

Sabbath

When was the Sabbath changed to the Lord's Day? What is a Christian's relation to the Sabbath? To the Lord's Day? Did a pope make the change?

The Sabbath was never changed to the Lord's Day, The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, or our Saturday. The Lord's Day is the first day of the week, or our Sunday.

Although God Himself rested from the work of creation on the Sabbath day (Gen 2:2, 3), He did not command anyone else to do so until He gave the manna to the Nation of Israel (Ex 16:26). Later He included the keeping of the Sabbath in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:8, 10).

The Sabbath was a day of responsibility. The Jews were forbidden to do servile work. Those who broke the Sabbath, even by gathering sticks for fire wood, were put to death (Num 15:32-36).

Nowhere in the New Testament are Christians ever commanded to keep the Sabbath. In this age of grace, believers set aside the Lord's Day in a special way for worship and service because

- a. The Lord Jesus rose from the dead on that day, a proof that the work of redemption was completed (Jn 20:1).
- b. The early disciples met on that day to break bread, showing forth the Lord's death (Acts 20:7).
- c. It is the day appointed by God in which Christians should hold a collection and lay by in store as the Lord has prospered them (1 Cor 16:1, 2).
- d. It is the day on which the Holy Spirit was given (Acts 2:1; compare Lev 23:15, 16).

To the believer, the Lord's Day is not a day of duty, which he keeps under threat of punishment by death. Rather it is a day of privilege, when he should seek to praise and serve the Lord in a special way, since he is released from his daily occupation.

"The true character of the Lord's day is illustrated in our Lord's use of it. He comforted weeping Mary; walked seven miles with two perplexed disciples, giving a Bible reading by the way; sent messages to other disciples; had a private interview with backslidden Peter, and imparted the Holy Spirit to the men in the upper chamber." —C. I. Scofield.

No pope changed the Sabbath to Sunday. The Sabbath is still the seventh day, and the first day of the week is the Lord's day.

"Under the law, after a week of work, rest was needed. But when all the work has been done, it is a different matter. We can begin the week with rest, for our Lord Jesus has done all the work necessary for our salvation." —F. W. Dixon

For further help on this subject, see Lesson 12 of the Emmaus correspondence course on *Galatians*.