peace offerings, to make atonement for the house of Israel."

Ezek 45:21 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten."

Ezek 45:25 "In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast, he shall provide like this, seven days for the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering and the oil."

Zech 14:16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 17 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

1Cor 5:7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Esther 9:20 Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21 obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually, 22 because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and it was a month which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

John 10:22 At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem

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Matt 5:17 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 7:6 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 7 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.' 8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Dan 7:23 Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. 24 The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. 25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.'

Deut 12:29 When the LORD your God cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, 30 beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?' 31 You shall not behave thus toward the LORD your God, for every abominable act which the LORD hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

1Kgs 12:32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.

1Kgs 13:34 And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.

Ex 31:12 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 13 "But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel," saying, "You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you."

Ezek 20:12 Also I gave them My sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

Isa 56:6 Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant; 7 Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

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2Cor 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

2Cor 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAR; And I will welcome you.