

The Sabbath Day ?

As men were inspired by the Holy Ghost to write the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17) it is logical to believe that what is written in the Bible, which says to do and not do, believe and not believe, should be strictly adhered to; otherwise any secular book could take its place.

We as Priesthood holders should take the Ten Commandments seriously, as they are our guidelines to living a correct and exemplary lifestyle.

One commandment which we do not take as seriously as we should is the Fourth Commandment. Yes, it is not too hard for us to not lie, steal, murder and covet, but what about that fourth commandment. Lets quote it and then review it, and see if we are taking it seriously enough.

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work; thou nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made Heaven and Earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day and hallowed it.” (Exodus 20:8-11) Notice he leaves out the wife. I will comment on this later.

Now let us count: One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven. Note the days of the week 1st Sunday; 2nd Monday; 3rd Tuesday; etc. The seventh day is Saturday. That is the day of rest. Period! The Bible quotes the same in (Leviticus 23:3) and New Testament (Mark 2:23-28). “From even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.”

Keeping the Sabbath in this manner came with a promised blessing. “If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, for doing thy pleasure on my holy day, and (instead) call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord, honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words; then shall thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob, thy father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” (Isaiah 58:13-14)

It was the one commandment that Jesus admonished his followers to pray that they might not break. Remember his words, “But pray ye that your flight be not in the Winter, neither on the Sabbath day.” (Matthew 24:20) The Sabbath was to be in existence throughout eternity. Speaking of the end of times: “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 66:22-23)

For what reason? Let us see what he says, “Moreover also I gave My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.” (Ezekiel 20:12)

Was It Changed?

But did not the Savior change the Sabbath to the first day?

Let us see if we can find enough evidence to either make it not so important in our life, or whether the Bible gives us a clear indication that it was actually changed from the seventh day

to the Sunday first day, as most so-called Christians practice it today.

We could use the excuse that the Sabbath was a Jewish belief, and the Gentiles were not obliged to honor it. But when one thinks of this, it does not make sense. The Sabbath was instigated long before the present Jewish nation or the Gentiles even existed.

It is quite clear that the Sabbath was given to all the tribes, not just the tribe of Judah. When Moses, who was a Levite, received the ten commandments it was to the whole twelve tribes. The Lord was extremely angry at them when the first thing they did when given the manna to sustain them in the wilderness they went out and gathered it on the Sabbath. He didn't distinguish between the tribes. Each tribe was equally responsible to God for their conduct in obeying His holy law, the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 16:28)

God had finished His creation and said, "And behold it was very good." (Genesis 1:31) "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them, and on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made, and He rested on the seventh day from all his work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it, because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." (Genesis 2:1-3)

What did Paul say long after the resurrection of the Savior? "For he spoke in a certain place of the seventh day in this wise, and God did rest the seventh day from all His works... For he that has entered into His rest, He also hath ceased from His own works, as God did from His. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." (Hebrews 4:4,10-11)

Apparently, there were some, on account of disbelief in the Sabbath, that entered not into their rest and suffered spiritually by not doing so. Jesus said that, "the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27) He honored it by worshipping in the Synagogue on the Sabbath. It was "His custom" (Luke 4:16) The Sabbath existed from the beginning and there is no evidence that the Savior changed it.

Other Arguments

Another excuse by some to not keep the seventh day Sabbath is that the Savior did away with the law upon the Cross, and that we are no longer under the law, but are under grace. But how can one do away with the law? If the law is done away with then consequently there is not sin, and if there is no sin there is no need of a Savior. The people who teach this are mistaken. Christ's great commission was to save the people from their sins, not in their sins. The breaking of the Sabbath in the old days was a very serious sin. "Sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4) "For the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23) Keeping the Sabbath day holy is the fourth commandment. What did the Savior say about the law? "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets, I am not come to destroy but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17) What did James say? "For whoso shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:8-12)

There is one other very deceptive teaching which tries in a subtle way to make it appear without any scriptural support-- that the Savior and his disciples changed the Sabbath, the seventh day to the first day of the week. The key scripture used is found in John, chapter 20, verse 19. "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be with you." This was not an arranged meeting between Jesus and

His disciples, for it was not because of the Sabbath but “the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews.” This same instance was told by Luke (Luke 24:36-37) “Jesus himself stood in the midst of them and saith unto them, Peace be to you. But they were affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.”

Nowhere in the Bible is there the slightest intimation that Jesus would change the Sabbath. What did he say? He said it was well to do good on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:10-12) “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 to read.” (Luke 4:16) “Therefore the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:28) “But pray ye that your flight be not in the Winter, neither on the Sabbath day. (Matthew 24:20) The event that this admonition was given for, did not take place until some thirty years after his ascension. (Jerusalem was besieged in AD 66 by Cestius.)

Again, let us look in the book of Acts after the Savior’s ascension, in regard to the claim that the Sabbath day had been changed. In the 20th chapter of Acts, verse 7, the impression could be conveyed that such was the case because the disciples were together on the first day of the week to “break bread”. Because, the “reasoning” goes, that there must be some “spiritual significance” to this. And what greater honor could be paid then to change the sacred attributes of the seventh day Sabbath to the first day, and then for good measure, call it the Lord’s day-- and that of course has been done. But it is not the “Sabbath” but the “Lord’s day”. The first day of the week is the Lord’s day, but it has not changed the Bible Sabbath one “jot or one tittle.” The seventh day Sabbath still remains, the “Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” (Exodus 20:10)

We know from further study of “the Acts” that the breaking of bread was a daily occurrence. “And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. “ (Acts 2:46) Why did they do this? They couldn’t hold meetings of the believers in the temple, they had to go from house to house to administer the Sacrament.

No, there is not one text in the New or Old Testaments, which would indicate that the changing of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day has the endorsement of God. No, not one!

The Sabbath day commandment is number four on the list, and is just as important as the rest. Let us go back to what James said, “For whoso shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10) In other words if a man commit adultery he is guilty of breaking all of the commandments. Would not it then apply equally to the fourth commandment also? It think so. But is it as important? There are so many scriptures in the Bible that promise great blessings if the Sabbath is faithfully kept, and so many horrible cursings if not kept that I cannot help but think that it is just as or even more important than the others. And the word everlasting is used in many of them. Remember, it is in remembrance of the covenant between Israel and God.

Now let us apply all that I have written to the Latter-day Saints or Mormons. We claim that Joseph Smith brought forth the fulness of the Gospel. Yet he accepted the first day of the week Sabbath without question. There is not a mention of the seventh day Sabbath being lived in any revelations or discourses that were given. The only reference on this subject came many years after in the Journal of Wilford Woodruff in January 1868. He wrote the following:

Again there is another subject I wish to speak off. There is one subject upon my mind & has been for years that is contrary to my Practice & the Practice of this People & the that is Concerning the Sabbath.

I never thought that the Jews or ten Tribes of Israel would Ever keep the gentile Sabbath. That is the first day of the week. When I was Baptized into this Church I was keeping the Saturday for the Sabbath. But I knew the Later day saints were the tru Church of Christ & if I had imbibed 100 tradition I would have given them up for this. I don't know as the Latter day Saints will Ever keep this day & it does not make any difference whether the do or not for the Lord will dictate them Just as he please in all those things.

But when Moses received this Commandment to keep the seventh day of the week The Lord [said] this law shall remain as a Statue Between me & the House of Israel forever throughout all your Generation. I have Never found this Commandment Changed By any revelation from God. Jesus & the Apostles kept the 7 day of the week Called the Jewish Sabbath. Yet the Apostles did meet in some Instances on the first day of the week to Break bread &c. Constantine Changed the day of worship from the seventh to the first day of the week about 600 years after Christ. [Actually 400 years after Christ]

We received a Revelation in the doctrins & Covenants in the Early age of this Church to Meet upon the Lords day to Break Bread &c. But the Lord did not reveal which day of our time was the Exact d[ay?] that the Lord Commanded Israel to keep.

At the Close of the remarks Presidet Young read the revelation and said that there had been so much Change in time that we do not know the Exact time that was the seventh day. Presidt Young made many remarks upon various subjets. (WW Journal Volume 6 p390-1)

According to his journal entry the subject had been on his mind for years. It was apparent that he felt that the Sabbath should be the seventh day for he said that "it is contrary to My practice and the practice of this people."

"I have never thought that the Jews or Ten Tribes of Israel would ever keep the Gentile Sabbath, that is the first day of the week." it is quite evident that he understood that he was living in the time of the Gentiles. He goes on and says, "it does not make any difference whether they (the Gentiles) do or not, for the Lord will dictate [to] them just as he pleases in all those things." In other words, it was the time of the Gentiles. It was their Sabbath, but when the time of the Gentiles came to an end, and the true blood of Israel, including the true Jews begin to be gathered in, they will not accept the Gentile Sabbath.

It is surprising also that he mentions that there was only one revelation received by Joseph Smith that comes any where near to mentioning anything that should change the Sabbath Day. He does not mention the Section, but I looked it up and it is Section 59. It briefly mentions portions of the ten commandments then it says, "For this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High." (verse 10) Then verse 12 says the following, "But remember that on this the "Lord's day" thou shall offer thy oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto the brethren and before the Lord."

It is plainly seen here that the Lord's day was indeed the Sabbath of the Gentiles as President Woodruff understood it. The recorded date of this revelation was August 7th, 1831, which was a Sunday.

He then quotes Moses, "this law shall remain as a Statute between Me and the House of Israel forever throughout all your generations." Then he comments, "I have never found this commandment changed by any revelation from God. Then he mentions that Jesus and his

Apostles kept the Sabbath etc.

He mentions that when he was baptized into the church he was keeping the Saturday Sabbath, but when he came into the Church he changed it accordingly.

I find it kind of strange for Brigham Young to use such a lame excuse as that we really didn't know which was the seventh day. If the Lord said the first day of the week (Sunday) was called the Lord's day, then the seventh day would naturally be Saturday. Being such an intelligent man, how could he not figure that out.

So by this revelation did the Lord really change the Sabbath day? This is already evident. No, he did not. He was careful not to call the first day, the Sabbath Day, because it was not. It was the Lord's day! The same name the Apostles called it in the Bible. The Lord knew what He was doing. He was allowing the Gentiles to use the Lord's day as their day of rest. And He promised them blessings if they kept it in a sincere manner.

And in most cases the people did do just that. In accordance with this commandment, both men and women in the Church, especially those who had families, but especially the women had the most challenging day of the week. The getting themselves, husband and children ready for Sunday School and Church. The pressing and starching of clothes and all that is involved in getting the family spruced up in their best. In the old days the horses had to be harnessed. The cows "had" to be milked, and the men had to prepare and organize for their various Church responsibilities. In many of the families it was the busiest and most stressful day of the week, especially for the women. Today it is a little easier, but not much easier for the women. Some women I have heard, mostly in a joking manner but with some truth involved, have made the comment that the Lord said that the Sabbath was made for Man and not man for the Sabbath was in fact true. The work needed to be done on the Sabbath was left for the women to do.

It seems surprising that with all Brigham Young's wisdom, as by some, he has been compared to Solomon, that he would not notice, and possibly question, why the workload was so great, especially on the women of a day that was supposed to be a day of rest. To me rest means relaxation, doing nothing, taking it easy. The Jews at the time of the Savior had it down so that one could only go so far from home on the Sabbath, just a few steps. It was called a "Sabbath's day journey."

When God said in the Book of Genesis that on the seventh day He rested, I believe he really meant it, for after all he had just completed His work of creating this beautiful world. Whether it took Him a billion years to his day it doesn't matter. He needed a rest, he wanted to relax, take it easy, after going to all the trouble in preparing an earth for his children.

He said to his children: you are going to remember this great work I have done for you by doing the same thing every seven days. If you don't do this you will soon forget the great work I have done for you and soon forget who your Father in Heaven is. And that is why it is so important that we keep the seventh day Sabbath. The day of rest.

Even though the D&C intimates that rest should be done on the "Lord's day", it is really not a day of rest according to the "Lord's word." Did He not say, "Six days shalt thou labor." He is stating clearly that the first day, along with the next five are work days. So now do you begin to understand?

The first day of the week is a work day as every woman knows. The hardest and most stressful day of the week. It is when we work the hardest, but not for men or for ourselves, but for the Lord. I imagine it was His hardest day also, to get the earth in its proper place in the universe to begin His creation procedure. Whew!

The first day of the week, it is recorded that the Savior ascended into heaven. It was really

a special day. The Lord's day was well named, for it was the day when He overcame all things, even death. It celebrated an entirely different happening, and had nothing to do with the Sabbath. Do we have two days of rest then? No, Israel has only one, the seventh day. The first day is when we work for the Lord.

The Gentile church still keeps the first day, but the Lord has indicated, "the last (Gentiles) shall be first and the first (Israel) shall be last." (1 Nephi 13:42) First the Savior came to the Jews and the Jews rejected Him, then His disciples went to the Gentiles who accepted wholeheartedly the Gospel. His Church was set up among the Gentiles, but over time the Gentiles, because of their mixed blood, soon had hundreds of different understandings of the Savior's teachings, and it became totally corrupted (the great apostasy.) But it had been prophesied that those who were the last would have the Gospel preached to them first. Therefore, the Lord sent the Prophet Joseph Smith to do this great work, but just like in Moses' time the people have rejected the higher laws.

The Gentiles at first accepted it first hand, but even before Joseph's martyrdom he could not reveal all to them because he said, that those of his own Apostles would seek his life if he revealed all that he knew. And just like the Jews who killed their Savior, the Gentiles killed their own Savior. A few understood and followed the Lord's instructions, then gradually as predicted there would be a falling away. And just like John Taylor said the day would come when you couldn't tell the difference between a Latter-day Saint and a blackleg. For as Isaiah said, "they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances and broken the everlasting covenant."

Because of the leaders, who have acted on the desires of the people, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been corrupted by the Gentiles, and the time of their tenure has ended. Now the Lord will commence His cleansing. The Gentiles who now control the Church will be exposed and discarded, and the true blood of Israel will be identified, and take their rightful place.

Yes, Wilford Woodruff understood that some day this would be the case. What did he say, "I have never thought that the Jews or the ten tribes of Israel would ever keep the Gentile Sabbath. That is the first day of the week." But by his speech you can tell he did not want to get the ire of Brigham Young, so he did not elaborate too much.

Yes, he understood, this very wise gentleman, that when the time of the Gentiles ended this Gentile Sabbath would be done away with and the seventh day Sabbath would be reinstated.

Charlemane, way back in history, established the first day Sabbath, and Joseph Smith was rightfully never given instructions to rectify it. It was the Gentile Sabbath. The True Sabbath was made for the twelve tribes of Israel, and the tribe of Levi. As Wilford Woodruff said, "I don't know as the Latter-day Saints will ever keep this day & it does not make any difference whether they do or not." Why? Because they were Gentiles, and it was the time of the Gentiles.

This same Gentile Nation had so corrupted the laws of Plural Marriage and Adoption that God had this great man issue the manifesto. The federal government thought it was because they wanted to become a State that the Manifesto was issued, it was in part, but it was mainly due to so many of the Priesthood holders breaking this law by abusing it, that it was taken from the Church and made an individual choice.

Remember, if you don't keep a law it is broken.

Don't we as Latter-day Saints know that the time of the Gentiles has ended? Each one of us must begin to live at least the ten commandments as given the children of Israel. This includes keeping the seventh day Sabbath and also working on the first day for the Lord. It is a wonderful thought. Most of us could easily keep the seventh day Sabbath. To most of us it is not a work day anyway, and on Sunday how much work could be done for the Lord? If all the

members of the Church shed their “Sunday” clothes after services and went to work for the Lord, building whatever was needed to build up His Kingdom. Millions of work hours building homes for the poor, planting gardens, making his “footstool” beautiful. Wouldn’t that be a marvelous thing? Think about it!

Remember, the time of the Gentiles is over. They are done, Kaput! We now as Israelites must start adhering to at least the ten commandments. That would include the fourth commandment. The end times are coming and we must be prepared for we know that all those who are not keeping these ten commandments and who are not living in places of refuge, will be destroyed in the promised calamities.

Have you wondered how the Lord would separate the righteous from the wicked? Possibly this is one of the ways. Those who do not keep the true Sabbath which would include every heathen nation, and all the Christians both Catholic and Protestants. You say that it then would include all the so-called Jews and the Mohammedans No it would not include them because they do not accept Christ as the Savior of the world. What about the seventh day Adventists. Well, have they accepted Joseph Smith? All the above mentioned including the Seventh Day Adventists do not keep or understand the Lords Day, which is Sunday. It will be up to the Lord to save whom he will, for He is a merciful God. Let us be prepared in any case. Remember, the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

I don't want anyone to believe that I did all this research myself. A good portion of the Bible research on the Sabbath day was taken from a book called, "From One to Seventy" by David H Gregg (Mitchell Printing & Publishing Co. 1953) who was just an ordinary person who spent much time in figuring out the understanding of the Sabbath. He was not a Mormon.