

SABBATH OR SUNDAY?

Exodus 20:8-11 & Mark 2:23-28

May 24, 2009 Sunday pm

INTRODUCTION (READ EXODUS 20:8-11).

⁸ "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.

A. Do you remember the old "Blue Laws".

1. It involved the closing of most nonessential stores on Sunday.
2. In America, they date back to colonial times.
3. Their purpose was to make Sunday special.
4. Although liquor stores are still closed on Sundays, most others are open today.
5. The pendulum has swung the other direction and for most people Sunday is just another Saturday.

B. Although the blue laws are gone, are Christians supposed to observe the Sabbath today?

1. Some Christians call Sunday the "Christian Sabbath Day", but this idea isn't found anywhere in scripture.
2. Keeping the Sabbath is strictly a Jewish observance.
3. So what relationship, if any, do Christians have with the Sabbath? The answer is found in an experience Jesus and his disciples had that is recorded in Mark 2:23-28 (**READ 2:23-24**)

²³ **One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, 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?"**

4. Let's notice a couple of things in this passage.

I. FIRST, REMEMBER THAT THE SABBATH IS NOT THE LORD'S DAY.

- A. The Sabbath, as we have already noted, was strictly a Jewish observance.
- B. Christians worship on Sunday, not on Saturday.

Acts 20:7

⁷ **On the first day of the week we came together to break bread**

1 Cor 16:2

² **On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made**

Revelation 1:10

¹⁰ **On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit,**

II. SECOND, HOW SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S DAY?

A. First, realize that Sunday is made for mankind, not the other way around.

1. Jesus illustrated this truth by meeting the physical needs of his disciples-2:23-24

2. Jesus defended his action by reminding the Pharisees that King David had done the same thing—**2:25-27**. (1 Samuel 21:1-6).

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.**

3. What this means is that mankind's needs supersede the observance of any Sabbath law.

4. This doesn't mean, though, that Sunday is just like any other. It commemorates our Lord's resurrection and is a day for worship.

B. Second, realize that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath and every other day.

Mark 2:28

²⁸ **So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."**

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ **And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

CONCLUSION

A. We aren't bound by blue laws today.

B. However, Sunday should always be special as the day our Lord rose from the dead. Therefore, its appropriate that we worship on this day and every other.