

Who Changed the Sabbath From Sabbath to Sunday

By: E. E. Franke

This leaflet is aimed in particular at the sincere Christian who honestly believes that Sunday is the day of rest and worship, Ordained for our dispensation. If you, the Reader, are such a person, we hope that you will have the interest and courage to carefully examine the facts presented herein; and it is our earnest prayer that the Heavenly Father will guide you to the right conclusion.

I would also like to mention that the facts concerning who really changed the weekly day of worship are not difficult to search out for one's self. You can easily find material concerning this subject in most public libraries - in encyclopedias, histories covering relevant subjects, etc. - and, you can also refer to Roman Catholic authorities and publications for enlightenment in this matter. Usually the Roman Catholic Church will quite freely admit that it and it alone - is responsible for the change of the Sabbath.

- Gordon M. Fauth

Are we justified in keeping this day in preference to God's ancient and time-honored memorial of creation - the Seventh Day (Saturday)?

There is only one source to which the consistent Protestants can go for a reply, and that is God's Word.

The prevailing idea is that Christ or his Apostles changed the day. But we find the Bible silent on this point. We find that Christ himself kept the seventh day Sabbath (Luke 4:16, 31)

Luke 4:16 - And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Luke 4:31 - ¶ And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.

The early Christians kept it after the Crucifixion.

Luke 23:56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

Paul preached to the Jews and Gentiles on the Sabbath day. (Acts 17:2; Acts 18:4; Acts 13:44)

Acts 17:2 - And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Acts 18:4 - And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

Acts 13:44 - And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

We search in vain for one passage in the Scriptures of Truth which sanctions Sunday or the first day of the week observance.

The greatest obstacle in the way of the Sunday institution is the law of the Ten Commandments. Sunday cannot be supported by that law, the fourth precept of which says: "The Seventh day is the Sabbath;" and to abolish the law would be to abolish the very foundation of the government of God. The leading Protestant denominations agree that the Ten Commandments are still in force.

The **Methodist Discipline** Article 6 says:

"No Christian whatever is free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called moral."

The **Baptist Church Manual** Article 12 says:

"We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government."

The **Presbyterian Confession of Faith** Article 5 says:

"The moral law doth forever bind all, justified persons as well as others, to the obedience thereof. Neither doth Christ in the gospel in any way dissolve, but much strengthens, this obligation."

Dwight's Theology a Presbyterian work, Vol. IV page 120, says:

"The Law of God is and must of necessity be unchangeable and eternal." Thus we find three of the great Protestant denominations agreeing that God's law of the Ten Commandments is "unchangeable," and yet by their practice of keeping Sunday, they virtually assert that it has been changed; for surely a change of the Sabbath would involve a change of the fourth commandment of that law.

Hear these words from the late **Bishop Mallalieu**, of the Methodist Church, when addressing a class of young men about to enter the ministry:

"Perfection involves the idea of good works and obedience to the Ten Commandments - emphatically the Ten Commandments. You will never get a perfection that will admit you to the preach anything that is not found in these."

And yet we know Sunday is not found in the Ten Commandments. Remembering this, let the reader draw his own conclusion from the Bishop's words.

Having found that the Bible sustains no change the Sabbath, we turn in vain to history and the leading authorities of these great denominations for Sunday sacredness.

Buck's Theological Dictionary a Methodist work says:

"Sabbath in the Hebrew language signifies rest, and is the seventh day of the week - and it must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first day."

The Watchman a Baptist paper, said in reply to correspondent:

"The scripture nowhere calls the first day of the week the Sabbath - There is no Scripture authority for so doing, nor, of course, any Scriptural obligation."

Dwight's Theology Vol. IV, page 401, says:

"The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not in the Scripture, and was not by the primitive church called the Sabbath"

Elder George Hodges, who preached in one of the largest Episcopal churches in Pittsburgh, PA., writing for the **Pittsburgh Dispatch**, said:

"The seventh day, the Commandment says, is the **Sabbath of the Lord thy God**. No kind of arithmetic, no kind of almanac can make seven equal to one or the seventh mean the first, nor Saturday mean Sunday - the fact is that we are all Sabbath-breakers, every one of us."

We will add the following from the best authorities in leading denominations:

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

"And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh: but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day -- The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason why we observe many other things - not because of the Bible, but that the church has enjoined it."

- Rev. Isaac Williams, D.D.
Plain Sermons on the Catechism
Vol. 1, page 334

PRESBYTERIAN

"The observance of the command in the New Testament to change the day of the weekly rest from Saturday to Sunday? - None!"

- Manual of Christian Doctrine
page 127

"The observance of the seventh day Sabbath did not cease till it was abolished after the empire became Christian."

- American Presbyterian Board of Publication
Track #118

METHODIST

"It is true, there is no positive command for infant baptism - nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week."

- M. E. Theological Commend
page 103

In an essay on the transference of the Sabbath, read in the presence of several

hundred Baptist ministers and prominent church workers in New York City, the eminent Rev. Edward T. Hiscox, D.D. (author of the Baptist Church Manual) said:

"There was and is a commandment to **keep holy the Sabbath day** - but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will however, be readily said, that with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask: Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament - absolutely not! There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week. I wish to say that this Sabbath question, in this aspect of it, is in my judgment the gravest and most perplexing question connected with Christian institutions which at present claims attention from Christian people."

- Examiner

The writer was present and heard this remarkable statement. It was evident to all that Dr.Hiscox had spoken the truth, and among the many ministers present, like the chickens mentioned in Isaiah 10:14.

Isaiah 10:14 ... and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped.

It is evident that Sunday cannot in any manner be identified with God's holy and sanctified rest day of the fourth commandment, and therefore is only man-made institution. Now to history ...

Neander, who is admitted by all to be the greatest and most reliable church historian, says:

"The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intention of the apostles to establish a divine command in this respect; far from them and from the early apostolic church to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday."

- Rose's Neander
Page 186

But the question is asked: Who changed the Sabbath? In Daniel 7:25, we read of a power, which all Protestant commentators agree is the Papacy, or Roman Catholic Power. We read in the verse name: "He shall think to change times and laws," meaning of course, the times and laws of God: and it was this power which tampered with God's holy Sabbath, the only "times" in His law; and they flaunt it in the face of Protestants as a token or mark of their authority in other matters of tradition.

The Revised Version (of the Bible) reads:

"The times and the law," as does the Septuagint, Spurrel translates: "And shall

presume to change the appointed times and the laws."

Dr. Albert Barnes says:

"Should claim authority to prescribe religious institutions, and to change the law of God."

Let the Catholic church answer this for itself:

In the little Catholic work entitled, **Abridgement of Christian Doctrine**, we read:

Question: By whom was it (the Sabbath) changed?

Answer: "By the governors of the church."

Question: How could you prove that the church had power to command feasts and holy days?

Answer: "By the very fact of changing the Sabbath into Sunday which Protestants allow of, and therefore they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church."

Question: How could you prove this?

Answer: "Because by keeping Sunday they acknowledge the church's power to ordained feasts, and to command them under sin. - page 57"

In another Roman Catholic book, **Keenan's Doctrinal Catechism**, imprimatur Cardinal McCluskey, we read:

Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals or precepts?

Answer: "Had she not such power she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her - she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority. - page 174."

The following are two letters from the late Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, the highest authority of the Catholic Church in America. The first of these letters is signed by the Cardinal's Chancellor, and the second by his Secretary:

*Cardinal's Residence
Baltimore, MD*

John R. Ashlew, Esq.

Dear Sir:

*In answer to your first question, directed by the Cardinal to
reply to your letter, I will say:*

1. Who changed the Sabbath?

Answer: The holy Catholic Church.

2. Are Protestants following the Bible or the Catholic church in keeping Sunday?

Answer: The Protestants are following the custom introduced by the holy Catholic church.

3. The Protestants do contradict themselves by keeping Sunday, and at the same time profess to be guided by the Bible only.

I am most faithfully yours,

*C.F. Thomas
Chancellor*

The following letter, from Cardinal Gibbons to the writer, bears on the same point:

*Cardinal's Residence
408 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD*

Dear Mr. Franke:

At the request of his eminence, the Cardinal, I write to assure you that you are correct in your assertion that Protestants, in observing the Sunday, are following, not the Bible which they take as their only rule of action, but tradition of the church. I defy them to point out to me the word "Sunday" in the Bible; if it is not to be found there - and it cannot be - then it is not the Bible which they follow in this particular instance, but tradition, and in this they flatly contradict themselves.

The Catholic church changed the day of rest from the last to the first day of the week, because the most memorable of Christ's works were accomplished on Sunday. It is needless

for me to enter any elaborate proof of the matter. They cannot prove their point from scripture. Therefore, if sincere, they must acknowledge that they draw their observance of Sunday from tradition and are therefore weekly contradicting themselves.

*Yours very sincerely,
W. A. Reardon*

Some time since, the writer saw a printed sermon by Father Enright, a Catholic priest who had charge of Redemptorist College in Kansas City, MO., offering \$1,000 for the Bible proof for Sunday keeping. The writer took the liberty to address him, and received the following letter over his signature.

*Box 75
Kansas City, MO
January 11, 1892*

Dear Friend:

Your letter reached me only a few days ago. The paper you speak of I've not seen. My words were: "I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy." There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible: "Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day." The Catholic Church says: "No! By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day, and command you to keep holy the first day of the week." And, lo! The entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church.

Excuse delay in answering.

*Yours respectfully,
J. Enright, CSS.R.*

The writer communicated with Archbishop Ryan, stating Father Enright's position,

and received the following reply:

*Chancellor's Office
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
225 N. 18th Street
Philadelphia, PA*

Mr. E. E. Franke

*Dear Sir,
Of course, Father Enright is correct. There is not a word in the
New Testament about Christ's changing the Sabbath, the
seventh day.*

*Consult any Catholic work that has a chapter on tradition,
and you should find what you need.*

*The church alone is authority for the transfer from Saturday
to Sunday.*

*Truly yours,
F. Hoostman
Chancellor*

In a Catholic work called **Letters of Sennex**, published by John Murphy & Co., Baltimore, 1890, we find the following:

"Thus the Biblical Christian who conscientiously clings to the Bible as his rule of faith, cannot close his eyes to the awful truth and fact that there exists a positive command of God - one of the ten - that he has never once kept during his whole life, because he has lived his whole life keeping another day in direct violation of his own rule of faith; whilst in this matter which should be, to him, one of prime importance, he is blindly and slavishly and, what is far worse, sacrificing his own fixed religious principles to follow the command of the Catholic Church which requires the keeping of Sunday, rather than Saturday."

-Letters of Senex
page 10

The foregoing testimony is from the highest authority of the Catholic Church in

America. Some, however, are not willing to receive Catholic admissions; for such we will give two good Protestant testimonies.

Dr. N. Sumnerbell, in his history of the church from the time of Christ to A.D. 1871, says:

"In 321 Constantine made a law that Sunday should be kept in all cities and towns." (This new law was enforced throughout the Roman Empire. the complete text of this decrees can be found in almost any good encyclopedia, at your public library.)

Rev. John Snyder, in an article in the **St.Louis Globe Democrat**, of April 3, 1887, said:

"Every instructed man knows that there is no New Testament authority for the change of the day of rest from the seventh to the first day of the week. Every instructed man knows that the Catholic Church gave to the Christian world the Sunday and determined the manner in which it should be used. And when Protestantism threw off the authority of the Catholic Church, it abandoned the only ecclesiastical foundation upon which Sunday can logically rest."

The above testimony comes from a man who was himself a Sunday keeper.

Rev. E. T. Hiscox, D.D., author of the **Baptist Church Manual**, said:

"What a pity that it (Sunday) comes branded with the mark of paganism and christened with the name of the sun god. Adopted and sanctified by the Papal apostasy, it was bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism and the Christian world."

Now we appeal to every honest Protestant to choose whom he will serve Paul says, in Romans 6:16:

Romans 6:16 - Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey?

ARE YOU OBEYING GOD AND KEEPING HIS DAY? OR ARE YOU OBEYING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND KEEPING SUNDAY?

We cannot serve two masters.

Christ says:

Mark 7:7 - Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Christ also says:

Matthew 5:17 - ¶ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matthew 5:18 - For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The Apostle Paul said:

Do we then make void the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

For He that said: Do not commit adultery, said also: Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. - James 2:10-11.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

James 2:11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

The Revalator said:

And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His Commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His Commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. - 1 John 2:3-4

1 John 2:3 ¶ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Luke 11:28 - But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

- By E. E. Franke