

As Kevin and his friends sped down Keyesville Road late one night in their Camaro, a flash of light appeared from the darkness, followed by a loud explosion of shattered glass and twisted metal. The car had collided with a tractor trailer killing the boys instantly. As police investigated the scene, they found the stop sign which was to control the intersection lying on the ground nearby. Apparently someone had removed the stop sign resulting in the death of the three boys. Similarly, another sign has been removed, but this one has been removed from God's law. God says, "hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you" (Eze. 20:20). Like a stop sign, the Sabbath is a law. It is found right in the heart of the Ten Commandments. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8). Like a stop sign, the Sabbath calls us to stop and rest. Just as the apostles "rested on the Sabbath day according to the commandment" (Luke 23:56), this is a day to stop working and rest from secular activities (Ex. 20:10; Isa. 58:13). Unfortunately, the Sabbath stop sign has been removed by a most unlikely suspect. The early Christian church has removed the Sabbath sign and replaced it with another.

### ***Who Changed the Sabbath?***

According to the Bible, "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord" (Ex. 20:10). Every time the Bible refers to the Sabbath, it is actually talking about Saturday, the seventh day of the week! That's the day that the Bible says to keep holy. That's the day Jesus worshipped on (Luke 4:16). That's also the day that the apostles kept all through the New Testament (Acts 13:42-44; 16:13; 17:2), but like the missing stop sign, God's sign was eventually removed. The early Christian church removed God's holy Sabbath day, changing the day to Sunday. Check it out. "We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodecia (A.D. 336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday" (Rev. Peter Geierman, *The Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, pg. 50). Cardinal Gibbons adds, "You may read the Bible from Genesis to

Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify" (Cardinal Gibbons, *Faith of Our Fathers*, p 111).

### ***Protestants In Denial***

In spite of the Catholic confession that they changed the Sabbath to Sunday without any support from the Bible, many Protestants remain in denial, claiming the change is found in the Bible. While many make excuses for worshipping on Sunday, none of the excuses are supported by the Bible. Some say the Sabbath is for the Jews, but the Sabbath was instituted long before the Jewish nation even existed (Gen. 2:3). Some say Jesus did away with the law at the cross or we don't have to keep the law because we are under grace. Of course, Jesus Himself said, "do not think that I came to destroy the Law," adding, "if you want to enter life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 5:17, 19:17). Some say, Jesus changed the Sabbath to Sunday in honor of the resurrection, but I would challenge you to find one clear verse where we are commanded to keep Sunday holy. I mean, if God was going to change one of His Ten Commandments, wouldn't He make it clear? And yet, after the resurrection we see Paul and the disciples still worshipping with both Jews and Greeks "in the synagogue every Sabbath" (Acts 18:4).

### ***Commandments of God or Man?***

The fact is, there is no command anywhere in the Bible which claims that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday, the first day of the week. Instead, Paul consistently warned that "false teachers" would come into the church, "speaking perverse things" (Acts 20:30) and "secretly bring in destructive heresies" (2 Pet. 2:1), causing some to "be turned aside to fables" (2 Tim. 4:4). And that's exactly what happened. The early church introduced many false doctrines, like papal infallibility, the immaculate conception, saint worship, purgatory, penance, and the list goes on, including the change of the Sabbath. The

Christian church openly admits that "Sunday is a Catholic institution...from the beginning to the end of scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of the weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first" (*Catholic Press*, Aug. 25, 1900). According to the Bible, the Sabbath is on Saturday and those who worship on Sunday are following a man-made commandment, or "the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9), just like the Pharisees did.

### ***Twisting God's Word***

The apostles also warned that some would come into the church and "twist" the writings of "our beloved brother Paul," "to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures" (2 Pet. 3:15, 16), turning "the grace of our God into licentiousness" (Jude 1:4). And isn't it a bit ironic that if you go to your pastor today and say, "I'm having a problem with adultery," or "lying," or "stealing" or "worshipping false idols" or "coveting" or "killing" or any other commandment, they will encourage you to give up your sin, but the minute you say, "I've decided to keep the Sabbath," they cry, "Don't do that! We are not under the law! You've fallen from grace!" And isn't it funny how pastors encourage you to come to church on Sunday, but when you say, "I think I'll keep the Bible Sabbath," they twist the writings of Paul, saying, "You can worship on any day!" Of course, while Paul addressed the feast days in this manner, there is no reference to the Sabbath being on any day. The Bible always refers to the Sabbath as "the seventh day" (Heb. 4:4).

### ***Throwing Out the Law***

There's an old saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater." Ironically, that's what many pastors are doing today. In order to get rid of the fourth commandment, some have gone to the extreme of throwing out entire the law of God, claiming that the Ten Commandments are no longer binding. Certainly, the ceremonial laws of feast days, new moons and ceremonial Sabbaths all ended at the cross. That is why we

don't kill lambs anymore when we sin, but that doesn't mean we can kill and steal! This had nothing to do with the Ten Commandments or God's seventh-day Sabbath. God's law is still binding. The famous evangelist, Dwight L. Moody affirms, "The Sabbath was binding in Eden, and it has been in force ever since. This fourth commandment begins with the word 'remember,' showing that the Sabbath already existed when God wrote the law on the tables of stone in Sinai. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away with when they will admit that the other nine are still binding?" (D. L. Moody, Weighed and Wanted, p. 47). The fact is, the Sabbath is still binding.

### *Entering Into His Rest*

So maybe you have missed the stop sign. Maybe you have been breaking one of God's Ten Commandments, going to church on the wrong day in ignorance, not realizing that the Sabbath was on Saturday. It's okay. The Bible says, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). While there is nothing you can do about the past, God is now calling to His true followers in Sunday churches to repent, appealing, "Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins" (Rev. 18:4). Please, do not listen to false teachers who twist the word of God "to their own destruction, as they do the rest of the Scriptures" (2 Pet. 3:16). Do not silence this conviction. The Bible says, "God rested the on the seventh day," but the Jews refused to enter this rest, "therefore it remains that some must enter it," so "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Heb. 4:4, 6, 7). Find a church that worships on Sabbath and be faithful to God and His commandments.

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