

Why I Do Not Keep the Sabbath
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Introduction: There is great misunderstanding on this subject in the religious world.

- A. Positions of those who claim to be "of Christ".
 - 1. **Sabbitarians** - claim the Sabbath as an eternal law.
 - 2. **Roman Catholics** - claim they changed the Sabbath to Sunday.
 - 3. **Protestant groups** - claim something they call the "Christian Sabbath".
- B. Defining terms.
 - 1. **Sabbath** - seventh day of the week.
 - 2. **Sunday** - first day of the week. There is no "Christian Sabbath".
 - 3. **(Luke 23:56-24:1; Matthew 28:1)** - Sunday is not the Sabbath!
- C. The issue is where did God ever instruct Christians under the New Covenant to keep the Sabbath?

I. The Sabbath Was Never Commanded of Any But the Nation of Israel.

- A. God first prepared Israel for the Sabbath before the giving of the Law. **(Exodus 16:22-26.)**
 - 1. This preparation would not be needed if they had this law all their lives.
 - 2. Israel as a new nation will be given a new law.
- B. The Sabbath is part of the Ten Commandments. **(Exodus 20:1, 8)**
 - 1. How is this tied to the creation? **(Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:11)**
 - 2. While based on the fact that God rested, it was not sanctified until Moses gave the law.
 - 3. **(Nehemiah 9:13,14; Deuteronomy 5:1-4)** - God was very clear concerning who He gave the Sabbath to and when it was given.
- C. The purposes involved in the Sabbath show that it was given only to Israel. **(Exodus 20:1-ff; 34:27, 28)**
 - 1. Two events remembered: God rested and Israel's freedom from slavery. **(Deut. 5:15)**
 - 2. It was not given to the Gentiles.
 - a. **(Gen. 17:10-12)** - the Sabbath law is like the law of circumcision. This was only to the Jews.
 - b. **(Isaiah 56:6, 7)** - The foreigner may become a proselyte to keep the Sabbath and offer sacrifices.

II. Christians Are Under the New Testament Law.

- A. **(Col. 2:14-17)** See NIV: "Sabbath Day".
 - 1. Far too many in the religious world are unaware of this teaching.
 - 2. The Bible would be in conflict without this distinction.
- B. **Objection-** "There are two laws: the moral law and the ceremonial law. Only

the ceremonial law was removed."

1. Where does the Bible say it? (Example: \$900 offer in Lincoln.)
 2. How many covenants did God make? What does the Bible say?
(**Exodus 19:5; 24:3-4,7-8**)
 3. Both Old and New Testaments proclaims that God gave one covenant.
(**Hebrews 9:19,17; 10:9; Galatians 4:24, Hebrews 9:1-5; Num 15:16**)
- C. (**Romans 7:1-7; II Cor. 3:4-14**) - The Ten Commandment law was removed. Christians are now under the New covenant.

III. Objections and Inconsistencies.

- A. (**Matthew 5:17-18**) - Does this prove the Sabbath cannot be removed?
1. It would prove not only the Sabbath but the entire O.T. is forever.
 2. "Till" is an adverb of time. (**Luke 24:44; Heb. 10:9-10**)
- B. Attempts to distinguish between the **law of Moses** and the **law of God**.
1. Some will say the law of Moses is the ceremonial law and was removed, but the law of God remained.
 2. (**II Chron. 31:3**) - The law of God involves burnt offerings.
 3. (**Ezra 7:6; Neh. 10:29**) - These terms are interchangeable.
- C. **New Testament examples.**
1. **Jesus (Gal. 4:4)** - He was born under the law.
 - a. (**Luke 2:24**) - His parents offered burnt sacrifices at His birth.
 - b. Some signs posted: "Jesus kept the Sabbath Holy, so should you."
 - c. Jesus kept the law perfectly and then abolished it!
 2. **Paul (1 Cor. 9:19-23)** - Paul was not under the Old Testament Law.
 3. **City Gates (Matt 24:20)** - The Jews kept the law before the destruction of Jerusalem.
 4. (**Hebrews 4:4-10**) - Our rest is heaven, not on the seventh day.
 5. (**Mark 2:27-28**) - Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. He abolished it!
- D. None today keeps the Sabbath. (**Exodus 20:8-11; Gal 5:1-4**)

IV. The Lord's Day. (Revelation 1:10)

- A. Events surrounding the first day of the week.
1. **Christ arose. (Matt. 28:1)**
 2. **The church established** at Pentecost. (**Acts 2; Leviticus 23:15-16**)
 - a. Fifty days, **always** begins on the first day of the week.
 3. **The Lord's Supper. (Acts 20:6,7)**
 4. **Giving. (I Cor. 16:1,2)**
- B. Christians who bind the Sabbath lose their salvation. (**Gal. 5:1-4**)

Conclusion: Let us make Jesus our Lord and follow His will. (**John 1:16-17**)