

John # 62 “And Just Who Are You To Question Our Rules?”

John 5:16-23

Within the 10 commandments, God gave the nation of Israel clear instructions concerning the Sabbath day.

And so, the Sabbath day is Saturday, the seventh day of the week when the children of Israel were to rest

in remembrance that God created that universe in six days and then He rested on the seventh day.

The Jews of Jesus’ day over-emphasized the Pharisees’ take on the Sabbath day to the point of crippling the people by constricting their movements in a completely micro-managed bullying fashion that was light-years from God’s intent.

And today, groups like the Seventh Day Adventists believe that the Sabbath (Saturday) is not so much a day of rest but a day of worship and they wouldn’t be so far off if they simply understood the grace aspect behind the day.

In New Testament times, Jews and Gentile proselytes or converts to Judaism began to meet in synagogues on the Sabbath out of necessity because with no work allowed on that day, it was ideal to have unhindered worship services.

But the New Testament doesn’t command that Saturday is the authorized day of worship.

The church of Jesus Christ is not under the Mosaic Law or any Pharisaic rituals; it’s under the New Covenant, established by our Lord’s death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session.

God does not assign a specific day to honor Him, so we don’t actually have a designated Sabbath day of worship.

Although the early Christians met on the first day of the week, there’s no Scripture indicating that the apostles observed an official day of worship known as the Sabbath.

The kind of freedom Jesus provides demands rest and God’s Sabbath rest demands complete freedom.

We can never have freedom if we stop thinking and the Sabbath was a thinking day when the Jews didn’t work physically but sat somewhere, rested and pondered the grace of God.

For us, our experiential Sabbath is a faith-rest moment-by-moment Sabbath of trusting God by believing, claiming and then resting on His promises.

And our eternal Sabbath is God’s grace gift of eternal life.

So in the Church Age, the Sabbath as the Jews knew it is interrupted just as the Age of Israel is interrupted and the Saturday Sabbath is set aside.

Jesus’ response to the accusations was that He was working just as His Father was working, an answer that did not sit well with the religious leaders.

The Sabbath was given for the benefit of the Jewish people as a sign of the Mosaic Law

covenant but over time, the meaning of the Sabbath changed to the point when the religious leaders of Jesus' day added ridiculous rules from their own traditions even elevating their own regulations to the level of Scripture.

The Lord Jesus did not break the Sabbath designed by God under the Old Covenant; Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

God rested on day 7 because there was nothing else to provide; certainly not because He was tired or needed a break.

If a person doesn't accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, no one has a right to make an issue of his life.

The Sabbath was designed to show the grace of God and not the religion of man.

No one can hate or attack like a religious person.

There were believers all over the world and it was the Sabbath day and many of these believers were in need

of the Father's grace and just as He promised, He provided!

The purpose of the Sabbath is to remind God's people to cool it because we cannot work for our salvation or our spirituality; they are God-given grace gifts!

The area of Palestine during the Incarnation was overflowing with demonic activity and influence like no other time in history.

Sometimes before the Gospel can be presented, religion must be exposed.

If the Lord Jesus Christ stops working, the earth ceases to exist!

Colossians 1:17 "He (Jesus Christ) is before all things and in Him all things hold together."

The irony is that the religious crowd is actually criticizing the Lord Jesus Christ for keeping them alive.