

*Historical Quotations
on the Sabbath and Sunday*



Over the years, there has been an endless debate among Christians that has never been fully settled. It is regarding the day of worship. While most claim Sunday is the day we should worship on, some people have consistently observed Saturday, “the seventh-day” of the week, according to the Bible (Ex. 20:10). These Christians claim that there is no clear command in the Bible to justify the change of one of the very Ten Commandments. So in order to supply the evidence, Protestant churches have tried to supply the missing text by twisting obscure verses to claim that the Sabbath was only for the Jews, or that it was nailed to the cross, or that we can worship God on any day, or that Jesus changed the Sabbath to Sunday in honor of the resurrection. Still, while Protestants maintain their ongoing search for the missing Bible verse, the Catholic Church has admitted to changing the Sabbath without any support from the Bible, on the authority of the church, claiming that Protestants who try to justify Sunday worship from the Bible are looking in vain since they themselves have openly stated that the change was made apart from the Bible. For any seeking the truth, here is a collection of quotes.

“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. P. Geiermann, *The Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, pg. 50).

“Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principle...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).

“The Catholic church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday” (*Catholic Mirror*, Sept. 23, 1893).

“But 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” (James Cardinal Gibbons, *Faith of Our Fathers*, 16th Edition, p. 111).

“The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the Catholic church” (*Plain Talk About Protestantism*, Father Segur, p. 213).

“Protestants ... accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change... But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that ... in observing Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the Church, the pope” (*Our Sunday Visitor*, February 5, 1950).

“Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the church, has no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought, logically, to keep Saturday with the Jews” (*American Catholic Quarterly Review*, Jan., 1883).

“If we consulted the Bible only, we should still have to keep holy the Sabbath Day, that is, Saturday, with the Jews, instead of Sunday; ...” (*A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies*, by Rev. John Laux M.A., Benzinger Brothers, 1936 edition, Part 1).

“Nowhere in the Bible do we find that Christ or the apostles ordered that the Sabbath be changed from Saturday to Sunday. We have the commandment of God given to Moses to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is the seventh day of the week, Saturday. Today most Christians keep Sunday because it has been revealed to us by the [Catholic] church outside the Bible” (*Catholic Virginian*, Oct. 3, 1947).

“The (Roman Catholic) Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday.” (*The Catholic Universe Bulletin*, Aug. 14, 1942, p. 4)

“From this same Catholic Church you have accepted your Sunday, and that Sunday... she had handed down as a tradition: and the entire Protestant world has accepted it as tradition, for you have not an iota of Scripture to establish it... Sunday, you have accepted on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.” (D. Ray, *The Papal Controversy*, 1892, page 179).

“If Protestants would follow the Bible, they would worship God on the Sabbath Day. In keeping the Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church” (Albert Smith, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the Cardinal, in a letter dated Feb. 10, 1920).

“The Sabbath was Saturday, not Sunday. The Church altered the observance of the Sabbath to the observance of Sunday. Protestants must be rather puzzled by the keeping of Sunday when God distinctly said, ‘Keep holy the Sabbath Day.’ The word Sunday does not come anywhere in the Bible, so, without knowing it they are obeying the authority of the Catholic Church” (Canon Cafferata, *The Catechism Explained*, p. 89).

“Now, every child in school knows that the Sabbath is Saturday, the seventh day of the week; and yet, with the exception of the Seventh-day Adventists, all Protestants keep Sunday instead of the Sabbath day, because the Catholic church made this change in the first ages of Christianity” (Father Gerritsma, *Winnipeg Free Press*, Apr. 21, 1884).

“Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. ‘The day of the Lord’ was chosen, not from any direction noted in the Scriptures, but from the (Catholic) Church’s sense of its own power...People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy” (*St. Catherine Church Sentinel*, Algonac, Michigan, May 21, 1995).

“If the Bible is the only guide for the Christian, then the Seventh-day Adventist is right in observing the Saturday with the Jew. But Catholics learn what to believe and do from the divine, infallible authority established by Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church.... Is it not strange that those who make the Bible their only teacher should inconsistently follow in this matter the tradition of the Church?” (*Question Box*, by Conway, 1903 Ed., pp. 254, 255).

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