

Why I Keep the Seventh Day Sabbath

I was not raised as a seventh day Sabbath-keeper. From the moment of my birth until the age of 27 years I remained in the tradition of keeping Sunday (the first day of the week) as the weekly holy day.

I really had no reason to question Sunday keeping early in my life. My immediate family came from the tradition of the German Baptist Brethren, which for some years now (since the 1920s) has been known as the Church of the Brethren. My family was religious to the point where we regularly attended services. We avoided other religions; for the most part we were separatists. For example, we never talked to the Jehovah's Witness representatives who visited infrequently, or to any representative of other religions.

I was quite concerned about my religion from my very youth. My family cautioned the children to read, believe, and obey the Bible. At the age of 10, I felt convicted to join the Church of the Brethren during a revival meeting. I was baptized and became a member at that time, perhaps more out of emotion than out of understanding, although I had already absorbed a vast amount of Scripture, having attended literally hundreds of worship services by that time. My grandfather, who was a deacon in the local congregation, would take me with him to services, and many times I sat with him in the front of the *meeting house* (we didn't call it a church then) with the elders of the congregation. That time much Scripture was still being preached. Each service started with an opening sermonette, followed by a long sermon, and then another closing or summary sermonette. Sometimes services continued on for three hours or more.

Probably because of my family background, I was later appointed as a Sunday school teacher, eventually teaching three different classes. I realized I needed more education in the biblical message, and so decided to apply myself to Bible study. I remember a minister in the local congregation kindly gave me direction and helped me get started. However, during the middle and late 1950s the economy was rapidly expanding, and for a time I applied myself more to obtaining material possessions than Bible knowledge.

It just so happened that the Berks County Sunday School Association was offering two courses to church leaders about that time. The courses were sponsored by Albright College and taught by college

professors. One of these teachers was a Lutheran minister, and the other teacher was a minister of the German Reformed Church (currently United Church of Christ). The course in "Teaching Bible" aided me to teach more effectively, but it was actually the course in "Bible" that became the turning point in my life. This course was taught by the Lutheran minister, who, after explaining the tools for thorough Bible study (obtain a good study Bible, Concordances, Commentaries, etc.), began his course lecture by stating, "The Almighty's Name is Yahweh." But then he added, "We call Him Lord or God." Several years later when it came to my attention that the Name of the Almighty is of supreme importance in our faith, I already had known the Name, used it in prayer, and encountered it several times in my personal Bible study.

Approximately November, 1961, the Sunday school lesson I taught to my young married people's class concerned the fourth commandment, the keeping of the Sabbath. We studied through the fourth commandment in the allotted time of an hour. After some additional study and thought, I was not as convinced about keeping Sunday as I had been before. But, the challenge still had not been forthrightly presented to me regarding which day I must personally choose to keep in my daily life.

Since several perplexing problems were creating turmoil in the Church of the Brethren congregation I was then attending, my mind started to open as I began asking the question, "Where is the True Worship? Where is the Holy Spirit at work today as it was in the Apostolic Assembly in the book of Acts?"

The previous year I had taught six months of lessons and gone through the book of Acts. I saw there before my eyes the candid manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of men, mightily moving the brethren of the Apostolic Assembly following the impalement of Yahshua the Messiah. Clearly, I could not balance out or justify some of the things I saw happening in the Church of the Brethren local congregation.

One Saturday evening I was lying on the sofa reading a pamphlet that had come in the mail in which a fundamentalist preacher was exhorting the reader to become more zealous for his faith. I looked up at my wife and asked her, "Why can't we see this kind of a display of sincerity in our church?" She forthrightly stated, "It is evident that the Holy Spirit is not at work here, or else the people are not following the Holy Spirit." Suddenly, into my mind popped the idea of attending another church.

Over the next several weeks I attended services in a number of different churches.

Two young couples that I had been teaching in Sunday school class then heard that I was searching

for the group where the Holy Spirit was active. It seems they had joined a Bible Study group and had become convinced of using the Sacred Name of Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah. I clearly recall how they telephoned me and asked if we could all sit down and have a Bible study. "Sure," I replied, "Come right over." I always enjoyed studying the sacred Scriptures and discussing the Word.

That was on a Saturday evening. As we sat around our dining room table they asked me first if I knew the true Name of the Almighty. I replied, "Yes, it's Yahweh." I guess my answer shocked them, but their rejoinder caused a bombshell to explode in my mind when they asked, "If you know it, why don't you use it?" Yes, I had to admit immediately, why am I substituting different words for the revealed, personal Name of our Heavenly Father? He tells us in His Word that His Name is Yahweh, then why am I calling Him something else? (He tells us also that the seventh day is the Sabbath, how does the **first day of the week** then mysteriously become the "Christian" Sabbath?)

We next discussed the keeping of the commandments (including the Sabbath and the annual feasts), and that's about where our talk ended for the night, as I said I wanted to study these subjects deeper on my own.

The following day was the last Sunday I have ever observed as a holy day. On that Sunday I didn't go anywhere to worship services. I stayed home and studied the Scriptures, seeing things I had never seen before in my Bible. I studied the subject of the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath. I read the passages from my own Bible, and with the center-column references, pursued the subject through the entire book. Then, I happened to remember a correspondence Bible Study course my wife had taken which had advocated the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath. I asked her to dig up the course for me, and then I went through it rapidly and read the Scriptures they had noted. Several additional Scriptures were given that I had not before considered.

After a long productive morning of Bible study with my wife, I turned to her and said, "Honey, next week we will begin keeping the seventh day Sabbath." From then on (early 1962) we have observed the Sabbath and plan to continue to the end of our lives or until Yahshua returns.

We didn't really know how to keep the Sabbath. My wife and I had to learn this on our own. Initially we made some mistakes that helped us gain experience. We had to apply the principles of properly keeping the Sabbath according to the biblical day, from Friday night sundown to Saturday night sundown (Leviticus 23:32 and Mark 1:32). We had to learn that we cannot buy and

sell—*anything*—on the Sabbath, Jeremiah 17:19-27 and Nehemiah 13:15-22.

Together we learned that we must avoid doing our own pleasure on the Sabbath, Isaiah 58:12-13. We also learned that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath (Mark 3:4), and that we must have a holy convocation each week (Leviticus 23:3). We learned that Yahweh means to give us a recuperative rest each week.

In the last days, the Bible says, knowledge will be increased, Daniel 12:4. The question now before you is this: Which day will you keep? You also must make your personal choice. You can no longer jump back and forth between two opinions, keeping the wrong day or keeping two days each week holy, 1 Kings 18:24. If there is no concrete reason to be found in the Bible for keeping Sunday, and certainly no commandment anywhere in the sacred Scriptures to keep it, why do you continue keeping Sunday?

If there is indeed a concrete commandment in the Bible, the same commandment with which I began this article, why do you not keep it? Certainly, you cannot lose by keeping the Sabbath, can you? If Sunday is not legislated, but the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath is, then, by simply being obedient to our Heavenly Father Yahweh, you will receive His blessing. If sin is the transgression of Yahweh's Law, and you are breaking that law by not keeping the seventh day holy, will you not lose your everlasting salvation by continuing Sunday worship?

The world today is a Babylonish system built upon the keeping of the first day of the week and pagan holidays *that are not commanded in the Bible*. But we can change that! We can make our determined stand for TRUTH in these last days, and thereby sanctify Almighty Yahweh our Heavenly Father and His authority by which He declares the **seventh** day of the week to be the day of rest and the seventh day Sabbath.

If you are contemplating the decision of which day to keep, perhaps the following reasons why I no longer keep Sunday will be helpful to you in finalizing your personal decision.

I can no longer keep Sunday because it is the first day of the week, and not the seventh. Any calendar you would care to peruse will plainly give you that information. Look at the calendar. The Christians are keeping the *first day of the week*, and *not the seventh*. Yahweh's commandment tells us to **keep the seventh day holy, Exodus 20:8-11**.

Almighty Yahweh has declared the seventh day of the week as the day He set apart, sanctified and made holy, Exodus 31:12-18.

He has never placed that kind of emphasis upon the first day of the week.

Although Christians will tell you that they keep the first day of the week holy because Yahshua the

Messiah was resurrected on that day, **there is absolutely no biblical support for that assertion.** Yahshua the Messiah was raised from the dead in the end of the Sabbath, Matthew 28:1. This makes three full days and three full nights (seventy-two hours) that he spent in the tomb, Matthew 12:40. If He was not resurrected on the morning of the first day of the week, then why continue to keep it? The only sign of His Messiahship is His prediction of how long He would lie in the tomb—and no human can predict such a miraculous resurrection event for himself except the true Messiah.

Sunday was a day on which the pagans worshiped the sun. Baal worship, especially, with its worship of nature was a sun-worshiping religion. By reading Ezekiel 8:16 you may see that Israel had emulated Baal-worship.

It was a Roman emperor, Constantine, who in 325 C.E. legislated the keeping of the Sabbath for this Christian era. He wasn't even baptized then! Up to that point the Apostolic Assembly and its faithful remnant group had continued to keep the Sabbath. They were called Nazarenes, Acts 24:5. They moved to Transjordan, fleeing before the Roman Armies just prior to the destruction of Jerusalem. Even after Constantine legislated the keeping of Sunday in a determined program of religious syncretism for his empire, remnants of the True Worshipers who migrated to Europe continued to resist the religious authorities of Rome. When Rome tried to stamp out the keeping of the Sabbath, countless hundreds of these devoted Sabbath keepers died.

I keep the biblical seventh day Sabbath because our Heavenly Father legislated its sanctity at Creation (Genesis 2:1-3), and it reflects the prophecy of the great day of salvation for this world during the **seventh** one thousand year period called the Millennium (Hebrews 4:9). Consequently, the keeping of the Sabbath must stand as a sign uniting Yahweh with His true Spirit-begotten people and must endure from the Creation to the Millennium (Ezekiel 20:12, 20).

Some people keep Sunday because they believe our Messiah did not legislate the observance of any specific day in the New Testament era. Such is a false assumption. All you need to do is read Matthew 24:20, in which our Savior Yahshua the Messiah indicates that the Sabbath would be observed both in 70 C.E. as well in the end of the age when all things are to be fulfilled. The Sabbath is still a sacred day, and we must not begin a journey on the Sabbath. Our only journey must be the fulfillment of the commandment to have a holy convocation. In fact, it was Yahshua's custom to keep the Sabbath each week and go to the house of worship, Luke 4:16. Do you

follow His example, 1 Peter 2:21? Christians don't follow Him in **many** doctrines taught in their churches.

I cannot keep the first day of the week, because Almighty Yahweh, through the prophet Isaiah (56:1-7), tells us that those who keep the seventh day Sabbath will be included in the covenant with Almighty Yahweh. Even Gentiles are obligated to keep the Sabbath. The Sabbath, not Sunday, will be observed during the Millennium, Isaiah 66:23. I must learn these lessons now.

I keep the Sabbath because the Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, kept it, Luke 4:16. He is Master of the Sabbath, Mark 2:27-28.

I observe the biblical seventh day Sabbath because the Apostles observed it, Acts 13:14, 44. It was customary for Paul (as well as the others) to attend services on the Sabbath, Acts 17:2.

The Apostles inform us in Hebrews 4:9 that **there remains the keeping of the Sabbath for the people of Yahweh.** How can I spurn such a plain statement pointedly indicating that the Sabbath continues in a position of vital and supreme importance throughout this New Testament era?

In the final analysis, I keep the biblical seventh day Sabbath because I wish to be obedient to the commandments of the Almighty Heavenly Father who legislated it. The Sabbath is among the most important commandments, because of the many times that Almighty Yahweh mentions it in His law. Sin is the transgression of the law, 1 John 3:4 and Leviticus 4:2, 13, 22, 27. I can prove that the same day the Israelites observed for the Sabbath in Exodus 16 is the very same day we keep today.

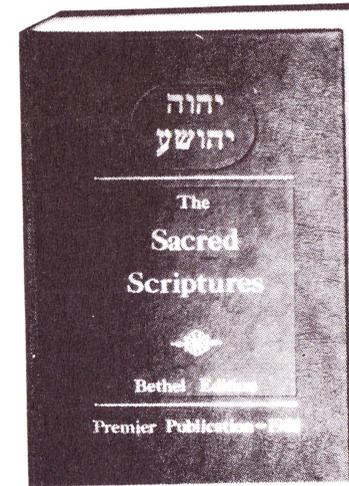
Consequently, with these and many other reasons, my personal decision has been unalterably made. I will obey Almighty Yahweh and keep the day He legislated in His Word—the seventh day of the week.

What will be your own personal decision? Will you obey Him? Or, will you reject the Word of the true Mighty One Yahweh and our Savior Yahshua the Messiah? If you want to be there with the Messiah in His Kingdom, you must obey His Word and become a seventh day Sabbath keeper too. Can we expect you to attend our services this coming Sabbath? We hope so!

Special Note: If you have never read our booklet, "The Fourth Commandment Enigma, Which Day to Keep?" write in immediately and request it. This booklet is absolutely free for the asking. Write to:

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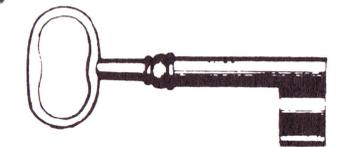
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Keys to Knowledge

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by
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