

Saturday or Sunday Worship?

1 Corinthians 16:1-5 NKJV ¹Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: ²On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. ³And when I come, whomever you approve by *your* letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me. ⁵Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia).

While in Ephesus, Paul wrote these words to the Corinthians. He was referring to a special collection by some of the churches in Greece of food and needed goods for the church in Jerusalem which was suffering from drought, famine and persecution. This was not a Holy Convocation worship service for if it was, they would not have been doing the work of gathering and storing food and goods on that day. Keeping the commandments of God, they would have rested and worshipped on the Seventh Day Sabbath and done the work on the first day of the week. According to verse 2, the collection would end when Paul arrived in Corinth. From Corinth Paul referred to the special collection in verses 23-28 of his letter to the Romans.

NKJV ²³But now no longer having a place in these parts, (*Corinth*) and having a great desire these many years to come to you, ²⁴whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your *company* for a while. ²⁵But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. ²⁶For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. ²⁸Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

According to verses 25-28 Paul took and delivered the collection of goods to the church in Jerusalem and wrote that he would visit the church in Rome after Jerusalem and then go to Spain.

Acts 20: 7-12 NKJV ⁷Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. ⁹And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." ¹¹Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. ¹²And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

After observing the Days of Unleavened Bread in Philippi, Paul joined with several men who went ahead of him Troas, a city close to Troy in Greece. (See Acts 20:1-6) Paul stayed in Troas for seven days and on the last day there the event in Acts 20:7-12 took place. The disciples came together on Saturday evening, which began the first day of the week, to break bread, which was a general term for sharing a meal together. Paul was already packed and ready for the journey to Jerusalem which would begin the next morning. He was in a hurry to

reach Jerusalem by the Day of Pentecost so he could observe the holy day there. (See Acts 20:16) NKJV ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. *This was not a weekly Holy Convocation worship service on the first day of the week but was an evening meal and farewell message from Paul who was leaving the next morning. If Paul had considered the first day of the week to be holy, he would not be travelling on the morning of that day.*

John 20:19-20 NKJV ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

On this first day of the week the disciples were gathered in fear of the Jewish leaders, and they did not yet believe or understand that Jesus had risen from death in the grave after three days and three nights. So, they were obviously not gathered to celebrate and observe Jesus's resurrection or even to worship Jesus for that matter. This was certainly not a Holy Convocation worship service and there was no reason for them to start worshipping on the first day of the week due to this encounter with the resurrected Jesus. They had several encounters with Jesus after this one and they never indicated that the first one was more special than the others giving them reason to stop resting and worshipping on the Seventh Day Sabbath according to the commandment of God.

Romans 14: 5-6 ⁵ One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

The subject of chapter 14 of Romans is eating food. Paul does not suddenly change the subject in these two isolated verses to Sabbath days as some people believe and teach. The last part of verse 6 proves that. Some translations such as NIV, NLT and NET substituted the word "above" in verse 5 with "more sacred than" or "more holy than" suggesting Paul changed the subject to Jewish holy days instead of eating food. But the subject continues to be about eating food all the way to the end of the chapter. These two verses refer to fasting days (he who does not eat) or feasting days (he who eats) and since the days chosen for them are "doubtful" or not crucial regarding righteousness, everyone can fast or feast on the day or days best suited for themselves. Some Jews fasted on certain days of each week and some fasted twice a week. In Luke 18:12 Jesus told a parable about a Pharisee who prayed at the temple proclaiming he fasted twice a week when stating his righteous deeds to God. In their "The Proper Day for Fasting" article, Ligonier Ministries states "With regard to the Pharisees, first-century Jews regarded fasting as a mark of general piety, not just repentance, and the Pharisees were known for fasting on Mondays and Thursdays."

Colossians 2:16-17 NKJV ¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Many Christians use these scriptures to defend not keeping the food laws, the yearly festivals, and the Seventh Day Sabbath. However, if you look back at all the things Jesus said about the laws and the Sabbath, He was always criticizing how they were being kept or the burden of enforcing man-made laws and traditions which made void the commandments of God. He never criticized the keeping of the laws and the Sabbaths. (See Matthew 15:1-6) NKJV

¹ Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, ² “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” ³ He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? ⁴ For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ ⁵ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God”— ⁶ then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

In Colossians 2:17 Paul says the food, festival and Sabbath laws are a shadow of things to come but the substance is of Christ.

Revelation 1:9-11 NKJV ⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

John had been exiled to the island of Patmos for teaching the Gospel and the message Jesus brought about the coming Kingdom of God on earth. In verse 10, the Lord’s Day simply means the Day of the Lord which is the time at the end of the age during the tribulation and the judgement of God on the earth. This is proven when Jesus said “what you see, write in a book. The whole book of Revelation is about the end of the age. Therefore, being in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day indicates that he was carried by the spirit to a vision of the time at the end of the age. So, John wrote down everything he saw and heard in the vision creating the book of Revelation about the Day of the Lord, just as he was told by Jesus to do. The phrase Day of the Lord is mentioned many times in Bible prophecy.

Matthew 28:1-7 NKJV ²⁸ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

Many Christians rest and worship on the first day of the week because they believe that according to Matthew 28:1 and the parallel scriptures Mark 16:2, Luke 24:1 and John 20:1, Jesus

was raised from the dead on the first day of the week. Therefore, they believe the disciples stopped keeping the seventh day Sabbath and began resting and worshipping on the first day of the week which they now call The Lord's Day or Resurrection Day. The problem with that belief is that a careful and complete study of resurrection week comparing all four gospels will show that Jesus was resurrected on Saturday just before sundown which means He was resurrected on the Seventh Day Sabbath. In Matthew 12:40 Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees that the only sign they would receive proving He was the Messiah was that He would be in the heart of the earth (grave) for three days and three nights which cannot happen with a Friday crucifixion and a Sunday morning resurrection. In 31AD Passover (crucifixion day) was on a Wednesday shortly before sundown, Thursday was a High Sabbath Day, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, Friday was a work day and Saturday shortly before sundown Jesus was resurrected. Those three days and three nights fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus to the scribes and Pharisees. Below is a comprehensive diagram with scriptures of the resurrection week in 31AD.

Roman Days					CRUCIFIXION WEEK 31 AD						
Monday Night	Tuesday Day	Tuesday Night	Wednesday Day	Wednesday Night	Thursday Day	Thursday Night	Friday Day	Friday Night	Saturday Day	Saturday Night	Sunday Day
Nissan 13 3rd Day Evening Morning		Nissan 14 4th Day of Week Evening Morning		Nissan 15 5th Day of Week Evening Morning		Nissan 16 6th Day of Week Evening Morning		Nissan 17 7th Day of Week Evening Morning		Nissan 18 1st Day of Week Evening Morning	
Jewish Days		Passover Preparation Day Not a Sabbath		1st Day of Unleavened Bread High Sabbath Day		2nd Day of Unleavened Bread A work day		3rd Doy of Unleavened Bread The Weekly Sabbath Day		4th Day of Unleavened Bread A work day	
	Jesus in the Temple during the day and on Mt. of Olives at night	Jesus and disciples ate Passover meal and New Covenant instituted	Early AM Trials then Crucifixion 9AM-3PM Christ buried before sunset		Chief Priests and Pharisees ask Pilate to seal the tomb		2 Mary's bought and prepared spices after High Sabbath on 6th day of week		Jesus is risen from death on 7th day sometime before Sunset		Women brought spices while still dark but Jesus was already risen
		1st full day in the tomb		2nd full day in the tomb		3rd full day in the tomb					
		Matthew 12:38-40 Three days and three nights in heart of earth is only sign to Pharisees that Jesus is the Christ									
		Matt 26:26-28 New Covenant symbols instituted					Mark 15:47 The two Marys saw where Jesus was laid				
		Mark 15:25 Christ crucified at 9 in the morning					Luke 23:55 The women saw tomb and Jesus' body laid in it				
		Matt 27:45-50 Jesus died about three in the afternoon					Luke 23:54 Prep. day (Lev. 23) before the (High) Sabbath				
		Luke 23:44 Jesus died about three in afternoon					Matt 27:62 Chief priests & Pharisees request tomb sealed				
		Matt 27:57-60 Joseph of Arimathea takes Jesus' body					Luke 23:56 Women prepare Spices. Rest on (Weekly) Sabbath				
		Mark 15:42 Prep. Day before Sabbath Joseph went to Pilate					Mark 16:1 Two Marys buy spices after (High) Sabbath				
		Luke 23:50-53 Joseph goes to Pilate then buries Jesus in tomb					Matt 28:1 Two Marys go to tomb at dawn after (Wkly) Sabbath				
		John 19:31 Preparation day before special (High) Sabbath					Mark 16:2 The 2 Mary' go to tomb at dawn 1st day of week				
		John 19:38 Joseph & Nicodemus wrap and bury Jesus					Luke 24:1 Women go to tomb early morn 1st day of week				
		John 19:31 Jews want body removed before special Sabbath					John 20:1 Mary Magdalene goes to tomb 1st day still dark				

SCRIPTURES SUPPORTING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

Exodus 20:8-11 NKJV ⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

God blessed the Seventh day and hallowed it meaning He made it holy (set apart) or He consecrated that day. Man cannot invalidate or change a commandment written in stone by God.

Mark 2:23-28 NKJV ²³ Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵ But He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: ²⁶ how he went into the house of God *in the days* of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?" ²⁷ And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

The Pharisees said the disciples were breaking the Sabbath law by plucking grain but Jesus cited scripture where King David and those with him when in need and hungry ate showbread that was only lawful for priests to eat. Then in verse 27-28 He said the Sabbath was made for man. So, it was not just made for the Jews but for all mankind. Then Jesus said that He (the Son of Man) was the Lord of the Sabbath. So, as the Lord of the Sabbath He had authority to allow them to eat because the spirit of the Sabbath law was to benefit mankind, not to cause him to go hungry when in need of food. Jesus also allowed Himself and His disciples to heal and do good on the Sabbath because of the spirit of the Sabbath Law.

Revelation 22:12-14 NKJV ¹² And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last. ¹⁴ Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Isaiah 66:22-23 NKJV ²² "For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. ²³ And it shall come to pass *that* from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD.

Matthew 24:15-22 NKJV ¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his

clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.