

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

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"WHO CHANGED THE SABBATH?"

[STEVE KLEIN]

Many people believe that Sunday is the "Christian Sabbath." Someone recently gave me a clipping from a local newspaper in which the author writes that "much of the Christian world (erroneously) looks to Sunday, the first day, as the day of Christian rest." The article claims that the day of worship was changed from Saturday to Sunday by the Roman Emperor Constantine in 313 AD, and gradually gained acceptance by "Christians" over hundreds of years. More than once I've been asked the question, "Who changed the Sabbath Day from Saturday to Sunday?" The question often indicates that the person asking believes two things: (1) That Sunday is now being observed by Christians as the "Sabbath," and (2) that somebody other than God is responsible for the change. Neither of these things is strictly true.

SUNDAY IS NOT THE SABBATH

Exodus 20:10 plainly states

that "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord." A mere glance at a calendar will show that the seventh day of each week falls on our Saturday; Sunday is the first day of the week.

SABBATH KEEPING WAS REQUIRED OF ISRAELITES, NOT CHRISTIANS

Besides the fact that Sunday cannot be the Sabbath because it is the wrong day of the week, it should also be observed that Christians who follow the Bible do not attempt to observe Sunday as the Sabbath because they realize **the Sabbath Law was given to the nation of Israel**. God made a covenant with the nation of Israel at Mt. Sinai. This covenant included the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28), one of which was "to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). This Covenant, including Sabbath keeping, was not given to anyone other than the Israelites – not even to their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (p. 3)

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Editorial...

"LOVE NOT THE WORLD, NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD" [1 John 2:15]

Works of the flesh are definitely "things of the world." We should neither do them nor love them. In Gal. 5:19-21 we read that a number of things are works of the flesh, and "they which do such things, shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Here is the list we find there: "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like..."

There are many other things that are included under "and such like." Let us also consider a number of other things that are not specifically mentioned in this list which are to be classified under "and such like." Here are some of them.

1. **Murmuring**. Read & consider carefully such passages as Num. 14:11-37; Psa. 106:24-25; 1 Cor. 10:10; Jude 14-16; 1 John 3:4, etc.

2. **Gambling**. Although gambling is not specifically mentioned in the Scriptures, the principles contained in the following passages will show it is sinful. [Rom. 12:17; 2 Cor. 8:21; Luke 6:31; 2 Thess. 3:10, etc.]

3. **Evil Surmisings**. This is supposing, or imagining or suspecting without proof that a person is guilty of evil. [1 Tim. 6:4]. This is also condemned under "evil thoughts." [See Mt. 15:19; Mark 7:21; Psalms 19:14; Phil. 4:8, etc.]

4. **Immodesty in Dress**. [See Gen. 3:1-21; Dt. 22:5; 1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4, Prov. 4:23, etc.]

5. **Swearing**. [See Matthew 5:33-37 & James 5:12.]

6. **Chambering** (unlawful cohabitation or "shacking up". [See Romans 13:13].

7. **Lying**. [See Prov. 19:9; Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:25; Rev. 21:27; 21:8, etc.]

8. **Hating Your Enemies**. [See Mt. 5:43-48.]

9. **Hating Your Brother**. [See 1 John 2:9-11; 1 John 3:15, etc.]

10. **Divorce without it being for the cause of fornication**. [See Matthew 19:9; Matthew 5:32; 1 Cor. 7:10-11, etc.]

11. **Seeking Preeminence**. [See 3 John 9-10, etc.]

12. **Handling the Word of God Deceitfully**. When a person "wrests" the Scriptures, he is guilty of doing that very thing. [See 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Peter 3:16, etc.]

13. **Taking Vengeance on others**. [See Romans 12:19-21, etc.]

14. **Banqueting** (which is a drinking which is not necessarily excessive, but giving opportunity for excess). [See 1 Peter 4:3.]

15. **Hypocrisy** [Religious and otherwise.] [See Mt. 6:1-7; 23:13-33, etc.]

16. **Covetousness**. [See Luke 12:15; 1 Cor. 5:10-11; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Mark 7:21-23; Hebrews 13:5, etc.]

Each of us should examine our hearts and search our souls to make sure if we are guilty of any of these things, we will repent & correct. CRS

(Cont'd from page 1)

"Who Changed the Sabbath?"

In Deuteronomy 5:3 Moses clearly states that "The LORD *made not this covenant with our fathers*, but with us, *even us*, who *are* all of us here alive this day." In Exodus 31:16-17 the Lord said, "**Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath**, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. (17) **It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel** forever: for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed."

When we come to the New Testament, we notice that Jesus and His disciples kept the Sabbath. They did so because they were Israelites who lived under the Old Covenant. However, no Christian was ever commanded to keep the Sabbath, and we have no New Testament example of a Christian who was not an Israelite *ever doing so!*

NO CHRISTIANS ACTUALLY KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY

Christians do not keep, or even attempt to keep, all the regulations involved in observing the Sabbath. Some may disagree with this statement. Perhaps you know someone who claims to be a Christian who also claims to keep the Sabbath. But is he or she actually keeping the Sabbath as God ordained it? Exactly what would be involved in keeping the Sabbath?

Most folks know that keeping the Sabbath meant doing no work (Exodus 20:8-10; 31:15; 35:2). An Israelite found picking

up sticks on the Sabbath was put to death (Numbers 15:32-36). However, some may not realize that to keep the Sabbath, an Israelite could not cook in his house (Exodus 16:23), or kindle a fire, (Exodus 35:3), or carry a load (Jeremiah 17:22-23). These regulations would prohibit you from bringing groceries home from a supermarket, carrying them into the house, lighting a gas range and cooking supper! However, *some* cooking was *required* in the nation of Israel on *every Sabbath*. In Numbers 28:9-10, the Lord commanded an offering "on the Sabbath day (of) two lambs in their first year, without blemish, and two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil with its drink offering;" (10) "*this is* the burnt offering **for every Sabbath...**" I know of no religious group or nation today that keeps all of these regulations. Do you? It is obvious that even those who *claim* to observe the Sabbath today do not do so in the way God commanded the Israelites to observe it. And, if they are not observing the Sabbath in the way God commanded, are they in fact observing it at all!?!?

GOD CHANGED THE SABBATH LAW

In contrast with what many believe, God did not change the Sabbath Day to Sunday. Rather, He completely abolished the entire system of Law that required keeping the Sabbath! He brought the Old Covenant (the Law of Moses, *including the Ten Commandments*) to an end. We now

live under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 8:6-13). Colossians 2:14 states that Christ "wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." Since "the handwriting of requirements" (the Old Covenant) was nailed to the cross, Sabbath keeping was also nailed to the cross. In Colossians 2:16, the Scriptures go on to say. "So **let no one judge you in** food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or **sabbaths.**" What this passage is teaching is that no one has a right to judge or condemn people under the New Testament for not keeping the Sabbath, because the requirement of Sabbath keeping was nailed to the cross.

As Christians we keep the New Covenant of Jesus Christ.

This is includes some of the same commands as the Old Covenant (see Romans 13:9, Col. 3:5), but it does not include Sab-bath keeping. We worship on Sunday, the first day of the week, because the New Testament teaches us to do so (see Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

---**Steve Klein**, Evangelist
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[Editor's Note:

The above article by Steve Klein was taken from "The Exhorter" of Nov. 5, 2000, of which Steve Klein was the editor at that time.]

GOSPEL MEETINGS

AT EAST ALBERTVILLE - Sept. 9-11,
 2011 with **Kevin Clark** and Sept. 12-13,
 2011 with **Larry Rouse** - 7 pm daily-
 Regular times on Lord's Day
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 in each Lord's Day at 10:30 am and 6 pm.

SENTENCE SERMONS

You can tell how weak a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

* * * * *

He who angers you (beyond righteousness) controls you.

* * * * *

Many people would be willing to serve God in an advisory capacity, but they are not needed!

* * * * *

Great men are simple, considerate of others, humble, kind, fair, wise, forgiving and happy!

* * * * *

A smile is a light in the window of your face showing that your heart is at home. Smile!

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