

Creation: Day 7 (Part 2)

Genesis 2:1-3

August 21, 2016

Introduction

I remember when I was growing up, Christians would teach that working on Sunday was a sin and that we should not work on Sundays. Why? Because Sunday is the Sabbath, and we must follow what God says about the Sabbath—doing no work. This has been the view of many churches throughout the years, Is this what Scripture teaches? Is Sunday the new Sabbath?

I. Sabbath

- Creation account

Genesis 2:1-3 *Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.*

- The account simply describes what God did
- He blessed the day and made it holy (the seventh day)
- Special day; a memorial of His creation
- This is the day to glorify and honor God as Creator
- There is no commandment given to man
- Mosaic Law
 - Sabbath observance did not occur until the law given to Moses

Exodus 20:8-11 *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

- It is part of the Ten commandments
- Question: Is this a moral law or ceremonial law?
- God explained further that it was a memorial, a symbol

Exodus 31:13, 17 *Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe My Sabbaths. This will be a sign between Me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy. 17 It will be a sign between Me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He abstained from work and rested.'*

- If it is a sign (or symbol) then it is ceremonial
 - The NT never repeats the command to observe the Sabbath (unlike the other 9 Commandments)
 - This law was for Israel—not the church
- What does the Sabbath represent?

- Reminder of the perfect creation ruined by sin
- The only way to restore that perfect creation is righteousness
- Reminder that to obtain that righteousness is impossible
- Help them recognize that they could not keep the law and they needed a Savior
- Fulfillment of Sabbath in Christ Jesus
 - How did Jesus view the Sabbath?
 - He never broke the Sabbath law instituted by God
 - He often challenged the rabbinical traditions of the Sabbath
 - The rabbis created 39 categories of work forbidden on Sabbath
 - They were putting a fence around the law
 - By doing so, they missed the point of Sabbath
 - Because of this, Jesus came to abolish the Jewish religion and establish the New Covenant
 - Jesus is the Lord of Sabbath

Mark 2:23-28 *One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and as His disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" 25 He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." 27 Then He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."*

- No OT laws forbade anyone from eating from the field on Sabbath
- Jesus pointed out that what David did by eating the bread was worse, yet God allowed it to happen so that David's life would be spared
- Jesus also pointed out that the priests work on Sabbath and were free of blame
- He is the Lord of Sabbath
 - He is free to do whatever He wants on Sabbath because He is God
 - He could have kept the law; make sure it was followed exactly
 - Or He could have changed or removed the law (which He does)
- Sabbath was made for man
 - Sabbath rest was to be a blessing for man, not that man had to be burdened by it
- Doing God's work on Sabbath
 - Healing

Mark 3:1-6 *Another time He went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 2 Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched Him closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." 4 Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. 5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.*

- Withered hand—dead hand

- Jesus challenged the Pharisees
 - Pharisees saw what Jesus did as blasphemy
 - Jesus came to fulfill Sabbath in Himself
 - When we trust Christ as our Savior and Lord, we are at rest
 - We no longer demanded by the Law to live in perfection to fulfill it
 - Because Christ has fulfilled every areas of the Law
 - Therefore we are at rest
- Paul's view of Sabbath
 - There is not one rule or command for us to carefully observe the Sabbath
 - It is no longer in effect for us

Colossians 2:11-12 *In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, **12** having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

- Circumcision is no benefit (spiritually)
 - It is a sign given by God to Abraham for a time

Colossians 2:16 *Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.*

- Salvation is provided in Christ Jesus, not Sabbath
 - Sabbath is no longer binding for Christians

Transition: Has the Lord's Day replace the Sabbath? Is the law of Sabbath binding on the Lord's Day?

II. The Lord's Day

- The Lord's day is the first day of the week
 - Resurrection of Jesus

Matthew 28:1 *After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*

- Note Jesus was dead and buried during the Sabbath
- Any other significance on that Lord's Day?
 - The church was born on the first day of the week
 - Worship of Jesus on the first day!

Matthew 28:9 *Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him.*

John 20:19, 24-28 *On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **24** Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it."*

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **27** Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe." **28** Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

- Jesus explains the Scripture

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.

- Holy Spirit came on the first day of the week

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

- What day of the week did Pentecost fall on?

Leviticus 23:15-16 From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. **16** Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.

- Pentecost = 50 days after Passover Sabbath
- Are there any commands or requirements for us for that first day?
 - Just that we meet on the Lord's day

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. **25** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- How should we behave on the Lord's Day?
 - Day of joy
 - It should be a day where we are really excited about coming to church
 - Why?
 - Because we are experiencing the glorious truth of the gospel
 - Day of activity
 - Teaching, preaching, listening
 - Worshipping, witnessing
 - Continual reminder that Christ rose on the first day of the week
 - Reminder that God sent the Savior