

The Holy Sabbath IV

Sabbath to Sunday: Have You Been Deceived?

Fred R. Coulter—November 11, 1999

We are going to cover how did the shift get started from Sabbath to Sunday. We'll also see who started it, when it was started and how it happened. It's very important for us to understand the history of it. First of all, I would like to read a quote from an unknown author. I don't have it exactly quoted, but this is from memory:

When lies have been taught and believed by the masses for generations and hundreds of years, when the truth is revealed, the speaker will be considered a raving lunatic

There are going to be some people who will consider what I'm speaking on here, what I've been doing concerning the Holy Sabbath, to be a raving lunatic! But even Christ was called 'mad.' So, that puts me in very good company if people feel that way. That's why we need to follow the Bible, and the Bible, as we've seen, is the Truth of God. The Bible is what gives us the understanding that we know. All through the Bible we have seen that everywhere—Old Testament and New Testament—only upholds the seventh-day Sabbath as the weekly day that God has commanded us to keep.

Let's go to Exodus 20 and read that commandment again. Let's look at it from a point of view, and analyze it just a little bit more so that we will understand it very thoroughly. This is so profound! This command also has a separate *perpetual* covenant, as we saw in Exo. 31. *It is to be perpetual!* We've also seen that it's not just the weekly Sabbath, but that it is also the annual Sabbaths. There are quite a few people who believe in the weekly Sabbath and keep it; like the Seventh Day Adventists. They believe it! They preach it! As a matter of fact I'm going to read some of the writings of the Seventh Day Adventists concerning the Sabbath when I get closer to the end of the sermon. The Church of God Seventh Day is another church that does that. The Seventh Day Baptists, and there are also some other smaller, scattered churches that keep the Sabbath.

The Bible Sabbath Association (BibleSabbathAssociation.org) lists all the Sabbath-keeping churches that they know of in the world. There are some 500 different organizations including: the Seventh Day Adventists, the Seventh Day Baptists, Church of God Seventh Day. Keeping the Sabbath is not a strange and unusual thing, except for those who are only use to Sunday and have never heard concerning the Sabbath. This command is a positive

command. You have no room for choice to figure one day in seven. A lot of people say 'one day in seven is good enough for me; that's good enough for God, it's good enough for me.' That isn't what He says here:

Exodus 20:8: "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God..." (vs 8-10). This means

- He owns it!
- It is His!
- He defines for us what we should and should not do!
- He is the One Who is God Who has given the commandments!
- He is the One Who created it!

Notice something here very clearly: the seventh day and the Sabbath are equated as *one*. It's not just one day in seven, but the seventh day. God has kept the calendar wherever it has been as a perpetual thing concerning the Sabbath from creation so that there is no time lost, although some people claim that there has been.

"...In it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter; your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your livestock, nor the stranger within your gates; for..." (vs 10-11). Here is one of the reasons for the Sabbath: you recognize God as Creator. If people would keep the Sabbath there would be no problem with evolution, because they would know that there is GOD:

- Who is Supreme!
- Who is Creator!
- Who is Lawgiver!
- Who gives us all the commandments that He has because He loves us!

All the commandments and all of the Law and the Prophets hang on the command of 'loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being.' If you do not love God you do not keep the Sabbath. ***If you do love God, you will keep the Sabbath!***

There are a lot of people who have everything all confused because of Sunday and they say they love God. But how can they love God when every week they are breaking the commandment concerning the Sabbath.

Verse 11: "For *in* six days the LORD made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in

them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath Day and sanctified it.” That is *He made it Holy!*

How did all of this get started? Christ gave us warnings over and over again. If you would like to have a good Bible study, get out your concordance and look up *beguile, deceive, deceiving, deceives*, and so forth, and you will see that Satan has been active. He’s the one who is deceiving the whole world! Christ gave us this warning, the very first thing that He told His disciples.

Matthew 24:3: “And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples came to Him alone, saying, ‘Tell us, ^(#1) when shall these things be? And ^(#2) what *shall be* the sign of Your coming, and of the completion of the age?’ Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, ‘Be on guard, so that no one deceives you. For many shall come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ”; and they shall deceive many”’ (vs 3-5).

This is what has happened. Sunday has been taught for so long and so loud and so thoroughly and so accepted that even under the pain of death that people believe, in many cases, that Sunday is the Sabbath. As a matter of fact, in Europe, they have calendars where they have moved Sunday from the first day of the week to the seventh day of the week. They haven’t changed the number of the days of the month, they have just changed the placement in the week. That does not make Sunday the seventh day of the week, because it is the first day of the week. It’s known all down through the centuries because the Jews know which day is the Sabbath Day. There can be no doubt that today, called Saturday, is the seventh day of the week.

Satan is busy and active, and Satan has his agents who are out there preaching *his* false doctrine, preaching *his* Sunday as the Sabbath. Let’s see something that is very profound. We live in a day of lies in government, in religion, in our lives. Our daily lives are fraught with all sorts of fantasies and fiction. All of that comes from Satan the devil.

Revelation 12:9: “And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent who is called the Devil and Satan, **who is deceiving the whole world**... [You need to understand that!] ...he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.” Satan has legions of demons who are called principalities and powers, the spiritual and elemental forces of this world. They lead the world, they guide the world, because God has turned it over to Satan the devil and he is even called ‘the god of this world.’ He does everything he can

- to go against God

- to go against the commandments of God
- to go against the love of God
- to go against the Truth of God
- to ridicule
- to besmirch it
- to destroy it if he can

We will see that *he can’t!*

How did it get started in the Church? Let’s turn back to the book of Jude and we will see that this is a deliberate planned attack by Satan to deceive the Church and those who call themselves Christian. We will see that at the time that Jude wrote—late 60s or early 70s_{A.D.}—the Church was already getting way off the track. Things were happening and transpiring that were coming against the brethren, they were giving up the faith and following those men who taught Sunday. Later I’ll read to you the historical account of how a lot of this came out of Alexandria, Egypt.

Jude 3: “Beloved, when personally exerting all *my* diligence to write to you concerning the common salvation, I was compelled... [It was absolutely necessary] ...to write to you, exhorting *you* to fervently fight for the faith, which once for all *time* has been delivered to the saints.” Are you earnestly contending for the faith of Jesus Christ that was delivered to the saints?

- the Truth of God
- the commandments of God
- the love of God
- the faith of God

all through the Spirit of God

- Are you contending toward that?

or

- Are you just sort of muddling along in a ‘lukewarm’ Laodicean rut?

If you are, watch out because you can be deceived, and we’ve seen one of the largest Sabbath-keeping churches in the world be deceived and give up on the Sabbath. Now they are enforcing Sunday! They are doing exactly what those people did in those days, as we find in the book of 3-John. Those are the presumptuous ministers casting out the true ministers. They were retaining the false brethren and casting out the true brethren. That’s how bad it got. Let’s go back and see how it got started.

Let’s see what Paul said. It happened immediately! Satan is there immediately to try and take away from people the Truth of God. He is there ever to deceive, and he sends all such nice, wonderful, comforting messages. He applies power and he applies persecution. He has his agents to do their inquisitions and their killing and martyring so that other people will see that as a lesson to not try and go God’s way. But God will never be defeated

in that, and true Christians will never be defeated in it. Here is what Paul wrote to the Galatians:

Galatians 1:6: “I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which *in reality* is not another *gospel*...” (vs 6-7). There is only *one true Gospel*, the *Gospel of Grace*, which is the *Gospel of Jesus Christ* and the *Gospel of the Kingdom of God!* There is only one true Gospel and that is contained in the New Testament. There is not another! It does not matter how many so-called early church fathers did their writings, they are not inspired of God! They set the tradition where then they began keeping Sunday.

“...but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ” (v 7). That’s what’s happened! They’ve perverted it! They have perverted it with: Sunday-keeping, Christmas, Easter, with all kinds of lies. I want you to understand how serious what we’re talking about really is before God. I want you to understand that it’s not a matter of choice. We either keep the Sabbath or we don’t! You have a choice to keep it or not to keep it, but in the final analysis is between good and evil—it’s not between something that is good vs something else that is good. Sabbath is good because God created it and it’s part of His Ten Commandments.

Sunday, the first day of the week is not good, it is evil because it’s a lie and it’s false and it comes from Satan; it is the day of the sun-god. In that sense, if you want to be a true Christian you have no choice but to keep the seventh day Sabbath. ***No other day has God ever sanctioned!***

Verse 8: “But if we... [Paul, Titus, Timothy or any of the other ministers or apostles that were with him.] ...or even an angel from heaven... [Remember, Satan the devil was Lucifer, an angel who *fell from heaven*—right? He rebelled against God!] ...should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, **LET HIM BE ACCURSED!**”

You think about that! If you think that you have salvation through Sunday-keeping, you’d better stop and think long and hard about that, because the truth is *you do not!* Can you have salvation with a lie? Can you have salvation with you being deceived and not knowing the Truth of God? *No!*

Notice, he says this twice. This is very important. You may want to really think about this. If you’re a Sunday-keeper and you keep Christmas and Easter all that sort of thing, or if you’re a Catholic and you bow down to idols, or if you’re a Hindu and you have 10,000 gods, or if you’re a Muslim and you

worship Allah and you worship on the sixth day of the week, you need to think long and hard about what this says here and what the Word of God really means. So, he repeats it again!

Verse 9: “As we have said before, I also now say again. **If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!**” What does *accursed* mean? *That you are cut off from God and headed to the Lake of Fire!* All of those teachers who reject the Sabbath and reject the commandments of God and say that the commandments have been done away, are in jeopardy of losing any chance of salvation and going into the Lake of Fire. They are preaching and teaching lies!

Verse 10: “Now then, am I striving to please men, or God?... [Sunday is very pleasing to men. After all ‘everybody goes to church on Sunday—don’t they?’ *No, they don’t!* But Sunday is *pleasing* to men!] ...Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Every teacher and minister needs to think about that very deeply and very hard, because unless you teach the Word of God, teach the Truth of God and preach the *true* Gospel—in spite of the fact that some people might not like it—if you change it to please men then you cannot be serving God.

We need to know and understand how serious this is concerning Sabbath and Sunday, or any other day. There’s quite a bit in 2-Corinthians concerning those who would be perverting the Gospel, how they did, and the means of doing so. Here’s one thing that’s important. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and said, ‘Show yourself approved unto God, a workman rightly dividing the Word of Truth’ (2-Tim. 2:15). That’s a very profound and important statement that Paul wrote to Timothy. You have to ‘rightly divide’ the Truth of God.

Just because a man will stand in a pulpit and open the Bible and say, ‘My text for today is...’ and read it and then give *his ideas* and *his sermon* and twist and turn the Scriptures... If you don’t understand the Scriptures, you’re going to be deceived! Reading and quoting Scriptures alone is no guarantee of Truth.

2-Corinthians 2:17: “For we are not like the many who for *their own* profit are corrupting the Word of God...” Notice, even in Paul’s day, there were many who corrupted the Word of God. I want you to think about that! How much more is even corrupted today?

I could give two or three sermons on what has happened to the text of the Bible—the *New International Version*, the *New American Standard Bible* and the *RSV*. They are perverted! They have

corrupted the Word of God! They have removed—in some cases—as many as 63,000 words from the Bible.

You need to get the book: *The New Age Bible Versions*. You need to read that, because if you use a *New International Version* you have already taken the first step toward deception! You need to understand that *many*—and they were doing it there (in Paul’s day)—but Paul says, “...but we speak with sincerity, as from God, *and* before God, *and* in Christ” (v 17). In other words, he was only looking to God; he was accountable to Him! He wasn’t looking to men. He was not out there to please himself. He was not out there to please other people. All you have to do is read 1st & 2nd-Corinthians and Galatians to understand that.

2-Corinthians 4:1: “Therefore, having this ministry, according as we have received mercy, we are not fainthearted. For we have personally renounced the hidden things of dishonest gain... [the *hidden things of dishonesty* are those things which are the first step to preaching deception.] ...not walking in *cunning* craftiness...” (vs 1-2)—not having a secret agenda. We have seen that in some Sabbath-keeping Churches of God where there have been those men who have snuck in, just like Jude said, ‘unawares’! Who sat there and waited for decades that they had a crafty agenda, and as soon as they had the opportunity to seize the power—which they did—they began introducing damnable heresies! We’ll see what Peter has to say about that later on.

“...nor handling the Word of God deceitfully...” (v 2). How do you handle the Word of God deceitfully? *You improperly put the Scriptures together!* You come along and you allegorize it. The Catholic Church is famous for allegorizing Scriptures by saying ‘it doesn’t mean the literal thing that you read, but there is a story in it. It’s a myth for us to gain Truth’—which is a contradictory statement. *A myth is a lie!* You can’t gain Truth from a myth!

Another way of handling the Word of God deceitfully is to lock it up in the little sanctuary over the altar and never let anyone read it. Another way is to read a Scripture—which we’ll do next time concerning the first day of the week—and say ‘see, they kept the first day of the week.’ *That’s handling the Word of God deceitfully!*

“...but by manifestation of the Truth...” (v 2). Let’s understand something concerning *Truth*. What is the Truth? When Christ was being tried, Pilate said to Christ, ‘What is Truth?’ ^(sarcastically) And that’s the way most people are today. They don’t know what Truth is, and furthermore, most of them don’t care. If they hear the Truth, the one who is

speaking it becomes a raving lunatic or stands in the way of their deceitful, lustful way of living and live in the lies that they enjoy.

John 17:17—Jesus’ prayer: “Sanctify them in Your Truth; Your Word is the Truth.” The Word of God is Truth; Christ is Truth. He said, ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.’ God is a God of Truth. Is it possible for anyone to truly worship the God of Truth with lies? How can that be? How can such a thing ever take place?

Psalm 119 very clearly tells us what Truth is. Paul said, ‘But by manifestation of the Truth.’ This Psalm is a very long Psalm, 176 verses, and I believe that this Psalm really gives us the prophetic view that Jesus had of the commandments of God. Remember, Jesus always did the will of God. Jesus always did the things that pleased God—didn’t He? *Yes, He did!* Do a study of all of Psa. 119 and see how it exalts and upholds:

- the laws of God
- the statutes of God
- the judgments of God
- the commandments of God
- the testimonies of God
- the precepts of God
- the love of God

—all of those things are there. This really is New Testament doctrine on how a converted person needs to view the Word of God. Did you know that? If you knew that then you would want to keep the Sabbath.

Psalm 119:142: “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness...” Since all the commandments of God are righteousness, and His “...righteousness is an everlasting righteousness...”:

- God was righteous before He created the world
- He was righteous in the way that He did it
- He was righteous in giving the Sabbath and creating it and giving it to all mankind
- He was righteous in giving the laws and commandments to Israel
- He was righteous in His dealings with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- He was righteous with Christ
- Christ was righteous to us

And it’s an “...everlasting righteousness...” and we are to have the righteousness of Christ. Notice what follows “...and Your Law is the Truth” (v 142). When Paul talks about the manifestation of the Truth, nowhere does he go against the commandments of God; he magnifies them!

Verse 151: “You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are Truth.” Can anything be more plain than that? Is the Sabbath Truth? Is the seventh day Sabbath the Truth of God and what we

should keep? Can you worship God on that day with full knowledge and understanding that it is Truth and receive a blessing from God and grow in grace and knowledge and receive salvation from God and righteousness from God? *Absolutely! No doubt about it!*

Verse 160: “Your Word is true from the beginning, and every one of Your righteous ordinances endures forever.”

Verse 172: “My tongue shall speak of Your Word... [That’s what needs to be when there’s any preaching and teaching the wholesome words of Jesus Christ. Can there be anything greater than preaching the words of God, which He has inspired and given and preserved for us? *No!*] ...for all Your commandments are righteousness.” Since God is Lawgiver and He gave the laws and commandments, they’re all righteous.

2-Corinthians 4:2: “For we have personally renounced... [given up, forsaken in the watery grave of baptism] ...the hidden things of dishonest gain, not walking in *cunning* craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the Truth, we are commending ourselves to every man’s conscience before God. But if our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing [lost]” (vs 2-3). If you don’t understand the Truth about the Sabbath, you are in a category that you could be lost. That may come as a shock, because the whole world is doing it. You need to think on that.

Verse 4: “In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe...” Satan is deceiving the whole world, and he has blinded the minds of those who believe not! If you don’t believe in the Sabbath, how can you believe in the true Christ? Christ kept the Sabbath! Christ was Creator of the Sabbath before He came in the flesh; He was the Lord God of the Old Testament Who created the Sabbath; Who gave it to mankind; Who gave it to Israel. ‘Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.’

If you take what I’m saying and say, ‘Well, he’s just one of these lunatic preachers out there and he’s just stuck on this Sabbath Day. All these people in the world can’t be wrong, and all these religious leaders can’t be wrong.’ *They are!*

Notice what happens: “...lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them” (v 4). They cut themselves off from the knowledge of God and the Truth of God.

If you believe that Sunday is the day to worship on, instead of the seventh day Sabbath, then you are blinding your mind and letting Satan blind

your mind and you cannot see the glorious light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You may use His name; you may read Scriptures; you may sing songs; but it’s all your own righteousness, it’s not from God! The righteousness of God comes from His commandments. The righteousness of God comes from the imputing the righteousness of Christ to those who repent and are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. He’s not going to give His Holy Spirit to anyone who doesn’t obey Him.

Let’s see that. This is very, very important because a lot of people get out there and say, ‘How can we be wrong? When I go to Sunday services I feel so good!’ Well, Satan wants you to feel good. As long as you’re deceived, he wants you to feel just wonderful about it. But notice what Peter said when they were hauled before the Sanhedrin for preaching Christ:

Acts 5:28—“Saying, ‘Did we not order you by a *direct* command not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, with *the* purpose of bringing this man’s blood upon us.’ But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, ‘**We are obligated to obey God rather than men**’ (vs 28-29). You also have that choice—don’t you?

- Are you willing to obey God rather than men?
- Are you willing to step out on faith and forsake Sunday, Christmas, Easter and all the pagan holidays of this world and obey God?
- To seek Him in Spirit and in Truth?

That’s something only you can answer. If you are:

- You need to move away from Sunday!
- You need to repent of Sunday-keeping!
- You need to repent of Christmas-keeping!
- You need to repent of Easter-keeping!
- You need to repent of keeping the so-called Lord’s Supper!

See the book *The Christian Passover*—it will fully explain the whole Gospel of God:

- the meaning of the life of Christ
- the meaning of His sacrifice
- the meaning of His death
- the meaning of what we do when we partake of the Christian Passover

The so-called ‘Lord’s Supper is just another one of these perversions that men have lied to you about. It’s not the Truth of God! It is not of God! Those things cannot be of God. They are not of God, and they are not going to be of God. God will never sanctify it. God will never approve it. God will never accept it. How do I know that?

“...‘**We are obligated to obey God rather than men.** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus Whom you killed *by hanging Him* on a tree. Him has God exalted by His right hand *to be* a Prince and Savior, to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel. And we are His witnesses of these things, as *is* also the Holy Spirit, which God has given to those who obey Him” (vs 29-32). You can’t receive the Holy Spirit unless you’re willing to repent of your sins and obey God. Jesus said, ‘If you love Me, keep My commandments.’

We’ll come back to what Jesus said about false prophets. That should be another study that you should go through and read all the places concerning false prophets.

Matthew 7:15: “But beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing, for within *they* are ravening wolves.” I have yet to have one of them come up and say, ‘Hey, I’m a ravening wolf.’ He’ll come up and purr and be sanctimonious and pet your hand and pat you on the back and say nice, sweet things to you, because he’s an agent of Satan the devil to lead you away from God. If he’s nice and he appears sincere, or he appears to be dynamic, then he’s got to be a man from God. **WRONG!** *Whom God sends speaks the words of God!* If they don’t speak the words of God, God never sent them.

Verse 16: “You shall know them by their fruits.... [You judge the fruit by the commandments of God.] ...They do not gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles, do they? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a corrupt tree produces evil fruit” (vs 16-17). It’s the roots! If they’re rooted in Christ they’ll bring forth good fruit. If it’s not rooted in Christ it’s going to bring forth evil fruit, regardless of how good it looks. Remember the account of Adam and Eve? *Eve looked at the fruit and saw that she desired it, that it was pleasant, that it was fruit to make one wise!* But it was corrupt fruit!

Verse 18: “A good tree cannot produce evil fruit, nor can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree *that is* not producing good fruit is cut down and is cast into the fire. Therefore, you shall assuredly know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one **who is doing**... [the Greek word is a present tense participle is ‘poieo’—*practicing*] ...**the will of My Father** Who *is* in heaven” (vs 18-21).

- Are you practicing the will of God?
- Is not the seventh day Sabbath the will of God?
- Is not every Word of God the will of God?

Stop and think about it a minute! If it’s the will of

God and any man come and declare the will of God to be null and void... He can, but is God going to oblige him by making *His will* null and void? *Of course not!*

“...but the one who is doing the will of My Father Who *is* in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day... [the judgment day] ...‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name?... [use the name *Lord Jesus*, and as Jesus said, ‘deceive many.’] ...And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?’” (vs 21-22). ‘Why, Lord, we had churches, hospitals hospice, all the things to feed the poor—we did all of those things, and yes, we even trained them where we had *mass* every morning. They were so righteous. They would come into the cathedral and bow down to the virgin Mary and do all of the rituals just right.’

Verse 23: “And then I will confess to them, ‘**I never knew you.** Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness.’” That is, being against the Laws of God!

Let’s see some more encounters that the Apostle Paul had with false prophets and false apostles, and even how the Corinthians all caught up in their carnal religion, which God’s way is not a ‘religion.’ Sometimes we have to be a little sarcastic or cynical, like the Apostle Paul was here, because of what these false apostles were doing.

2-Corinthians 11:1: “I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ” (vs 1-2). This means that anyone who is a true Christian, who has received the Holy Spirit of God and is betrothed to Christ by that Spirit through baptism, to become the bride of Christ, they are to remain virgins. But if they go out and dabble in false religions and get involved in lies and believe false apostles, then they lose their virginity. They may be able to repent and still be ‘saved.’ But the question is open: Will they still be part of the bride of Christ? *God will have to make that decision!*

Paul is talking to those who were supposed to be converted, v 3: “But I fear, lest by any means... [any way possible] ...as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from *the* simplicity that *is* in Christ. For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus...” (vs 3-4).

There is only one. If in your church you have pictures of a longhaired Jesus, *you have another Jesus.* First of all, you’re not to have any pictures of Jesus, because that’s an idol. Secondly,

long hair is a 'shame for man to have long hair' and Jesus never sinned, so He never had long hair. That's another Jesus.

"...whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit... [one of the elemental spirits of this world which comes through vain philosophy] ...which you did not receive, or a different gospel..." (v 4). There we go again, another gospel—changing, twisting and perverting the Gospel. That's what happens when they changed from Sabbath to Sunday. They change it, pervert it and twist it and turn it upside down. They did away with the Holy Days of God. Did away with the Christian Passover.

Look, if you're just beginning to understand about the Sabbath and coming out of Sunday, let me tell you, you'd better hurry up and start getting with it, because there is not much time for you to know and understand the Truth. You have been so deceived! For me to say that with the urgency that I am, maybe you consider me a raving lunatic! Well, I don't know, that's up to you.

"...another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you did not accept, you put up with it as *something* good.... [You just count it all wonderful. 'Oh, isn't that lovely!'] ...But I consider myself in no way inferior to those highly exalted *so-called* apostles" (vs 4-5). No reference to Peter. This is the 'hot-shot' false apostles.

Verse 13: "For such *are* false apostles—deceitful workers... [agents of Satan the devil] ...who are transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." God never called them! God never intended them to be preaching and teaching or to be apostles! They took it presumptuously upon themselves at the behest of Satan the devil and deceitfully sent their representatives of Christ, and the greatest one who has done that on earth today is the pope of the Roman Catholic Church. He's not of God, never has been of God, and he is doing the deceitful things that are all throughout the Bible. He leads people into idolatry. He leads people into sin. He absolutely denounces Sabbath-keeping, denounces Holy Day-keeping, denounces and has said that we should never ever interpret the Bible. If that offends you and I sound like a raving lunatic, **then you are in deep trouble with God!** That is the truth!

Verse 14: "And *it is* no marvel, for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, *it is* no great thing if his servants also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness—whose end shall be according to their works" (vs 14-15). We read that in Matt. 7—didn't we? *Yes, we did!*

Verse 16: "Again I say, no one should consider me a fool; but if otherwise, receive me even as a fool, that I also may boast a little. What I am *now* saying, I do not speak according to *the* Lord, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. Since many boast according to *the* flesh, I also will boast" (vs 16-18).

All of these great ceremonies, all of these great cathedrals, all of this money, all of the pomp, oh how great this man is, how great that man is glorying *after the flesh*. If you go through the rosary and you go to the Vatican and you are there when the pope comes out and you bow down, *you are going after the flesh!* Those are all fleshly things!

Verse 19: "For since you are *so* intelligent, you gladly bear with fools." Listen! The truth is that if you believe in Sunday-keeping and what those Sunday-keeping preachers teach you, you are *accepting fools gladly!* Think about it! If they are teaching you to sin, they are teaching you foolishness!

Seeing that you yourselves are 'wise,' v 20: "For you bear *it* if anyone brings you into bondage... [That's what happens when you go to Sunday-keeping; you're into the bondage of sin.] ...if anyone devours *you*, if anyone takes *from you*, if anyone exalts himself, if anyone beats you on the face. I speak as though we were under reproach for being weak; but in whatever *way* anyone else is bold (I speak in foolishness), I also am bold. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they *the* seed of Abraham? So am I" (vs 20-22). Are they the seed of David? *So am I!* What does this tell us? There were those going around saying,

- I'm from Jerusalem
- I'm from Judea.
- I'm from Galilee.
- I was there when Jesus healed all those people and He was a wonderful, lovely man.

But since then we have a new revelation. We have a new thing that we've added to the list.'

Verse 23: "Are they servants of Christ? (I am speaking as if I were out of my mind.)..."—as insane! They are not the ministers of Christ! So, if I sound like a raving lunatic to you, you have the shoe on the wrong foot! All those false preachers who believe in Sunday and teach these things are the ones who are insane.

In the very first Epistle that the Apostle Paul ever wrote, that the 'mystery of iniquity' was already working. We see it through 1st, 2nd, & 3rd John, that all of these false teachers and prophets were coming in and twisting and turning the Gospel upside down and leading disciples astray and getting

them to believe in false doctrines.

2-Thessalonians 2:7: “For the mystery of lawlessness is already working; only *there is* one Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of *the* midst. And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming)” (vs 7-8). We are coming upon a day when all the ‘religions’ of the world are going to do just like they did in the days of Constantine.

They were all given freedom in worship, including Christians, if they would keep Sunday. We are coming back to a one-world religion, and it’s going to happen in our time, and that is the one right here:

Verse 9: “*Even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders.” Weeping Madonnas, bleeding crucifixes, fire from heaven, great and undeniable miracles (Rev. 13). It will look like a lamb, but will speak as a dragon, because it will speak against the *way of God* and bring in all the satanic religions in it.

Verse 10: “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness...” Do you think that you can stand against all the *deceivableness of unrighteousness*

- if you are not on God’s side?
- if you don’t have the Spirit of God?
- if you don’t want the Word of God?
- if you don’t understand the Truth of God?

Do you think you can stand that day? *No way!* You are going to perish!

“...in those who are perishing **because they did not receive the love of the Truth...**” (v 10). We’ve already discovered what the Truth is—right?

If you don’t love the Sabbath and the Holy Days of God—which are part of the Word of God—the commandments of God, the Word of God and the Law of God, ***you do not love the Truth!*** If you don’t believe what I’ve read to you *from the Scriptures, you do not believe the Truth!* A penalty is going to come upon you that is going to come upon the whole world, ***because they don’t love the Truth!*** They love to live in fantasyland; they love to believe in a lie. Everything about our modern life is built upon—religiously and economically—on lies, satanism and demonism! That is the truth! What is going to happen if you don’t believe the Truth?

“...they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved. And for this cause, God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe *the lie*” (vs 10-11). All of those who believe the lies will believe it with the

same intensity and sincerity that they should believe the Truth. It’s a strong delusion and it is coming.

- Do you want to be deceived?
- Do you want this *strong delusion* to come upon you because you won’t believe the Truth?

or

- Do you want to really come to God and repent and be baptized and receive the Spirit of God and to know the love of God and the Truth of God, and to do the things that are pleasing in His sight?

The choice is yours! God has set before you ‘life and death, good and evil,’ but He commands you to *choose life* and to love Him!

How did all of this get started? Before we get there I want to read some things concerning: Do they know? Do the liars know they’re lying? We will see that the answer is ***YES!*** When a liar comes to the point that he is so confident, he will brag on his lies.

Here’s an admission concerning the Sabbath Day. We already read the Scripture that the ‘priests have hid their eyes from My Sabbath’—they’ve hidden them!

Incidentally, there is no proof in scripture that God willed the Sabbath to be changed from Saturday to Sunday, so that those non-Catholics who do not accept the value of tradition as a source of faith...

The Catholics say that ‘we believe in the Bible *and* the traditions of the fathers *and* the words of the pope.’ ***God said no such thing!*** Jesus said that you need to ‘believe the Word of God.’ All the traditions that we have seen go against God’s way.

...should logically still observe Saturday as the Sabbath. (*This Is The Faith: Catholic Theology For Laymen*, Francis J. Ripley, p. 176).

Now, from *Faith of our Fathers* by Cardinal Gibbons (also author of *The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire*):

You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation...

The whole Bible! Does he know that that is true? ***Yes!*** Notice, they are admitting that they are enforcing a non-Biblical thing, so therefore, they are enforcing a lie and they’re bragging about their lies, and bragging about their power and authority!

...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.

from *The Catholic Sunday*: What right do the Protestant churches have to observe that day?

The Protestant Reformation started out really fine and was going great guns, but it got stopped and it was never finished. Now all roads lead back to Rome and it's all over the Sabbath/Sunday issue.

Take for instance, the day we celebrate—Sunday. What right do the Protestant churches have to observe that day. None whatsoever! You [Protestants] say it is to obey the commandment “Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.” But Sunday is not the Sabbath according to the Bible and the record of time.

That includes all the places where it's the first day of the week. That includes all the excuses that time has been lost.

Everyone knows that Sunday is the first day of the week, while Saturday is the seventh day, and the Sabbath, the day consecrated as a day of rest. It is so recognized in all civilized nations. It was the Holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week.

They did secondarily. It was the pagan Roman Emperor Constantine whom the Roman Catholics look upon as being Christian, but he was never a Christian. It was the ‘Holy’ Catholic Church—there's nothing Holy about the Catholic Church, by the way; God calls it an ‘abomination’ and the ‘mother of harlots’—that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week.

And it not only compelled all to keep Sunday, but at the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 364, anathematized those who kept the Sabbath and urged all persons to labor on the seventh day under penalty of anathema.

Which church does the whole civilized world obey? Protestants call us every horrible name they can think of antichrist, the scarlet colored beast, Babylon, etc.—and at the same time profess great reverence for the Bible, and yet by their solemn act of keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the power of the Catholic Church.

Quite an admission— isn't it?

The Bible says: “Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.” But the Catholic Church says, “No, keep the first day of the week,” and the whole world bows in

obedience. (Father T. Enright, Roman Catholic Priest, Kansas City, MO)

That is arrogance at its height! Now let's read some Protestant admissions. Do they know? Do the leaders of the religions of this world know? *YES!*

The Lord's Day is not sanctified by any specific command or by any inevitable inference. In all the New Testament there is no hint or suggestion of a legal obligation binding any man, whether saint or sinner, to observe the Day. Its sanctity arises only out of what it means to the true believer.” (J. J. Taylor (Baptist), The Sabbatic Question, p. 72.)

Dr. R. W. Dale (British Congregationalist): “It is quite clear that, however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath. The Sabbath was founded on a specific, Divine command. We can plead no such command for the obligation to observe Sunday. There is not a single sentence in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday (The Ten Commandments, pp. 127-129).

Alexander Campbell (founder of Disciples of Christ): But, “say some,” it was changed from the seventh to the first day. Where? when? and by whom? No man can tell.

We're going to see, yes, we can tell!

No; it never was changed, nor could it be, unless Creation was to be gone through again: for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to the reason, can be changed! It is all old wives' fables to talk of the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that august personage changed it who changes times and laws ‘ex officio’—I think his name is Doctor Antichrist.”(The Christian Baptist, Feb.1, 1824, vol. 1, # 7).

“The first day of the week is commonly called the Sabbath. This is a mistake. The Sabbath of the Bible was the day just preceding the first day of the week. The first day of the week is never called the Sabbath anywhere in the entire Scriptures. It is also an error to talk about the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change” (First Day Observance, pp. 17, 19).

Now let me read you some quotes here. And this is taken from S.D.A. Outreach Organization,

“Who changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday? Was it the Roman Catholic Church? The Roman Catholic Church says yes, it was the Council of Laodicea in 364_{A.D.} But that was secondary. It was changed by Constantine.”

Now let’s go to Daniel 7 first, and let’s read a prophecy of how it was to be changed. And it was changed by the ‘little horn’; that is, the one that raised itself up. A lot of people think that’s the papacy, but it’s not. *It was Constantine!*

Daniel 7:24: “And the ten horns out of this kingdom *are* ten kings that shall arise. And another shall arise after them. And he shall be different from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change the set times and the laws.... [It’s exactly what has happened with Sabbath/Sunday, Christmas and Easter, and all of that.] ...And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and one-half time” (vs 24-25). And it comes right down to the second coming of Christ.

It is claimed that Constantine’s edict of March 7, 321_{A.D.} changed the day. Constantine’s edict reads: “On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrates and the people residing in cities rest. Let all workshops be closed...”

We need to understand: *Sunday laws are coming again!* They are being pushed in Europe right now, and they are being pushed from a supposedly non-religious sense through economics, by saying we have better, more stable economics if we all have one day of rest.

...Let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agricultural may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits.”

What I want to read now is the story, or the history of Constantine, the man who changed the Christian church. Because Constantine was the most important figure to amalgamate those professing Christians and pagans, and bring them into a position where the Roman Catholic Church could be formed. This is going to be a little long, and it may be a little tedious. But I want you to listen at the profound message that this says, and the true history of it:

As far as the history of Christianity is concerned, Constantine was one of the most influential men that ever lived. From the time that the Bible ended, about the

year A.D. 96....

It’s very important to understand that the Catholics did not have anything to do with the canonization of the text. It was the apostles of Christ, and it was finished by the time John died.

...From that time until Martin Luther nailed his theses to the church door in 1517...

Which was October 11, 1517. By the way, the Catholics and Lutherans have signed a concordant that they are all back together again; and they signed it in the Wittenberg Cathedral where Martin Luther nailed the theses to the door. Lutheranism is dead. Protestantism is dead. The last coffin that’s going to come into Protestantism is going to be when the monarchy of England allows a Catholic to sit on the throne. The Reformation will be dead in Europe. And the only singular place it will be left is in the United States of America, and Canada, and perhaps Australia and New Zealand.

There was no single person that so changed the course of church history as did Constantine. Indeed, his influence was so vast that it continues to tower over Christendom to our own time, both in church customs and in church government. We owe a lot to Constantine’s intervention. It is for that reason that this biography has been prepared. Here is the man who changed history. If you are a Christian you will want to read this brief story, for it will explain many things to you. Without a clear understanding of what took place during the life of Constantine it is difficult to understand the simple pure life, doctrines, and church government that the people of God had before he came on the scene.

After the crucifixion the followers of Christ carried the good news of salvation to lands near and far off. But that message was carried in spite of the rulers of Rome, who worshiped heathen deities and frowned on the new religion. In the two hundred and forty years between A.D. 64 and 304, there were several major persecutions of Christians by Roman emperors. Fortunately each period of persecution was short-lived, or the faithful followers of Christ would have been blotted from the earth.

Yet, as it always does, persecution had a purifying effect on Christians, whether they were located in the wicked cities or out in the farmlands. In the province of God problems and trials were needed, for

many of the Christians were gradually uniting with the world in the observance of heathen beliefs and practices. A surprisingly large number of pagan concepts that entered into the Christian church in the first three centuries of the Christian era originated in Alexandria, Egypt, or in the city of Rome.

For some reason, those two local Christian churches were more modernizing than most other congregations. At that time Alexandria was one of the largest cities in the Roman Empire. A worldly Christian seminary was located there and its faculty occupied itself with an ongoing new modeling of the Christian faith.

Heathen ideas from pagan religions in Egypt, Babylon, Persia, and Asia Minor were explored, adopted, and taught to the ministerial students at the seminary. From there the ideas had a way of going to Rome, where the leaders of the local church there divided their time between copying worldly customs and trying to urge their adoption by all the other Christian organizations in the Roman Empire. In brief, Alexandria was surprisingly innovative in transforming Egyptian, Persian, Babylonian, and Greek paganism into Christianity, and Rome was amazingly bold in seeking to acquire acceptance of those new ideas in other Christian churches.

It is interesting to note that the very same thing happened to Mithra. Just as soon as the essential aspects of Mithraism had been officially brought into the Catholic Church Mithraism disappeared within a century. Mithra was no longer needed, for his worship was now within the Christian church..." And we'll rephrase that and say the false Christian Church, which became to be called Catholic.

"Who was Mithra? In the Roman Empire he was the most important pagan god of the first three centuries after the time of Christ. In order to better understand Mithraism, we need to go back in history. The various days of the week in ancient times were called 'the first day,' 'the second day,' etcetera. Those were their Bible names.

But just before the birth of Christ they were given new names—the day of the sun, the day of the moon, etcetera, which is Sunday and Monday, in honor of

different heavenly bodies. This is known as the planetary week. Each day was ruled over by a different god, but the most important of them was the sun-god that ruled over the first day of the week. It was his day, the day of the sun, and all the worship of the week had its focus on the worship of the sun on the first day.

Now, although these names of the week are relatively new, the worship of the sun-god was not. It was one of the most ancient forms of worship, and is represented by the solar disk worship found on nearly every continent in the world. Fawcett tells us that sun worship was the earliest idolatry."

Now then, he explains how that comes through ancient Israel too. "Now this is where Mithra comes in. Just as the planetary week—each day named for different planets in the sky—played a very important part in the worship of the sun, so Mithra became important as the leading sun-god after the time of Christ. By the beginning of the first century Mithraism had become the largest sun worship cult in the western world. Within the next two hundred years it became the largest pagan religion in the Roman Empire, surpassing all others. The Romans called him by the new name, Sol Invictus: "Invincible Sun."

And we'll see later, that's what Constantine was told to conquer by.

It is impossible to properly explain the dramatic changes that took place in Christianity without mentioning Mithraism. For during the first three centuries after the death of Christ it became the greatest pagan rival of Christianity.

In Mithraism was an outstanding counterfeit. It had such features as a dying and raising god-savior; special religious suppers; special holy days, and the weekly cycle that was different than that of the Christians', the Sun-day. An introductory baptism of its converts in the blood of a slain bull, as well as several other similarities. It counterfeited the religion of the true God more cleverly than any other religion up to that time in history. Mithra was especially worshiped by the Roman soldiers.

And wherever they went throughout the Empire they spread the worship of Mithraism. When Augustus Caesar became

emperor several decades before the birth of Christ, Mithraism was already spreading westward from Asia into Europe and throughout the Roman Empire. Since it was the Roman generals that frequently took command on the death of an emperor, this hastened the spread of Mithraism.

As might be expected, within the passing of time the more worldly Christians of the Roman Empire began keeping the first day of the week, as well as the seventh day.

And that's exactly what happened when they took down the largest Sabbath-keeping church in the world. They started keeping Saturday and Sunday, and they gave them the option as to what to do.

By the middle of the second century, Mithra worship was very popular among influential Romans. Antonius Pious, emperor from A.D. 138 to 161, erected a temple to Mithra at one of the seaports just a few miles from the city of Rome. The emperor Alurian (A.D. 270 to 275), whose mother was a priestess of the Sun, made the solar cult the official religion of the Empire. His biographer, Flavius Volpiscus, tells us that the priest of the Sun temple were called 'pontiffs'..." Same name that the Pope has today—pontiff.

"...They were priests of their dying, rising savior, Mithra, and reigned as vice-regents of Mithra." And that's exactly what the Pope says he is today: he is vice-regent of Christ. So it's another Christ. Not the true Christ, but the false Christ.

Under Emperor Antonius Pious, Mithra was by official decree entitled, 'Sol Dominus Imperial Romani—the Son, the Lord of the Roman Empire.' And his holy day was declared to be the Lord's Day. This name and his other names—'Sol Invicto' (Invincible Sun) appeared together on his coinage. Sun worship continued to be the official religion of the empire until the time of Constantine. Cumat, Olcott, and other scholars clearly show that December 25th was the yearly date of the annual birth of Mithra.

On that date his followers held a special celebration of the fact that the sun was beginning to rise again higher in the sky. It was the lowest at the winter solstice, December 21st, and not until the 25th could its rising be clearly seen. This birthday of the sun-god was made an official holiday in the Roman Empire by Alurian, about the

year 273_{A.D.} And here is what Willesden Rocker, well known church historian, has to say about this: 'December 25th...

And I think it's kind of ironic, because the Seventh Day Adventist—many of them—keep Christmas and yet they know the Truth.

...'December 25th was a great pagan festival, that of Sol Invictus, which celebrated the victory of light over darkness and the lengthening of the sun's rays at the winter solstice. This assimilation of Christ to the sun-god as "the sun of righteousness" was widespread in the fourth century and was furthered by Constantine's legislation on Sunday, which is not related to the fact that the sun-god was a titular divinity of his... [Constantine's] ...family.' The Christians living in the larger cities of the empire were gradually leaning toward pagan practices while their rural brethren more carefully maintained the true faith. The people of God were gradually nearing a crises, and only the intermittent persecutions kept them relatively pure. But then Constantine entered the picture, and the Christian church has never been the same since.

I think it's very important that we understand the profound history behind the deception that brought about a change from Sabbath to Sunday. And that I think it's very profound that all of the religious leaders know better. They know it. They understand it; but now they have been dumbed down to the point that they say, 'Well, it doesn't make any difference. We just all need to love God and get along together.'

Listen! *Love does not exist in a vacuum!* Love is just not a fuzzy warm feeling, that everybody gets along with each other, and everything's fine, and you never say anything contrary. ***That's how people get deceived.*** Love requires

- faith
- obedience
- commandments
- loyalty
- dedication
- the Spirit of God

You want to talk about the love of the world? That's what they have. *The love of God is an entirely different thing.* And *the love of God will separate you from the world,* because God is

- calling us out of the world
- calling us out of Sunday-keeping

- calling us out of Christmas-keeping, and Easter-keeping, and Lord's Supper, and Eucharist

—all those pagan things that the world has accepted as Christian. I'll finish where I began: that ***if what I have said makes you think I'm a raving lunatic, then you have been deceived!***

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

Scripture References:

- 1) Exodus 20:8-11
- 2) Matthew 24:3-5
- 3) Revelation 12:9
- 4) Jude 3
- 5) Galatians 1:6-10
- 6) 2 Corinthians 2:17
- 7) 2 Corinthians 4:1-2
- 8) John 17:17
- 9) Psalm 119:142, 151, 160, 172
- 10) 2 Corinthians 4:2-4
- 11) Acts 5:28-32
- 12) Matthew 7:15-23
- 13) 2 Corinthians 11:1-5, 13-23
- 14) 2 Thessalonians 2:7-11
- 15) Daniel 7:24-25

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