

# A Sabbath By Design

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## What It's All About

Let me point out first of all, it doesn't matter what day we worship God, for every day is the day the Lord has made and we should rejoice and be glad in it! (Ps. 118:24) You can take any day of the week to specifically honor the Lord, either the whole day or part of the day. You can even just go along doing your thing, keeping God in mind and communing with Him. Which is, at the very least, what we really should be doing every day anyway! I Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to, "Pray without ceasing." Our lives should be dedicated to God every day of the week!

That being said, let me specifically say, this book is not about telling you what day to go to church. The commandment of God does not tell us "Remember the Sabbath and go to church in it!" That is because, when you go to church has no bearing on the issue of recognizing the Sabbath and remembering to keep it holy. This issue is about remembering something special God has given us. Something we should all be taking advantage of. A day God Himself created and laid aside as a day of rest and communion with Him!

Unfortunately, the church issue is what comes to most people's minds when talking about the fourth commandment. This is because, we humans have a horrible habit! Every time we see something we think is special, we have to build big traditions around it. (Col. 2:8) It seems to me this is one of the biggest barriers to having a realistic talk about the fourth commandment. Instead of realizing the blessing the Sabbath is to us, we immediately find we need to talk about what is expected of us! We do not know how to simply have a personal relationship with God. So, we have to build some big man-made reason or theology into why the day is special. One of the biggest false beliefs of the Seventh Day Adventist church is the belief Christ "must" return on a Saturday. The movement is founded on the belief that a man could calculate when Christ would return. When their calculations fell through - and more than once I might add - they went to this simpler belief. They felt, at very least, they could still say Christ would return on a Saturday!

Protestants and Catholics the world over will tell you Sunday is "The special day." This belief is largely based on - at least that is what they say - the issue of Sunday being the day Christ rose from the dead! I will agree Sunday was the day the angel rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb. However, in reality, this just means Sunday is the day humans realized Christ was no longer in that tomb! What Christ was accomplishing on that Sunday is something we have not yet shared in nor do we fully understand. The sad thing is, many people have built the big church going ritual around Sunday because of that Sunday's events; and in doing this, many have fallen into a direct violation of the fourth commandment, they have "forgotten," the God created Sabbath Day! If you talk to them about remembering the true Sabbath, they are immediately worried about the, going to church issue. This shows us how much we need to regain a personal relationship with God, not just one that is based on man-made rituals. If God had wanted a people who knew Him only through ritual, He would not have been so wroth with the children of Israel, at times, and given instructions like Hosea 6:6, where God tells Israel, "For I desire mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

As we talk about the issue of the Sabbath, there really is not that many arguments as to why we should pay attention to remembering the weekly Sabbath. However, when we look at the arguments as to why we should not bother or care about remembering, it seems there is no end to the excuses people can come up with! They go all the way from theological comments like the idea, "Jesus did not re-emphasize the Sabbath commandment" to funny excuses like, "I don't want people to think I'm Seventh Day Adventist!" In this book, I will take time to talk about many of these arguments. However, there may be many more arguments you will be confronted with if you choose to hold and teach the Sabbath; but remember, regardless of the amount of excuses not to remember the true Sabbath, there is a simple point in defending against these excuses, and it is this, the reasons to hold the Sabbath, no matter how few they may be, are given by God - not men! The reasons for remembering are built into His creation, and God commanded it to be so! On the flip side, all the arguments as to why we shouldn't care, are based on traditions of men and flimsy excuses about why people don't think it's important enough to care about.

There's no doubt anything God has asked of us can simply be ignored. We can always come up with some justification in our mind as to why it doesn't matter, why it shouldn't matter, or why we think it's impossible to get it right anyway. I don't know about you, but I believe the entire Word of God is important! The Bible tells us not to be spoiled by traditions of men. (Col. 2:8) It also tells us man cannot live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Deut. 8:3, Matt. 4:4) It is always important to our walk with God that we try our best to know and follow God's Word. This means, all His Word, not just the parts we think are "important!"

The Jewish nation, obviously, realizes as well as confirms to the rest of us, the day we know as Saturday on our calendars, is the weekly Sabbath Day God was speaking of in the fourth commandment! We need to stop letting excuses keep us from doing what God has asked us to do. We need to stop fooling ourselves into thinking we can pick a day, or that the early church looked at Sunday as a Holy day which

would replace the seventh day as the Sabbath. God gave us six days to do with as we choose. Then He made one day for us to spend exclusively with Him. Only one out of seven!

Stop and ask yourself, can it really be that hard? Should it really be such a difficult thing to remember? Do we believe God does not deserve one day a week from people who claim to be His followers? Do we believe God does not have the authority to tell us what day that should be? Do we not realize that the non-Jewish churches' refusal to recognize Saturday as God's Sabbath comes from anti-Semitic feelings, and a desire to set ourselves apart from God's chosen people? Don't let the devil steal from you what God has given to all mankind! Let's lay aside our false beliefs and excuses, and thoughtfully explore these questions. If you are willing to honestly do just that, afterward, I believe you will agree with me when I say, it is time even non-Jewish believers in Christ wake up and realize the importance of remembering the Sabbath Day we were created to observe!

