

## A STUDY ON THE SABBATH

Colossians 2:16-17 [Amplified Translation]

(16) Therefore let no one sit in judgment on you in matters of FOOD AND DRINK, or with regard to a feast day or a New Moon or a SABBATH. (17) Such [things] are only the shadow of things that are to come, and they have only a symbolic value. But the reality (the substance, the solid fact of what is foreshadowed, the body of it) belongs to Christ.

The first word in this passage is “therefore”. This is because what was said prior to verse 16 is the outcome or the result of what is being said **in** verse 16. So, let’s look at some of what was said for the purpose of our study.

Colossians 2:8-9

(8) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (9) For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

I look to the Lord Jesus Christ for all of my understanding of the Word of God. Old and New Testament alike is subject to the authority of Christ [the Anointing] (see the following scripture).

Colossians 1:17-19

(17) And he (Jesus) is before all things, and by him all things consist. (18) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. (19) For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell...

In Christ is (1) all fullness of the Godhead, (2) He is before all things, (3) by Him all things consist, (3) He is the head of the church, (4) in all things He has preeminence (first place, priority, or preference), (5) and it has pleased the Father that in Jesus should all fullness dwell. Then Jesus declared Himself the “Lord of the Sabbath”

Mark 2:27-28

(27) And he (Jesus) said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: (28) Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

Jesus emphasizes the intent of the Sabbath. And that is to benefit or profit man and not the reversal. Man does not serve the Sabbath, Sabbath serves [benefits or profits] man.

Now, let's get back to Colossians 2 for further review of what was said before the word "therefore".

**Colossians 2:10-11 [Amplified Translation]**

**And you who are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead-Father, Son and Holy Spirit-and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power]. (11) In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts).**

Notice, I am in Christ. Because of this I am also filled (just as Christ) with the fullness of the Godhead and I reach my full spiritual stature in **Him** [not in living by the Ten Commandments].

Some believe that the New Covenant did away with the things of the Old Covenant (except the Ten Commandments). They have used scriptures such as Mk 10:19, Mk 12:29, and John 14:15 to validate this idea.

First, understand that the Ten Commandments were a part of the Old Covenant. Or in other words, you cannot separate the Ten Commandments from the Old Testament [Covenant]. See the following scriptures regarding the New and the Old Covenants.

**Hebrews 8:6-13**

**(6) But now hath he [Jesus] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a **BETTER COVENANT**, which was established upon better promises. (7) 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. (10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a**

people: (11) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. (12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. (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.

Do you remember when Jesus said that He had come not to do away with the law, but rather fulfill it (Matthew 5:17)? He was speaking about the old covenant being fulfilled by the new covenant (meaning Himself). Do you remember when Jesus said that my Kingdom is not of this world or that it could not be observed with the natural eye, but that it is within the heart of man (Luke 17:20-21)? He was making reference to the new covenant as written in above in Heb. 8:10. Now, let's keep looking at the difference between these two covenants.

#### Hebrews 9:1-5

(1) THEN VERILY THE FIRST COVENANT had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. (2) For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. (3) And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; (4) Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, AND THE TABLES OF THE COVENANT; (5) And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

Notice, in the full description of the first (old) covenant (testament) is included the "tables of the covenant" which are the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were in the ark (box-coffin like) of the covenant. So, there is no separation between the Ten Commandments and the old covenant. Therefore, if the old covenant has been fulfilled as Jesus has clearly stated, then that means that the Ten Commandments have also been clearly fulfilled by Jesus Himself. He fulfilled them for us. Man could not do this. Man's attempt to do so caused the old covenant to be full of fault, thus making the new covenant necessary (Heb. 8:7-8).

The law (including the Ten Commandments) were never designed for us to live by. They were given to us to show us our sinful state. In other words, to expose us of our need for God, showing how far we were from Him (missing the mark).

**Romans 3:19- (Amplified Translation)**

Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that [the murmurs and excuses of] every mouth may be hushed and all the world may be held accountable to God. (20) For no person will be justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable) in His sight by observing the works prescribed by the Law. **FOR [THE REAL FUNCTION OF] THE LAW IS TO MAKE MEN RECOGNIZE AND BE CONSCIOUS OF SIN** [not mere perception, but an acquaintance with sin which works toward repentance, faith, and holy character]. (21) **BUT NOW THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD HAS BEEN REVEALED INDEPENDENTLY AND ALTOGETHER APART FROM THE LAW**, although actually it is attested (confirmed) by the Law and the Prophets, (22) Namely, the righteousness of God which comes by believing with personal trust and confident reliance on Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [And it is meant] for all who believe. For there is no distinction, (23) Since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives.

Now, In Mark 10:19, what you will find is a reference to the Ten Commandments. But this reference does not represent Jesus validating a continuance of living by the Ten Commandments. As a matter of fact this scripture does not include all ten. The other four included some of which the rich young ruler was guilty of violating. Study it out.

In Mark 12:29, Jesus simply answers the question coming from one of the religious authorities. His question was; which is the greatest (most important) commandment? Again, this reference does not represent Jesus validating a continuance of living by the Ten Commandments. He answers, “Love the Lord Your God with all of you heart, soul, mind, and strength”. Then he said, “The next is to love your neighbor as yourself”. What is interesting is that Jesus also states in Matt. 22:40 that all of the commandments (law and the prophets) hangs on these two. This “new” commandment is made reference to again in John 13:34 and 2 John 5.

In John 14:15, Jesus says, “If you love me keep my commandments”. Well, the above mentioned scripture tells what the command of Jesus was – to love God first and then man. Jesus says, “If you love me, keep **MY** commandments”. This is true as it concerns 1 John 3:22-24 as well.

With all this being said, it is important for us to place importance on what Jesus placed importance on. Scripture reveals that Jesus often **violated** the laws concerning the Sabbath according to the understanding of man. He (Jesus) elevated man’s understanding of the Sabbath in that He was not bound by the

legalism of it nor was He hindered from doing the **work** of His Father on the Sabbath [**Matthew 12:1-12, Mark 3:1-4, Luke 6:1-11, Luke 13:10-17, and Luke 14:1-6**]. Those who were versed in the Law of Moses (much more than we are) would have prosecuted Jesus in violation of the Law if they could have. They did not understand that the law was made for the liberation of mankind and not the binding of man.

So, how important is keeping the Sabbath day on the seventh day of the week? I have to answer that question first with another question. What is the first day of the week? Really! Who says that our westernized, American calendar is right? I don't have a problem with the Sabbath nor do I have a problem recognizing the Sabbath on the seventh day. But, how do we know which day is the seventh day, according to God? Everyday is Sabbath for me. I choose to make everyday (including [MY](#) designated day of worship) a day in which I honor God. I really do not believe that God has a problem with me joining with millions of brothers and sister all over the world and worshipping Him on Sunday. As for those who choose another day – at least it is a day.

----Norman Thomas, Jr.