

ties. They did it for reasons of church and national politics. The story—one unknown by far too many!—is a sad one of the triumph of tradition, politics, and convenience over the Bible and Jesus! Just as we've already learned, Satan and the antichrist are making war against God and His law. Daniel prophesied that the antichrist—the fallen Roman church—would seek to change God's law (Daniel 7:25). This is exactly what has happened. 2 Thes. 2:3 says that the antichrist would be a “lawless” power, seeking to usurp the very worship and position of God Himself. The testimony of history is unmistakably clear: this prophecy has happened exactly as foretold! The Sabbath has been lost sight of. But not by everyone! God will have a people on earth who will stand on the Bible, and not on the traditions of man!

No Small Issue

In Isaiah 58:13,14, the Bible makes it clear that God holds the Sabbath dear to His heart. God says, “Turn away your foot from the Sabbath.” Now some have said that this whole Sabbath thing is just a small and insignificant issue, that it's not such a big deal. But remember what happened in the Garden of Eden. It was not really a “big deal” either; it was just a piece of fruit, right? Wrong! The real issue had to do with trust. Eve trusted the sly, subtle enemy who basically said, “Every tree's the same! It doesn't matter which tree.” Today he says, “Every day's the same! It doesn't matter which day.” He's clever, yes, but he's also the father of lies and all deceptive subtlety (John 8:44). Who should we listen to?

A Special Sign

In Ezekiel 20:12, 20, we find that the Sabbath is a sign that God sanctifies us. This is powerful stuff! It's a reminder that we are His people. He makes us holy. Our own works cannot save us! We must trust in God's work for us. The Sabbath is a sign of trusting in the work of Jesus, and resting from our own works for salvation! It is the greatest sign in the Bible of trusting to the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone! Just as God alone is Creator, God alone is Savior!

Obedience: Love Put to the Test

One final thought. Remember, believers don't keep the law in order to be saved, but because we are saved. Whether or not we are obedient to God simply reveals what is in our hearts. If we love Jesus, obeying Him is not a problem to be avoided, but a privilege to be enjoyed! “Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy...” Exodus 20:8

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” - John 14:15

Presentation guide 5:

How Can We Find Inner Peace?

The Real Issue

In our last lesson we were reminded that the devil has bad history with God. The real issue behind the controversy between good and evil is, as we've been learning, the character of God. This is one of the reasons Satan hates and attacks the law of God. As we've seen, the law of God is simply a transcript of His holy, loving character! So any attack against the law of God is really an attack against His character and His government. As we get closer and closer to the very end of time, Satan will intensify his deceptions in order to confuse our understanding of the character of God. He accomplishes this in part by attacking the law, which is a reflection of His character. In the law we also find the key to experience inner peace, something the enemy is trying to keep far from us.

Creative Credentials

Throughout the Bible, God reminds us of His supreme power over the created world. He even challenges the other so-called “gods” by reminding them of the fact that He is the Creator of “the heavens and earth”. See, for example, Psalm 95:6; 96:5. God alone is the Creator—it is He that made the universe!

A Memorial of Creation

Let us now notice something very significant about the creation week (described in Genesis 1). Notice Genesis 2:1-3:

“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

That word sanctify deserves our serious attention. It means to set apart for a holy purpose. God did something very special and unexpected in His closing of the creation week. After creating humankind on the sixth day, the Bible says that there was a transition in God's work. When it came to the seventh day, God rested on it! (What a strange thing for an all-powerful God to do!) He then "blessed" it, and "sanctified" it. God did something to the seventh day that He did not do to any other day of creation week. He took the seventh day and set it apart from the other days. He placed a special, spiritual significance on the seventh day and fashioned it into a memorial of His creative power as the One True God.

Lest We Forget

In the giving of the Ten Commandments from atop Sinai's cloud-enshrouded summit, God reminded His people of the importance of this memorial of His power and Godhood—the seventh day. The seventh day is called the Sabbath. The fourth commandment begins: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy..." Exodus 20:8. Now here's another one of those simple questions with a sublime answer: Why does the commandment begin with the word "Remember"? And here's the answer: God understood that His people would be in danger of forgetting! He says, "Remember" so we won't forget—simple! This fourth commandment is at the heart of the Ten Commandments. Think of it this way: if the Ten Commandments are of any importance (which they certainly are!), then the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy is also very important. Now, some people are inclined to think that the observance of the Sabbath day is only for the Jews. But the biblical truth is that the seventh-day Sabbath day was instituted centuries before a Jew even existed! Remember, the seventh-day Sabbath was made way back at the beginning during the creation week—the very first week! And Adam was not a Jew! Abraham, who came more than a thousand years later, was the first Jew. When God made, blessed, and sanctified the seventh day there were only two people around: Adam and Even—the first-ever man and the first-ever woman.

The Sabbath in Jesus' Ministry

It is unmistakably clear that Jesus Christ came to this world to reveal the character of God. Jesus was the model man. In His life Jesus left us an example to follow and emulate. This can only be done by the in-filling of God's Holy Spirit! And here's another simple question: "How did Jesus relate to the seventh-day Sabbath?" In Luke 4:16, it says that Jesus' custom was to observe the Sabbath. In other words, it was not something He did every now and then—it was a part of His lifestyle as

commandment-keeper. A close look at the death and burial of Jesus will give an interesting insight into the Sabbath during Jesus' time. We know that He died on the sixth day—the day before the Sabbath. It was also called "*the preparation day*" (Matthew 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:31). After the death of Christ, some of His followers from Galilee took notice of the tomb where Jesus was laid and went to prepare spices and fragrant oils for His body. But Luke tells us that before they returned to the tomb of Christ: "*they rested on the Sabbath, according to the commandment.*" Luke 23:56. So the witnesses at the death of Jesus were still keeping the seventh day Sabbath according to the fourth commandment. Luke wrote his gospel about 30 years after the death of Jesus and felt it an important enough detail to include even after the passing of so many years! Why? Simple: because the Sabbath is important, and Luke wanted his readers to know that the Sabbath was observed even in the chaos surrounding the death and burial of Jesus!

What About the Apostles?

It is unanimously accepted that the greatest apostle and missionary of the early church was the apostle Paul. Most of the New Testament was written by him. How did the apostle Paul relate to the Sabbath? The book of Acts reveals that throughout his ministry, Paul followed Jesus' example in keeping the Sabbath. See Acts 13:14,15, 42-44; 17:2; 18:4.

What About the "Lord's Day"?

In Revelation 1:10, the Bible speaks about "*the Lord's day.*" Some people incorrectly believe that this is referring to Sunday, the first day of the week. But this assumption is completely unwarranted and entirely unbiblical. Notice these verses: "*For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath*" (Matthew 12:8). "*Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath*" (Mark 2:28). "*And He said to them, 'The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath'*" (Luke 6:5). The Bible is abundantly clear: The "Lord's day" is the Sabbath day. And according to the Ten Commandments (and all of the Bible!), the Sabbath day is the seventh day, not the first day. Again, simple!

Why The Confusion?

It's a matter of history. The Sabbath has been replaced by the observance of the first day of the week - Sunday. This transfer from the seventh day to the first day is unbiblical and unauthorized. It is not to be found anywhere in the teachings of Jesus or the apostles. If it was not from Jesus or the apostles, where, then, did it come from? The short answer is that the church changed many years after Jesus and the apos-