The Holy Sabbath III Who Changed the Sabbath to Sunday?

Fred R. Coulter – August 27, 1998

As we approach this, let's understand something that's very, very important in everything that we do. This is a fundamental thing that has to be in our lives:

- We have to believe God!
- We have to believe His Word!
- We have to believe that He is!

Hebrews 11:6: "Now, without faith *it is* impossible to please *God*...." That's why so many people, when they get into 'religious' things or into churches, it soon evolves down to where God is way off somewhere, because they're not focusing on God and putting that as a central thing in their lives and what they need to do.

We *can* please God! Most people want to please other people or please men. You have to please God, and sometimes that's contrary to pleasing men. In certain cases, men have their own ideas and the things that they want to do, so it's almost impossible to please them. But with faith it is possible to please God.

"...For it is <u>mandatory</u> for the one who comes to God... [this is what it is, you are coming to God; you're under obligation to believe that He is] ...to believe that He exists, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (v 6). It's the same concerning the Sabbath/Sunday question:

- You have to *believe* what God has said!
- You have *believe* God!
- You have to *believe* in Jesus Christ!

This time we are going to see that the Sabbath is for the New Covenant. We are going to see some astounding admissions concerning Sunday, concerning Sabbath, by Catholics and Protestants, and we are going to learn who changed the day from Sabbath to Sunday.

Let's just review:

1. God is the One Who created the Sabbath

We saw in John 1 that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and there was not anything made that was made without Jesus Christ. The Sabbath Day being a *created* time was created by the One Who became Jesus Christ. That's why He is 'Lord of the Sabbath.'

2. The 4th commandment says, 'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep *it* Holy. Six days may work be done, but the seventh day is a day of rest to the Lord, Holy unto the Lord. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth and all that in them is. Therefore, you shall keep the Sabbath Day.

3. It is a perpetual covenant not just given to the Jews

Nowhere in the Bible does it say 'the Jews' Sabbath. God says, very clearly, that the Sabbath is *His feast!* And being *His* feast, He is the One Who owns it! Owning it then He is the One Who has rule, jurisdiction and control over it.

God is the One Who has set this as a perpetual covenant and that He is Lawgiver. We also saw that how that when we begin picking and choosing which commandment we will or will not choose, we are judging God. When you judge God you set yourself up for a real difficult situation between you and God.

- If you judge Him you are not with Him.
- If you judge Him you don't believe Him.
- If you judge Him and His laws, you are saying that your opinion is greater than God's.

God is the One Who is Creator and perfect. Therefore, *human opinion has no standing*. People can believe anything they want to do, but they are not going to change God and they are not going to change the Sabbath. They are not going to make God go away just because they may have a point of view or two.

- 4. We saw how Abraham 'obeyed My voice, kept My charge, My statutes, My judgments, My commandment and My laws' – and that included the Sabbath Day!
- 5. We saw in Ezek. 20 how that it was that the children of Israel and their children that rejected the Sabbaths of God. We saw very clearly that these were given to the 12 tribes of Israel, not just to the Jews, and that this thing became sin and rebellion.

Other Scriptures say:

- 'Jesus Christ the same *yesterday* [when He was Creator God in the Old testament] *today* [that was when Paul was writing] and *forever*.'
- God 'changes not.'
- There is 'no shadow of variableness with God.'

All of these things tell us that the Ten Commandments and the Sabbath Day are still all binding upon all humankind. Now let's go to the New Testament and then we'll go back and see some prophecies of the New Testament in the Old Testament. Let's be sure and understand very clearly what this is telling us. This is a very profound and moving and dogmatic statement by Jesus Christ:

Mark 2:27: "And He said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man..." The Greek there can mean *on account of man*. In other words, because man was created, God made the Sabbath for man:

- for his benefit
- for his rest
- for fellowship with God

As we covered, what tremendous Sabbath that first Sabbath must have been with Adam and Eve and God, right after He created them. God is talking with them and teaching them on that Sabbath. That's what God wants to do with us today:

- through His Spirit
- through His Word
- through His ministers

so that we can all fellowship together with God. Our fellowship *begins* with God.

"...'The Sabbath was **made for man**... [a blessing, a benefit, a wonderful thing from God] ...and not man for the Sabbath'" (v 27). No man has the authority or the right or the prerogative to come and say, 'I don't like the Sabbath, I'm going to change it to Sunday'—or Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday—whatever it may be. Man does not have jurisdiction over the Sabbath, God does.

Verse 28: "'Therefore... [because of these two statements] ...the Son of man [Jesus Christ] is Lord even of the Sabbath." The Sabbath Day, the seventh day, is the Lord's day. It is completely a wrong thing to call Sunday the Lord's day, unless you want to worship a *false lord*. You need to understand that there are false Christs, there are false gods, and we are told to 'have no other gods' before us. If you worship on a day other than what God has said, then you have another god before Him, for you are worshipping God in vain, or you're judging God and saying, 'God, I don't like your Sabbath; Sunday is more convenient for everyone.'

There was even a religious leader who said, 'Well, if Jesus came to the earth today, He would worship on Sunday.' Well, they're in for a big surprise. The Creator is not going to change the day in which He would worship God if He were a man on earth again.

I know there are a lot of people who will say, 'Well now, who is he to say this?' Let's just look at the Scriptures. Let's back away from putting this as a point of view from a man, a minister, teacher, a church or someone who has a doctrinal stance, which by all means must be upheld. We all have to agree with the Word of God. We all have to agree with God. *We are not going to tell God what to do*. We are not going to command God what to do. We are not going to take something that God has made and created and set it aside and say that's not worthy of our consideration. If we do, then we're in great trouble with God.

Isaiah 55:6: "Seek the LORD while He may be found..." We're going to see that keeping the Sabbath and understanding about the Sabbath is a very important part of seeking God. Why is that? The Sabbath is an appointed time, a Holy convocation, which God says you 'shall keep Holy.' This is a day that He's appointed, that spiritually He will fellowship with His people. When you are keeping the Sabbath you are continually seeking God.

Just like we started out with Heb. 11:6: "...the one who comes to God to believe that He exists..." And when you believe that He is, you have to believe that everything He says is right and true and perfect and that His Word is Truth.

Isaiah 55:6: "Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way..." (vs 6-7). The wicked person is not the one necessarily who is doing overt criminal sins in this society. The wicked person is one who says that 'God says' when God never said. A wicked person is one who says that Sunday is the Sabbath. You might not consider that person a wicked person, because they're not out doing overt crimes. But those sins are worse sins because those are direct sins against God. They are teaching lies in the name of God! We're going to see that.

"...and the unrighteous man his thoughts... [So, whatever thoughts you have contrary to the Sabbath Day, you'd better start forsaking them as God has said] ...and let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (v 7).

People say the Sabbath was for the Old Testament, and the Sabbath is not for the New Testament. The Sabbath was for the Jews, and the Sabbath is not for the Gentiles.' We'll see! Let's look at some of these Scriptures concerning the Sabbath in:

Isaiah 56:1: "Thus says the LORD, 'Keep justice and do righteousness; for My salvation *is* near to come... [We need to understand that the return of Christ is near! How close it is, we don't know. In our lifetime we measure it in terms of years. Five or ten years, to us, seems like a long time, but to God it's just a snap of a finger or a blink

of an eye. 'A day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as a day.' This is a prophecy of our day.] ...and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed *is* the man who does this... [Present tense participle: *the one who is doing*. There's a blessing for doing this.] ...and the son of man who lays hold on it... [grasps it, understands it and inculcates that into his way of life with God] ...who keeps the Sabbath from profaning it; and keeps his hand from doing any evil'" (vs 1-2). So, there's a blessing. Most people think that if you keep the seventh day Sabbath that you are cursed. That is not so! *You are blessed!*

Verse 3: "And do not let the son of the stranger [Gentile], who has joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, 'The LORD has utterly separated me from His people.'.... [Today the Church of God are the people of God; and there 'remains Sabbath-keeping for the Church of God, for the people of God.'] ... And do not let the eunuch say, 'Behold, I am a dry tree.' For thus says the LORD, 'To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths... [This is God's speaking. This is not an opinion of man. This is not a doctrine of a church. This is a teaching of God from His very mouth! Remember, Abraham 'Obeyed My voice, kept My charge, My statutes, My commandments, and My laws.' It's the same thing here.] ...and choose things that please Me, and take hold of My covenant"" (vs 3-4)-this is the New Covenant.

This is a prophecy of the New Covenant! And a prophecy then that the New Covenant Church of God would be keeping the Sabbath. As you look around at the churches in the world and you see that church, this church and the other church keeping Sunday. You can immediate eliminate them as having anything to do with the Truth of God.

Verse 5: "'Even to them will I give within My house and within My walls a place... [to be in New Jerusalem] ...and a name better than of sons and of daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off." What does that mean? That they will receive eternal life! Why? To receive eternal life requires Sabbath-keeping! Taking hold of the covenant of God! That's why!

"...an everlasting name..."—go back to Rev. 3 and Jesus says, 'I'm going to give you a new name. I'm going to give you the name of My Father and the name of the city of New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven and My new name.' Here's New Testament doctrine right here, prophesied by Isaiah, almost 800 years after the New Covenant was enacted.

Verse 6: "'Also the sons of the stranger, who join themselves to the LORD to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath, and takes hold of My covenant." That's the New Covenant. There can be no doubt from the Scriptures that Sabbath-keeping for the New Testament is a requirement from God. We'll prove that more strongly as we go along.

Verse 7: "'Even them I will bring to My Holy mountain... [New Jerusalem] ...and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *shall be* accepted upon My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people." That's why during the Passover that Jesus went to the temple and cast out the moneychangers and got rid of all them who were merchandizing the people and short-changing them, and He cast them out and said, 'This shall be called a house of prayer for all people.' (John 2)

Let's see another one concerning the Sabbath, which is a prophecy, Isaiah 58:13: "If you turn your foot away from the Sabbath... [don't be walking on it by doing your own thing] ...from doing your own desires on My Holy Day..." God calls it *His* Holy Day. Does any man have any right to declare that the Sabbath is not Holy? Does any man have a greater authority than God—Who is Creator—to say that the Sabbath is not Holy? *Of course not*!

"...and call the Sabbath a delight... [not a burden] ...the Holy of the LORD... [because God made it Holy] ...honorable; and shall honor Him, **not doing your own ways, nor pursuing your own desires, nor speaking** *your own* **words**" (v 13). It is a day:

- To study *God's* Word!
- To speak of *God's* way!
- To speak of *His* things!
- To understand *His* way!

Not talking about your business and your pleasures, not out boating, golfing, hiking and swimming, not going to football games and all of these things that happen on Saturday.

Satan has tied up this world in such a way that he has put so many important events on Saturday that when people sit down and in a carnal way to choose what they want—whether their god or their carnal way—all the carnal ways are appealing; they have all the best sales on Saturday; all the sports on Saturday. That is the lust of the world and the pride of life; that's not of God.

Here's what is of God, v 14: "Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD... [You never will delight yourself in God until you start keeping the Sabbath] ...and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth... [This is talking about the heritage of the New Covenant, being the very sons and daughters of God.] ...and feed you with the inheritance of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it." Whenever God speaks something, know for sure that it's going to happen!

Let's come to the New Testament and cover some other things that we need to understand, that we need to put together and analyze. Let's come to Matthew 5 and let's really zero in on this so that we understand what Christ is saying. This is something that is so profound because most people think that under the New Testament you don't have to keep any laws—'Christ did away with the old laws.' We'll see from Christ's own mouth that *no*, *He did not*!

Matthew 5:17: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets... [What did we just read in Isaiah? We read a prophecy of New Covenant Sabbath-keeping—didn't we? Yes, we did!] ...I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill." What Jesus fulfilled were all the prophecies concerning Himself and then His sacrifice, being our Passover, superceded all the animal sacrifices and all the temple rituals that were at the temple. Those are what He fulfilled! Jesus fulfilled nothing for you. You, with God's Spirit, have to fulfill.

Verse 18: "For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until **everything** has been fulfilled." The only thing that's been fulfilled is the animal sacrifices and all the prophecies concerning Christ's first coming. All His prophecies concerning His second coming have yet to be fulfilled. All the Laws of God are still binding and in affect, no question about it! And the Sabbath is the key!

Verse 19: "Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven..." What does this tell us? Which commandment do men consider the least? The main one they consider the least is the fourth commandment about remembering to keep the Sabbath! The next one they consider the least one is not making any graven image of any kind and bowing down to worship it.

So, the Catholic Church—when they have their summary of the Ten Commandments completely eliminates the second one concerning idols. But in their own Bible—the *Douay* version of the Bible—you go to Exodus 20 and the second commandment is still there as a testimony against the Catholic Church, that they have no right to change the commandment of God and bring people into abominable idolatry. We're going to see that they are the ones who have forced Sunday-keeping. If they teach the least commandment, they shall be least.

"...but whoever shall practice and teach them, this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven" (v 19). That's what's so profound! Most people don't go by what the Scriptures say. They read it and then they give their opinion. Then their opinion becomes Scripture. Well, that's not what Jesus said.

Matthew 22—here's another profound Scripture that is given by Jesus, which is also for our understanding. How many people have said, 'Well, I have love in my heart and all I need to do is just love God'?

- Can you love God and reject His commandments?
- Can you turn your back on the commandments of God, reject the Sabbath, keep Sunday—Christmas, Easter and all of those things—and say that you love God, when none of those things are found in the Bible?
- What is the love of God?

Matthew 22:37: "And Jesus said to him, 'You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." The *way of God* is a full-time *way of life!* It's not something you just do once a week on the Sabbath, but it's something that, even while you're working, you work according to the commandments of God, with the kind of work-ethic that comes out of the commandments of God. When you help and you serve and all of those things, it's all according to the commandments of God.

- God is the One Who has given you life!
- God is the One Who has given you breath!
- God is the One Who has given you your soul, your heart and your mind!

Now they know that there's a connection between the heart and the mind. That many of the cells in the heart are actually the same kind of neuro-cells that are in the mind. This is why God requires it.

He says, v 38: "This is *the* first and greatest commandment; and *the* second *one is* like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.... [this is a profound verse, because if you love God then you are going to keep His commandments because]: ...On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (vs 38-40). God means what He says.

Jesus was asked by a man: 'What should I do to enter into life?' Jesus said, 'Keep the commandments!' That was in a Sabbath-keeping society. The man said, 'I've done them from my youth up.' And Jesus said, 'Then go sell all that you have and come and follow Me.' And the rich man went away grieved for he had many, many possessions. He put his carnal life ahead of serving Christ, and that's what many people do.

{see study book *The Seven General Epistles* and also the sermon series on 1-John. We go through every verse and study it and really go through it and it will help you to understand it.}

1-John 5:2: "By this *standard* we know... [God wants us to know!] ...that we love the children of God: <u>when we love God and keep His</u> <u>commandments</u>. For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome" (vs 2-3). *IF* you love God, what are you going to do? *You're going to keep His commandments*!

The whole Epistle of 1-John tells us there are 47 things that we are to *know* as Christians! 1-John 2:3: "And by this *standard* we know... [This isn't just some flippant little thought in our mind. This is something that we *know*, we've *proved*, that we *understand*, live by, that is a concrete part of our lives.] ...that we know Him: <u>if</u> we keep His commandments." What is one of the major commandments of His? *Remember the Sabbath Day*, *to keep in Holy*!

Verse 4: "The one who says, 'I know Him'... [How many Sunday-keepers say, 'Know the Lord! Know the Lord!' and yet, every week they're transgressing the Sabbath—aren't they? And every week they're setting themselves up as greater than God, because they say, 'Our Sunday is our Holy Day.'] ...and does not keep His commandments, **is a liar**, and the Truth is not in him." That's very profound! There are probably some very nice, sincere Sunday-keeping and teaching ministers that you would think, 'My, how can they be a liar?' Well, they are liars if they tell you that Sunday is the Lord's day. That is a blatant, absolute lie!

Verse 5: " On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word... [What did Jesus say? *Therefore*, *the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath Day!* Are you keeping that Word?] ...truly in this one the love of God is being perfected. By this *means* we know that we are in Him. Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked" (vs 5-6). You're under obligation to walk as Jesus walked.

- Did Jesus keep Sunday? No!
- Did He keep the seventh day Sabbath? Yes!
- Are you walking that way?
- Are you keeping the words of Christ?

Come to the Gospel of John, chapter 14, and here are some profound and simple statements upon the whole Word of God evolves; upon the whole relationship that you have with Christ.

John 14:15: "If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments." Are you keeping the commandments of God? Are you keeping the Sabbath Day of God? Remember, James said that if you 'offend in one of the commandments, you have broken all of them.' Maybe you're not murdering, you're not committing adultery, or lying and stealing.

- If you're not keeping the Sabbath, you're lying to yourself if you believe in Sunday.
- Then you are stealing time from God, because that's His time.
- You are having another god before you, because that's not what God said, and you are committing idolatry because you think your thoughts are better than God's.
- You are taking the name of God in vain, because you have rejected His Sabbath Day where He says to 'remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it Holy.'

If you love Him, you will keep His commandments. This has the force that you will "...keep the commandments—namely, My commandments." As Creator, He's the One Who gives the commandments—correct? *Yes*!

Verse 21: "The one who has My commandments and **is keeping** them... [present tense participle, on going, always keeping. Are you keeping the commandments of God? Are you keeping the Sabbath of God?] ...that is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.' Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?'" (vs 21-22). The manifestation comes through the commandments.

Verse 23: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him... [What are some of the words of Jesus? *Therefore, the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath!* Do you keep His words? *If you're not, don't think that the Father is loving you, because He's not!* You have to keep the words of the Father!] ...and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. The one who does not love Me does not keep My words..." (vs 23-24).

Now we're down to any word of Jesus; it's not a matter of just the Ten Commandments alone; it's not a matter of the New Testament or parts of it, or the Old testament or parts of it; it is *His saying or words* and this book—Old Testament and New Testament—contains the 'sayings' or words of God and of Christ and the inspired writings of the prophets and the apostles. Are you living by every Word of God?

"...and the Word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father's, Who sent Me" (v 24). So, in reality, if you reject the Sabbath, not only are you rejecting Christ, but you're rejecting the Father. You cannot say that you love the Lord because you're not keeping His commandments. That becomes very profound and very clear. You need to realize that!

Let's go back and see what Jesus did. A lot of people say that 'He went into the synagogue because the Jews were keeping the Sabbath, so they met on the Sabbath. Listen! You need to understand that in the time of Jesus Christ, about 1 in 3,000 attended synagogue. He didn't go there just because the Jews were there. He went there because it was a place of assembly on the Sabbath. We'll see this right here:

Luke 4:16: "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and according to **His custom...** [all during His life up to that point] ... He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day and stood up to read. And there was given Him the book of the prophet Isaiah; and when He had unrolled the scroll, He found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; for this reason, He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal those who are brokenhearted, to proclaim pardon to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth in deliverance those who have been crushed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' And after rolling up the scroll and delivering it to the attendant, He sat down; and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him. Then He began to say to them, 'Today... [the Sabbath Day] ...this Scripture is being fulfilled in your ears" (vs 16-21). Jesus preached on the Sabbath and He preached the Sabbath!

Verse 22: "And all bore witness to Him and were amazed at the words of grace that were coming out of His mouth; and they said, 'Is not this the son of Joseph?" They didn't believe Him. Just like today, people do not believe God when He says, *'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy!'*

After what He did they thought Christ was very presumptuous and they said that they were going to kill Him. They took Him out to throw Him over the brow of a hill.

Verse 31: "Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days." That means *every* Sabbath! And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority" (vs 31-32). *Power!* And God's Word is with power! Christ spoke with power and then we find that He cast out a demon right there in the synagogue, right on the Sabbath.

Verse 33: "Now a man who had an unclean spirit was in the synagogue; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Ah! What have we to do with You, Jesus *the* Nazarean? Have You come to destroy us? I know Who You are, the Holy *One* of God.' And Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him.' And after throwing him into the midst, the demon came out of him *and* did not hurt him in any way. Then astonishment came upon everyone, and they spoke to one another, saying, 'What message *is* this, that with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out?'" (vs 33-36).

- Jesus healed on the Sabbath!
- He preached on the Sabbath!

He did these things on the Sabbath Day to set an example for us that we should follow in His steps.

Right after Mark 2:28 when Jesus said that He was *Lord of the Sabbath*. He didn't come and say that God was going to change the Sabbath to Sunday. He would have to have Jesus say like He did of the commandment 'You've heard it said of old time to remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy, but I say to you that you are going to keep the first day of the week' (Matt. 5-7). You don't find that anywhere—do you? He said that He was Lord of the Sabbath. Look what He did on the Sabbath right after saying that:

Mark 3:1: "And again He went into the synagogue, and a man who had a withered hand was there. And they were watching Him *to see* if He would heal him on the Sabbath, in order that they might accuse Him. Then He said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Stand up *here* in the center.' And He said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbaths, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill?' But they were silent" (vs 1-4). This is showing that, yes, you should do good on the Sabbath.

What did Jesus do? Verse 5: "And after looking around at them with anger... [He was righteously indignant because of their hard hearts] ...being grieved at the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And he stretched *it* out, and his hand was restored *as* sound as the other.... [Rather than rejoicing in the goodness and grace of God and the power and the healing that God gave, look at what the Pharisees did]: ...Then the Pharisees left *and* immediately took counsel with the Herodians against Him *as to* how they might destroy Him" (vs 5-6).

They weren't concerned with their wrong attitude and their Sabbath-breaking by having hatred and murder in their hearts. They were not loving God. They were there on the Sabbath, but they weren't loving God. They weren't acknowledging Christ as the Savior. They weren't acknowledging Him as sent from God. That's really something!

Verse 7: "But Jesus withdrew..." and you have the rest of the story. Everywhere you go Jesus healed on the Sabbath, cast out demons and He preached on the Sabbath, setting an example of what should be done, because the Sabbath is Holy unto the Lord. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath Day!

Let's see how we are to worship God. It has to be the way that God says. This is the account of the woman at the well, John 4:19: "The woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain... [in Samaria, which had the counterfeit priesthood and temple] ...but you say that the place where it is obligatory to worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you shall neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem worship the Father. You do not know what you worship.... They were worshipping Simon Magus and false gods.]...We know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.... [that is out of Judea, not out of Samaria] ...But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth"" (vs 19-23).

When it says there are *true worshippers*, that is also saying there are false worshippers. What are *false* worshippers? *Sunday-keepers*, *traditionkeepers*—like the Jews. 'Full well you reject the commandments of God, but you may keep your traditions.' They are *false worshippers*! 'In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.' *False worshippers*! Well, 'let's meet on Sunday, because everybody does.' *False worshippers*!

"...In Spirit... [meaning you have to have God's Spirit. God does not give His Spirit to those who disobey Him. He gives His Spirit to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).] ...and in Truth." What is Truth?

- God's commandments are Truth!
- His Word is Truth!
- His laws are Truth!

So, you're going to worship Him according to the way that God wants. The whole lesson of Cain was that you can't worship God any ole way. God won't accept it. You think about that! If you're a Sundaykeeper, I want you to think long and hard about that, because you're worshipping Him with a lie. The God of Truth cannot be worshipped with a lie; just won't happen!

"...for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner.... [This also is

telling us that God is not seeking those who are not going to worship Him that way—doesn't it? Why is this?] ...God *is* Spirit!.... [Not A spirit. He *IS* Spirit!] ...and those who worship Him **must** [obligated] worship in Spirit and in Truth" (vs 23-24). He just rejected the false worship that they had in Samaria—correct? That's the lesson—isn't it? *Yes!* They had the typical pagan religions there.

By the way, most pagan religions worship on Sunday, because they worship the sun, and Sunday is the sun-god's day. Maybe you never thought about it that way. I remember one time driving by a church and they had their little notice out there what they were going to do on Sunday and they abbreviated the word for Sunday and it said, <u>Sun-Worship 10 o'clock</u>. I said to myself, *that says it all*!

Here's one where people will say, 'Jesus broke the Sabbath.' One man got up and said, 'Jesus taught us how to break the Laws of God.' Not so! This is the account of the man who had an infirmity and there was a special thing that God did once a year: an angel would come down and stir the waters at Bethesda and the first one in would be healed of whatever disease he had.

John 5:5: "Now, a certain man was there who had been *suffering with* an infirmity for thirtyeight years.... [He was well known to all the priests and everybody.] ...Jesus saw him lying *there*, and, knowing that he had been there a long time, said to him, 'Do you desire to be made whole?' And the infirm *man* answered Him, 'Sir, I do not have anyone to put me in the pool after the water has been agitated. But while I am going, another *one* steps down before me.' Jesus said to him, 'Arise, take up your bedroll and walk.'" (vs 5-8).

What kind of bed did the man have? It wasn't a modern-day 18-inch Beauty Rest with a box spring. He had a bedroll that he could just roll up and stick up under his arm. The Jews had a *traditional law* that you could not carry that. You don't find that back in the laws in the Old Testament. This was one of those added traditions that the Jews put on there, which was contrary to the spirit of keeping the Sabbath Day. That's why Jesus told him to take his bed and walk. Would Jesus command a person to sin? *No*!

Verse 9: "And immediately the man was made whole; and he took up his bedroll and walked. Now that day was a Sabbath. For this reason, the Jews said to the man who had been healed, 'It is *the* Sabbath *day*. It is not lawful for you to take up your bedroll.' He answered them, 'The one Who made me whole said to me, "Take up your bedroll and walk."" Then they asked him, 'Who is the one Who said to you, "Take up your bedroll and walk"?' But the man who had been healed did not know Who it was, for Jesus had moved away, *and* a crowd was in the place. After these things, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'Behold, you have been made whole. <u>Sin no more</u>..." (vs 9-14). Therefore, carrying the bedroll could not be sin.

This sickness, or whatever it was, came upon him because he had sinned. Sin is the transgression of the Law. He said, "….<u>Sin no more,</u> so that something worse does not happen to you.' The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had made him whole. And for this cause, the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on a Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is working until now, and I work'" (vs 14-17).

There is a spiritual work to do on the Sabbath: *The spiritual work of worshipping God*, *serving God*, *loosing the bonds of sin*. In Jesus' case, healing those who were sick. As a minister I anoint many people on the Sabbath, and they are healed; we do the same thing. Teach the Word of God.

Notice the Jews' reaction, v 18: "So then, on account of this *saying*, the Jews sought all the more to kill Him... [that galled them because He had the audacity to make null and void their little, tittle-wink law that they had on the Sabbath of not carrying a bed.] ...not only because He had **loosed** the Sabbath..."

Jesus never broke the Sabbath. That would have made Him a sinner. If He sinned, we would have no Savior. The Greek here is luo'—*loosed* the Sabbath from that constraint, from that particular command of not carrying your bedroll on the Sabbath. That's what He did. He didn't break the Sabbath under any stretch of the imagination.

"...but also *because* He had called God His own Father, making Himself equal with God" (v 18). They didn't accept Jesus as the Son of God. But He was, and look at the example that He set here. Let's see what the apostles did. Did they also keep the Sabbath? Let's see what Jesus told the apostle to do, the very last words He said to them before He ascended into heaven.

Matthew 28:18: And Jesus came *and* spoke to them, saying, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.... [therefore, I'm changing the Sabbath to Sunday. *NO*! It doesn't say that! A lot of people would like it to say that, but it doesn't say that—does it?] ...Therefore, go *and* make disciples [teach] in **all nations**... [all the Gentiles] ...baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; **teaching them to observe all things that I have** **commanded you**.... ['If you love Me, keep My commandments; therefore, the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath Day because He's the Creator of it. That's what's to be taught!] ...And lo, I am with you always, *even* until the completion of the age.' Amen." (vs 18-20).

Let's see how that on the Sabbath Day, after Jesus was long ascended into heaven, after everything that was fulfilled that Jesus did-and you cannot say that Jesus fulfills the Sabbath for you; you have to keep it-Jesus is your Sacrifice, to cover your sins. Jesus is your High Priest, but He is not going to do a single thing for you that you have to do. Jesus is not going to keep the Sabbath for you, because you're required to. Jesus will heal you when you're sick, because that is what He is to do. Jesus will intercede for you and answer your prayers as High Priest, but Jesus will not come down and keep you from committing adultery. Jesus will not stop you from stealing. Jesus will not stop you from lying. YOU have to keep those commandments! His perfect life did not come as any substitute to live in sin.

Some will say, 'Well, the apostles never taught to keep the Sabbath.' Well, we're going to see here in just a minute that this is when Paul went to the Gentiles in Greece, in Philippi.

Acts 16:13: "Then on the [Sabbath] day of the weeks we went outside the city by a river, where it was customary for prayer to be made; and after sitting down, we spoke to the women who were gathered together there. And a certain woman who worshiped God was listening; she was named Lydia and was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira... [a Gentile woman] ...whose heart the Lord opened to receive the things spoken by Paul. And after she and her household were baptized, she besought us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and lodge there.' And she constrained us" (vs 13-15). On the Sabbath Day! The very first convert was converted because of Sabbath preaching by the Apostle Paul. That's something!

Acts 17:1—now Paul comes to the city of Corinth: "And after journeying through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And as was the custom with Paul, he went in to them and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, expounding and demonstrating that it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from *the* dead, and *testifying*, 'This Jesus, Whom I am proclaiming to you, is the Christ'" (vs 1-3). Then they kick him out and chased him out of there.

Acts 18:4: "And he reasoned in the

synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded *both* Jews **and** Greeks."

Verse 6: "But when they set themselves in opposition and were blaspheming, Paul shook his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be upon your own heads. I am pure of it. From this time forward I will go to the Gentiles.'.... [Paul did not say, 'beginning tomorrow on Sunday.' NO!] ... And after departing from there, he went into the house of a certain one named Justus, who worshiped God, whose house adjoined the synagogue.... [right next to it] ...But Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with his whole house; and many of the Corinthians who heard believed and were baptized. And the Lord said to Paul in a vision in the night, 'Do not be afraid; but speak, and do not be silent, for I am with you; and no one shall set upon you to mistreat you because I have many people in this city.' And he remained *there for* a year and six months, teaching the Word of God among them" (vs 6-11)-meaning that every Sabbath for 19 months he was teaching, and teaching on other days, too.

Let's see an account where there was a perfect opportunity for the Apostle Paul to institute Sunday-keeping, Acts 13:14: "Now after passing through from Perga, they came to Antioch of Pisidia; and they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day *and* sat down. And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue said to them, 'Men, brethren, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, speak." (vs 14-15).

Then Paul stood up and preached, and he preached a sermon so powerful by saying that 'through Jesus Christ you can be justified that the Law of Moses could never justify you from. It caused a great uproar in the synagogue.

Verse 38: "Therefore, be it known to you, men and brethren, that through this man the remission of sins is preached to you. And in Him everyone who believes is justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses.... [notice the warning that he gave them]: ... Take heed, therefore, lest that which is spoken in the Prophets come upon you: 'Behold, you despisers, and wonder and perish; for I work a work in your days, a work that you will in no way believe, even if one declares it to you.' And when the Jews had gone out of the synagogue... [They left in a storm. I tell you, almost everywhere Paul went and preached in the synagogue, there was a riot.] ... the Gentiles entreated him that these words might be spoken to them on the next Sabbath" (vs 38-42).

What a perfect opportunity for Paul to say, 'No, under the New Covenant we keep Sunday, which we now call the Lord's day.' *He didn't do that*—did he? The Gentiles didn't even ask himdid they? Though Jupiter was worshipped in some of the towns round about, which was on Sunday, and Saturn was worshipped on Sunday. In Rome Saturn was worshipped on Saturday. But these were the Gentiles.

Verse 43: "Now after the synagogue had been dismissed, many of the Jews and the proselytes who worshiped there followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.... [A lot of people say that 'Sabbath-keeping is law, we're under grace.' You can't have grace without law, otherwise you have anarchy. What are we talking about? Sabbath*keeping and grace go hand-in-hand!*] ... And on **the** coming Sabbath, almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the Word of God. But when they saw the multitude, the Jews were filled with envy... [because they were losing power] ...and they spoke against the things proclaimed by Paul, and were contradicting and blaspheming" (vs 43-45). Nowhere do we find any place any day other than the seventh day Sabbath was kept by the apostles and the people of God.

Hebrews 4:4—talking about the seventh day Sabbath: "For He spoke in a certain place about the seventh *day* in this manner: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works'... [that's back in Gen. 2; he's giving an historical account of the Sabbath Day.] ...and again concerning this: 'If they shall enter into My rest'—consequently, since it remains *for* some to enter into it, and those who had previously heard the Gospel did not enter in because of disobedience" (vs 4-6).

That is the children of Israel didn't believe God. Out there in the wilderness they broke the Sabbath (Exo. 16) right after God gave them manna and quail. What did they do? *They went out the next Sabbath looking for manna!* God said, 'Don't go!' Then Moses went up on the mountain and they said, 'Where's Moses? Let's build this god!' So, they went back to calf-worship as in Egypt. All the way through what do we have? In Judges? 1st & 2nd Kings? We have the children of Israel is sinning against God, going after Ashteroth and Baal correct? That is Sunday-worship; Ashteroth is Sunday-worship!

Verse 7: "Again He marks out a certain day, 'Today,'.... [the 7th day] ...saying in David after so long a time (exactly as it has been quoted *above*) [Psa. 95], 'Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.'"

Right now, will you hear the voice of God? His Words? *or* Will you harden your hearts and say, 'Sunday is good enough for my folks; I've always kept Sunday and we have a nice church down here; we've got nice people down here and I'm a deacon; I've got this job'? Listen! Will you hear His voice, or harden your heart? *All of those are idols and excuses to continue in sin!*

Verse 8: "For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken *long* afterwards of another day. There remains, therefore, Sabbathkeeping for the people of God" (vs 8-9). And someone is surely going to say that's 'the Jews.' *NO!* It's not the Jews. The people of God include the Gentiles, as we saw earlier prophesied about correct? *Yes!*

Let's go to 1-Peter 2:9 and see that Peter calls the Gentiles the *people of God*: "But you *are* a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people for a possession *of God*, that you might proclaim His *excellent* virtues, Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people... [Just like we saw in the prophecy: 'Oh, don't reject me, God, because I'm a stranger.'] ...<u>but now are the people of God</u>..." (vs 9-10). And there 'remains Sabbath-keeping for the people of God.' Nothing could be more clear than that.

Now let's look at the summary of it; then we'll get to some thing concerning the Sabbath and the Scriptures, which will be even a longer list:

- 1. God created the seventh day Sabbath as a day of rest for all mankind from the beginning of creation.
- 2. The seventh commandment was given to the Israelites *before* Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Law.
- 3. The Sabbath commandment is the 4th of the Ten Commandments, and we are commanded to remember and to keep the seventh day Sabbath Holy.
- 4. God owns the Sabbath; it is His.
- 5. Jesus Christ is Creator of the Sabbath.
- 6. Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath Day which means that the Sabbath is the Lord's day, not Sunday.
- 7. Jesus observed the Sabbath and healed on the Sabbath.
- 8. The apostles never changed the day of worship to the first day of the week.
- 9. The Apostle Paul taught the Gentiles to observe the Sabbath.
- 10. The Bible nowhere teaches that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday.
- 11. In the New Testament—Heb. 4:9—is a direct commandment for the people of God to keep the Sabbath today.
- 12. Sabbath-keeping is essential for salvation and is a sign that we love God and keep His commandments.

That's quite a summary of what we've covered up to this point.

Biblical Truth concerning Sunday-keeping: <u>There is not one text in the Bible:</u>

- 1. that says the Sabbath was ever changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week
- 2. where the first day of the week is ever called *Holy*
- 3. where we are told to keep the first day of the week
- 4. that says Jesus kept the first day of the week
- 5. where the first day of the week is ever given any sacred title
- 6. that tells us to keep the first day in honor of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- 7. that any of the apostles ever kept the first day of the week as Sabbath
- 8. from the apostolic writings that authorizes Sunday observance as a new Sabbath of God
- 9. where it says that it was customary for the Church to observe or meet on the first day of the week
- 10. where we are told not to work on the first day of the week
- 11. where any blessings are promised for observing Sunday. Rather there are curses for breaking the Sabbath
- 12. where any punishment is threatened for working on Sunday
- 13. that says the seventh day is not God's Sabbath
- 14. where the apostles ever taught to keep the first day of the week as Sabbath
- 15. that says the seventh day Sabbath is abolished
- 16. where the first day is ever called the Lord's Day
- 17. where the first day was ever appointed to be kept as the Lord's Day
- 18. that says the Father or the Son ever rested on the first day of the week
- 19. where is says that the first day of the week was ever sanctified and hallowed as a day of rest
- 20. that says that Jesus, Paul or any of the other apostles taught anyone to observe the first day of the week as the Sabbath
- 21. that calls the seventh day Sabbath the Jewish Sabbath or calls Sunday the Christian Sabbath
- 22. authorizing anyone to abrogate, abolish or set aside God's Holy Sabbath Day or any other day

(From the Bible Association): I'm going to read you some things of the Truth concerning Sabbathkeeping—it's going to be amazing when we get done with all of this:

- 1. In the beginning God created the Sabbath Day.
- 2. God rested from His labors on the Sabbath Day.
- 3. The Sabbath was made for man—all mankind.
- 4. God blessed the seventh day, because on it He

rested from His work of creation.

- 5. God blessed the seventh day and named it *Sabbath*.
- 6. God not only blessed the seventh day, but He also sanctified it, that is made it Holy by His declaration.
- 7. There is no record in all the Scriptures that God ever removed His blessing from the Sabbath and placed it on the first day of the week.
- 8. The people of God kept the Sabbath before the Ten Commandments were given at Mt. Sinai.
- 9. God ordained that man should keep the Sabbath.
- 10. God forbad work on the Sabbath Day even in harvest time.
- 11. God promised the Gentiles, those of all nations, a blessing if they would keep the Sabbath.
- 12. God promised to bless anyone who keeps the Sabbath.
- 13. Nowhere in the Bible do we find the command for any other day of the week as Holy as a substitute or replacement for the seventh day Sabbath.
- 14. God calls the Sabbath His Holy Day.
- 15. The keeping of the Sabbaths—plural; weekly and annual—is a sign between God and His people.
- 16. The Sabbath commandment—one of the longest in the Ten Commandments—is one of the commandments that God gave to His people to observe to show our love and obedience toward God.
- 17. Jesus kept and observed the Sabbath as a habit which expressed His love and obedience toward God the Father.
- 18. Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath and as such the Sabbath is the true Lord's Day.
- 19. Jesus Christ recognized the Sabbath commandment as binding.
- 20. Jesus kept His Father's commandments, which included the seventh day Sabbath.
- 21. The Sabbath was observed at the time of the crucifixion.
- 22. Observance of the Sabbath was practiced years *after* the crucifixion.
- 23. Paul recognized and observed the Sabbath during his ministry—about $45_{A,D}$ and onward.
- 24. Paul taught the Gentiles on the Sabbath Day at their own request.
- 25. Paul preached to an entire city on the Sabbath Day.
- 26. Paul attended a prayer meeting on the Sabbath Day when no synagogue was available.
- 27. Paul's custom was to preach Jesus Christ on the Sabbath Day.
- 28. At Corinth, Paul preach every Sabbath for 18

months.

- 29. James recognized the seventh day Sabbath many years after Christ's resurrection.
- 30. The seventh day Sabbath will be observed and kept during the time of the Millennium.
- 31. No other day is given by Jesus Christ but the seventh day Sabbath to be observed as a Holy Day.
- 32. The sanctity of the seventh day was never changed by Jesus nor by the apostles to the first day of the week; neither was it changed by the resurrection of Jesus—nor otherwise— Jesus rose at the end of the Sabbath, not on Sunday.
- 33. Jesus Christ made it a part of our Christian requirement to receive eternal life that we keep all ten of the commandments.
- 34. The seventh day Sabbath remains as a rest for the people of God
- 35. Jesus warned that at the end-time, as the Tribulation was coming, that we should not 'flee on the Sabbath Day' showing that He expected people even during the Tribulation time to keep the Sabbath.
- 36. The sign of God's people and the end-time is that they would be keeping His commandments.

Now we're going to see some tremendous admissions by the Catholics concerning Sunday. As we do this, you're going to see and understand that these churches know—they have no excuse for breaking the Sabbath of God.

How do you prove that the [Catholic] church has the power to command feasts and holy days? By the very act of changing Sabbath to Sunday—which Protestants allow—therefore they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly and breaking most other feast days as commanded by the same church. Have you any other way that the [Catholic] church has the power to institute festivals of precept? Had she had not such power, she wouldn't have done it!

This is not answering the question. God never gave that power to anyone—no one!

She could not have substituted the observance of Sabbath for the first day of the week for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.

This is taught right in the catechism book:

Doctrinal Catechism by Stephen Keenan, (pg 174): The Catholic Church of its own infallible authority created Sunday a Holy Day to take the place of the Sabbath of the old law.

No man is infallible. The pope is a man. The Catholic Church is a human institution; it is not of God. They have no right, no authority, no sanction from God to do so.

The Kansas City Catholic, February 1893: The Catholic Church, by virtue of her Divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.

We're going to see that that is a lie! It was Constantine who changed it, the pagan Roman Emperor who professed Christianity but was never converted. The papacy went along with it.

> From Cardinal Gibbons: Which day is the Sabbath Day? Saturday is the Sabbath Day! Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church at the Council of Nicea in A.D. 366 transferred to solemnity from Saturday to Sunday!

They may have given an edict on that, but it was Constantine, as we will see, who changed the Sabbath to Sunday. Again, that's out of one of the Catholic doctrines (The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine). Why do Protestants acknowledge the same? If you're a Protestant and you're keeping Sunday, why are you keeping Sunday? *Well, we've always done it!* Why have you always done it? *Because you're following the Catholic Church!* The Protestant Reformation was never finished.

> There is no expressed commandment for observing the first day of the week as Sabbath instead of the seventh day. None whatsoever! Neither Christ nor the apostles or the first Christians celebrated the first day of the week instead of the seventh day of the week... (New York Weekly Tribune). The Scriptures nowhere call the first day of the week Sabbath. There is no Scriptural authority for so doing, nor, of course, any Scriptural obligation to keep it. (The Watchman Baptists)

The observance of the first instance of the seventh day rests on the testimony of the Church and the Church alone, not of God.

How long was the Sabbath Day observed in the Christian Church? For many centuries! In fact, it's observance never wholly ceased in the Christian Church. That is, the Church of God!

Mr. Moore, a learned clergyman of the

Church of England says, "The primitive Christians had great veneration for the Sabbath and spent the day in devotion and sermons. It is not to be doubted that they derived this practice from the apostles themselves."

They knew! The Protestants know! The Catholics know! They are without excuse! If you keep Sunday, you are also without excuse. You cannot say, 'Lord, I never knew.' Do you have a Bible in your house? If you answer yes, you have no excuse! What will you do now that you know that the seventh day is the Holy Sabbath of God?

Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

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- 1) Hebrews 11:6
- 2) Mark 2:27-28
- 3) Isaiah 55:6
- 4) Hebrews 1:6
- 5) Isaiah 55:6-7
- 6) Isaiah 56:1-7
- 7) Isaiah 58:13-14
- 8) Matthew 5:17-19
- 9) Matthew 22:37-40
- 10) 1 John 5:2-3
- 10) 1 John 3.2-3 11) 1 John 2:3-6
- 11) I John 2.3-012) John 14.15 21
- 12) John 14:15, 21-24 13) Luke 4:16-22, 31-36
- 14) Mark 3:1-7
- 15) John 4:19-24
- 16) John 5:5-18
- 17) Matthew 28:18-20
- 18) Acts 16:13-15
- 19) Acts 10:13-1
- 19) Acts 17:1-5
- 20) Acts 18:4, 6-11
- 21) Acts 14:3:13-15, 38-45 22) Hebrews 4:4-9
- 22) Heblews 4.4-9 22) 1 Datas 2.0 10
- 23) 1 Peter 2:9-10

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 1
- Ezekiel 20
- Revelation 3
- John 2
- Matthew 5-7
- Acts 5:32
- Genesis 2
- Exodus 16
- Judges
- 1-2 Kings
- Psalm 95

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- Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible
- The Seven General Epistles by Fred R. Coulter
- Doctrinal Catechism by Stephen Keenan

The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine ٠

Miscellaneous publications: • The Bible Association

- Kansas City Catholic (Feb. 1893) •
- ٠ Cardinal Gibbons
- The Watchman Baptists ٠

Sermon Series: Epistles of John

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