

Some have questions about worship and why we do the things we do. One of the questions that is sometimes asked is why do we worship on Sunday and not on the Sabbath. An extension to this question is, "*Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath.*"

In answering this question, let us consider the extension first. Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath? The answer is no. They are two separate days. The Sabbath is the seventh day and Sunday is the first day of the week. We see this distinction in the resurrection of Jesus. The women went to the tomb after the Sabbath was over since they were limited on how far they could travel on the Sabbath. ***Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*** Do you see the distinction here between the two days?

We can go to the Old Testament and see God's definition of the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week. ***Exodus 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God:*** There is a difference between the seventh day of the week, Saturday and the first day of the week, Sunday.

Now to the question of why we worship on Sunday, the first day of the week. In answering this question we need to begin with the origin of the Sabbath. The Sabbath, along with all of the Ten Commandments was only given to the nation of Israel as their rules of conduct. It was not given to the other nations of their day and was never intended as a universal set of commandments. ***Exodus 20:1-2 And God spake all these words, saying, (2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*** Verses 3ff list the Ten Commandments. Notice that the words spoken were to the ones delivered out of Egyptian bondage. Who could this possibly be? Well we know that it was the Israelites who had been delivered by the leadership of Moses. To make this a bit clearer, look at the Deuteronomy 5. ***Deuteronomy 5:1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in***

your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

This set of laws was to be temporary. The prophet Jeremiah tells us that one day they would be replaced. ***Jeremiah 31:31-33 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: (32) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: (33) But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*** This prophecy was fulfilled in the first century with the death of Jesus the Christ. Let us look at the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. The Hebrew writer is telling us that it's time for the old covenant to be replaced with a new covenant. Jump back up to verse 7 and we learn why. ***Hebrews 8:7-8 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. (8) For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; (9) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.*** The end of v8 and v9 is a quote from Jeremiah 31.

What is the fault of the first covenant? Answer: the sacrificial system of the old law could not forgive sins. Hebrews 10:4 tells us. ***Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*** Forgiveness

comes only by the sacrificial blood of Jesus. *Hebrews 10:9-12 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. (10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;* Back up to chapter 9. Verses 11 and 12 make this point very clear. *Hebrews 9:11-12 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (12) Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

WHEN DID THIS TRANSITION TAKE PLACE? Hebrews 9 gives us some insight that will help us. Most people have a will. Sometimes it is call a last will and testament. We understand that this is a document and become a legal document only when you die. Before death, you can modify this will as often as you wish, but when you die, it is frozen. For your will to be binding, you have to die. This concept is mentioned in Hebrews 9. *Hebrews 9:15-17 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. (16) For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. (17) For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.* This replacement of the old law with the new took place at the death of Jesus. This conclusion is supported by the apostle Paul in writing to the church in Colossea. *Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;* The handwriting ordinances has reference to the Ten Commandments. *Exodus 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of*

testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

So the conclusion is that the Ten Commandments, including the Sabbath ended when Jesus died on the cross. Now it's significant to note that nine of the Ten Commandments were repeated in principle in the Law of Christ. Five are found in ***Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*** The one commandment not found in the Law of Christ is the commandment to remember the Sabbath. Under the law of Christ, the early Christians had for their day of worship the first day of the week. We see them coming together on the first day of the week to "break bread" i.e. partaking of the Lord's Supper. ***Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*** This passage also gives us an example of preaching on the first day of the week. In addition, the church at Corinth gathered a collection on the first day of the week. ***1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.***

There is no hint of any kind that the New Testament church or Christians ever celebrated the Sabbath in any fashion. What they did was-***continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)***

We've been talking about Christian worship. Are you a Christian?

Invitation