

Holy Sabbath VIII

How Should the Sabbath be Kept?

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We have covered an awful lot concerning Sabbath-keeping. We've also seen on #6 how that the children of Israel were sent into captivity because of Baal-worship and Ashteroth-worship, which then is Sunday-keeping and Easter. In other words, God sent them into captivity for breaking His Sabbath and His Holy Days because they were keeping Sunday. They were worshipping Baal, they were worshipping Ashteroth, and many, many other gods. Now let's look at how the Sabbath should be kept in the New Testament, and then we will finish up by going to a place in the book of Hebrews where there is an absolute, dogmatic command in the New Testament that we are to keep the Sabbath.

Let's first of all see how Jesus kept the Sabbath. We will see that Jesus, as His custom was, always kept the Sabbath. Let's understand something very, very important concerning the preaching of Jesus Christ. The Law and the Prophets were until John. That meant that the Law and the Prophets were the highest authority. There was no other higher authority. When John came the Kingdom of God was preached. With the Kingdom of God being preached not one jot or one tittle shall pass from the Law whatsoever.

Let's see what Jesus did, and let's understand this, that *if* Sunday-keeping were going to be for the Church of God—or as some people call it the Christian Church—then Jesus would have made it absolutely clear beyond any shadow of doubt that He was in fact changing the day from Sabbath to Sunday. We will see there is no such command from Jesus that way.

Let's begin here in Mark 1:14. "Now, after the imprisonment of John, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God." We know the Kingdom of God is the rule of God, the whole millennial Kingdom of God with Christ as King, and all the resurrected saints serving as priests and kings under Him. We know from the prophecies in Isa, 66 that the whole world is going to keep the Sabbath. We know from Zech. 14 that they are going to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. So, when He is preaching the Kingdom of God, no one understands that *He is not destroying the Sabbath or getting rid of the Sabbath*. He is, in fact, enforcing the Sabbath, and bringing a higher standard to Sabbath-keeping, just like He brought a higher standard to every one of the commandments of God.

Verse 15: "And saying, 'The time has been fulfilled... [That means that the time of the preaching of the Kingdom of God. And according to the Scriptures, Jesus was the One Who was to bring it after John, who was the forerunner and the messenger to precede the Lord.]...and the Kingdom of God is near at hand... meaning that Jesus was the King, Jesus was the representative, He was there right at hand.] ...repent, and believe in the Gospel.'"

And everywhere we go through the New Testament, the very beginning thing is that people have to repent. They have to repent of their sins. They have to come to Christ and understand that it was

- His sacrifice
- His death
- His beating
- His scourging
- His mocking,
- the spear thrust through His side

where He gasped out His last on the cross, and *He was that sacrifice*. When you repent to God you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord and Master, and one to Whom you love, and one to Whom you give obedience. And please understand:

- No one is going to enter into the Kingdom of God who is a lawless person; or that is against the Laws of God.
- No one is going to enter into the Kingdom of God if they don't keep His commandments.

You also need to realize that as we go through these Scriptures, if you have an *NIV* Bible, you need to get rid of it, because an *NIV* Bible is corrupt. There are 65,000 words removed from the *King James Version*—that have been taken out—in the *NIV* version. You have to understand that. You have to have

- the right Scripture
- the right Word
- the right Lord
- the right Jesus
- the right understanding

All the insipid preaching that you hear in the Protestant churches, and the Catholic churches, and whatever other denominations that do not uphold Jesus Christ as Lord and Master, and that you have to *obey Him*, you have to *serve Him*, you have to *yield to Him*, you have to have your life buried in the

covenant death of baptism. All that do not teach that are not from God. They may profess, but:

- they have another gospel
- they have another Jesus
- they are not preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God
- they are not preaching repentance from sin

What they are doing is preaching that *God wants you to have all good things.*

Listen! Remember the lesson of Israel in the wilderness because of their sins. Remember the lesson of Israel in the ‘promised land’ because of their sins. God gave them good things, but ***because of sin*** they were taken away. And know for sure that all the good things that people expect today and enjoy today, ***unless they repent and turn to God,*** and quit their sinning and quit their Sabbath-breaking, and quit the sin of Sunday-keeping, ***God’s wrath is going to come and He is going to send this nation off into captivity,*** just like He has in the past. Know and understand that that is for sure. So when Jesus came preaching, ‘repent and believe the Gospel’ —that is the start.

Let’s see His example right after He said that He was Lord of the Sabbath. Stop and consider this again: Which day is Jesus Lord of, by His own admission, Sabbath, or Sunday? *It is Sabbath!* It is absolutely wrong to call Sunday the Lord’s day.

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...’ [here we have it plural, that is the weekly Sabbath and the annual sabbaths] ...or to do evil? To save life, or to kill?’ But they were silent” (vs 1-4). This tells us how Jesus kept the Sabbath.

- He taught on the Sabbath
- He taught them God’s Word
- He taught them about the Kingdom of God
- He taught them about God’s grace and mercy and power
- He healed on the Sabbath

Verse 5: “And after looking around at them with anger...” There is *righteous indignation!* There is a time when God has anger because of sin, and because of the hard-heartedness of these people. And Jesus, God manifest in the flesh, was angry. What a horrible and terrible attitude, to deny a man healing on the Sabbath. Think about that! How self-righteous can you be?

He was angry, “...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” (v 5). Please understand that God’s way is not a ‘religion.’ ***It is a way of life.*** Just like today, ‘religious leaders’ are the ones who have caused all the confusion concerning the Bible, to change the Bible, to change the Word of God, to twist and turn the words *to suit their own ends.*

Verse 6: “Then the Pharisees left *and* immediately took counsel with the Herodians against Him *as to* how they might destroy Him.” That’s what people want to do with Sabbath-keepers today, *the exact same attitude!*

1. Jesus *kept* the Sabbath
2. He *taught* on the Sabbath
3. He *did good* and He *healed* on the Sabbath

Those are the things that He did, and He set us an example that we should do as He did also.

Let’s see why the Sabbath Day was given. The Sabbath Day was given as a teaching day, to teach the Word of God, to teach the Truth of the Bible, to listen to the voice of God. In the Bible you have recorded all the words of God. The Sabbath psalm is, ***‘Today, if you will hear His voice.*** I am asking you today: Will you hear His voice? Let’s see what happens when people don’t hear His voice.

Mark 6:1: “And He left there and came into His *own* country, and His disciples followed Him. Now when the Sabbath day came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and many *of those* who heard Him were astonished, saying, ‘From where did this *man* get these things? And what *is* this wisdom that has been given to Him, that by His hands many miracles are done also? Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?’ And they were offended in Him” (vs 1-3).

Just stop and note: Jesus had brothers and sisters; Mary had other children after Jesus was born. It is a lie that Mary was a perpetual virgin. It is a lie that she was assumed bodily into heaven. You just need to understand that. These religionists just need to be told it. They are lying and twisting the Word of God and adding their own traditions and their own ideas to God’s way.

Verse 4: “But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his *own* country, and among *his own* kinsmen, and in his *own* house.’ And He was not able to do any works of power there, except that He laid *His* hands on a few sick people *and* healed *them.* And He was amazed by their unbelief...” (vs 4-6). Right there on the Sabbath

Day, with them right there in front of Him.

Let's understand that Jesus kept the Sabbath *as a custom*, meaning that *He did it all of His life*. Luke 4:16: "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and according to His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read."

- Did Jesus ever sin? *No!*
- Did Jesus always do the things that pleased the Father? *Yes!*
- Is keeping the Sabbath on a weekly basis *as a custom* a thing that Jesus did and that we should follow? *Yes!*

Peter said we are to *walk in His footsteps, Who did no sin*. So therefore, keeping the Sabbath is *righteousness*. And we are also going to see a little bit later on, keeping the Sabbath is also *Holiness*.

Verse 31: "Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath Days.... [Every Sabbath Jesus was teaching. That is profound! The teaching was the Word of God.] ...And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority" (vs 31-32). Not like the scribes, as it says there in Matt. 7, but *with power and with authority*

Again, let's see what Jesus was doing on the Sabbath. Let's see how important that it was. Please understand that Jesus *nowhere* changed the Sabbath. In the Bible, in the New Testament, *nowhere* is there any authority to change it and keep Sunday.

{see sermon series: *Refuting Sunday-Keeping*—I go through 25 reasons that Protestants have, and Catholics have, trying to justify Sunday-keeping from the Bible, and we will see every one of their reasons is a lying and twisting of the Scriptures and a perversion of the Truth of God and is not true.}

Luke 6:1: "Now it came to pass on *the* second Sabbath *of the* first rank *that* He was walking through the grain fields; and His disciples were plucking the ears and were eating, after rubbing *them* in their hands. But some of the Pharisees said to them, 'Why are you doing that which is not lawful to do on the Sabbaths?'" (vs 1-2).

The Jews were just picking at everything that they were doing. It's not wrong to eat on the Sabbath. It's not wrong to travel on the Sabbath. Jesus was walking on the Sabbath. His disciples were walking on the Sabbath. Even Paul traveled on the Sabbath a great distance. To preach the Word of God, to fellowship with Christ through the Holy Spirit of God. To fellowship with the brethren is more important than just sitting in a house and doing nothing.

- Sabbath-keeping is a positive thing
- Sabbath-keeping takes action
- Sabbath-keeping takes *your* input
- Sabbath-keeping takes *God's* input with His Holy Spirit
- *It's not a passive thing!*

Some people are so afraid to break the Sabbath that some of them just stay in bed all day long. They haven't kept the Sabbath; they haven't done a thing. They have avoided doing anything positive. Maybe they didn't break it by doing something, but *they broke it by doing nothing*.

Verse 3: "And Jesus answered *and* said to them, 'Have you not read even this, that which David did when he himself hungered, and those who were with him? How he went into the house of God and took the loaves of showbread, and he ate *of them*, and also gave *some* to those with him, which it is not lawful to eat except *for* the priests only?'" (vs 3-4). I have even read some papers that people have said that it was a lawful thing for him to do. *No!* Jesus said it was unlawful, and for those that were with him, too.

Verse 5: "And He said to them, 'The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath.'" Jesus by His example is showing how to keep it and how to have the things loosed of the Sabbath, which make it a burden. If you've ever read the *Code of Jewish Law*, which has hundreds and hundreds of picayunish laws concerning the Sabbath, then you will understand why Jesus did what He did. We derive from this:

1. it's okay to travel on the Sabbath
2. it's just fine to eat on the Sabbath, even if you aren't in your home because you are traveling
3. the teaching on the Sabbath is the most important thing
4. the fellowshiping together with the brethren.

That takes precedence over everything else concerning the Sabbath, because it is a positive day that is to be kept.

Verse 6: "Now it also came to pass on another Sabbath *that* He went into the synagogue and taught... [this is the parallel account of what we read in Mark 3] ...and a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him... [that means scrutinized Him] ...whether He would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against Him. But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Arise and stand in the midst.' And he arose *and* stood *in their midst*. Then Jesus said to them, 'I will ask you *one*

thing: Is it lawful to do good or to do evil on the Sabbaths? to save life or to destroy *it*?' And after looking around on them all, He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And he did so, and his hand was restored *as* sound as the other. But they were filled with rage, and consulted with one another *as to* what they should do with Jesus" (vs 6-11).

Even by Sabbath-keepers there was resistance about keeping the Sabbath the way that Jesus kept it. They wanted to keep the Sabbath where you could do nothing, go nowhere, only have just a set little formula of verses that you read every Sabbath, and you have your perfunctory schedule; as a matter of fact, just like the Catholics. The Jews laid out every Scripture to be read every Sabbath, and they could not deviate from it. **No!**

- God wants inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- God wants Truth and righteousness on the Sabbath
- God wants the liberty from sin

—because when you are keeping the Sabbath you are obeying and you are not sinning

Now let's come to the account in Matthew 12, the parallel account of Luke 6. We're going to see that Jesus adds another lesson concerning the Sabbath. Matthew 12:1: "At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath Day; and His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck the heads of grain and to eat *them*. But after seeing *this*, the Pharisees said to Him, 'Behold, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on *the* Sabbath.'" (vs 1-2). And sure enough, that was a correct statement. because God says, 'You shall not harvest on the Sabbath Day. In earing time and harvest time, in seedtime, you shall keep the Sabbath.'

Verse 3: "But He said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he himself and those with him were hungry? How he went into the house of God and he ate the loaves of showbread, which it was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but for the priests only? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbaths the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless?" (vs 3-5).

Here they were criticizing the disciples, but at the temple the priests were offering the sacrifices. And it was a lot of heavy work to do so. They were pouring the blood at the base of the altar. They were offering the incense. All of that was on the Sabbath. Jesus said they profaned the Sabbath but were blameless. Showing that whatever work is necessary to serve and worship God, He will honor and respect that as long as it is in obedience to Him.

Verse 6: "But I say to you, there is *one* here Who is greater than the temple." In other words, since He is the One Who created the Sabbath and gave it, and gave the commandment to keep it, since He is the One Who is our Lord and Master and High Priest in heaven right now, He is the One Who shows us what to do on the Sabbath Day. He has greater authority than the temple and the work that the priests did at the temple. He has greater authority than all of the code of Jewish laws concerning the Sabbath. He has greater authority because He is the Lawgiver, and He is setting the New Testament Law concerning the Sabbath, if you rightly understand what He is saying here.

Verse 7: "Now if you had known what this *means*... [let's see if you know what this means] ... 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.... [They were not guilty of what they were doing.] ... For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath Day" (vs 7-8).

Let's understand something; this is very profound: **God wants mercy and not sacrifice!** Therefore, the Sabbath is

- to serve man in worshipping God
- to serve man in learning of God
- to serve man in doing good
 - ✓ toward God, because you love Him and keep His commandments
 - ✓ toward the brethren because they assemble with you
 - ✓ to those who are sick and in need
 - ✓ for those who need help to provide for them

All of that is the new definition of the Sabbath that Jesus is giving. That's why these accounts are here for us. And we need to understand it. He is Lord of the Sabbath Day, and He is showing how that under the New Covenant the Sabbath is to be kept.

Luke 13—again, we find Jesus teaching. That's the whole purpose of Sabbath Day. That's the whole purpose of Sabbath services. Those who are elders and teachers are to take the Word of God, rightly divide it and teach the brethren—in season, out of season. **Teach them the Word of God!**

- Teach them *how* they are to live their lives.
- Teach them *how* they are to worship God.
- Teach them *how* they are to love God.
- Teach them *how* to serve one another.
- Teach them *how* to be merciful and kind and gracious.
- Teach them *how* to stand for Truth.
- Teach them *how* to understand, *how* to avoid false doctrine, *how* to recognize it.
- Teach them *how* to understand who a true teacher of God is.

That's what needs to be done on the Sabbath Day!

For those Sunday-keepers who say that Christians who keep the Sabbath are using the Sabbath to justify themselves, is absolutely a blatant lie. *No!* Christ is the only One Who justifies us:

- His life
- His death
- His crucifixion
- His resurrection
- the mercy and grace of God

—because by grace we have been saved, and no other way.

If anyone is thinking: 'you're trying to justify yourself by Sabbath-keeping.' *No!* Jesus said, 'If you love Me, keep My commandments.' One of the commandments that He gave was the Sabbath.

- Do you love Christ?
- Do you keep His commandments?
- How can you love Christ if you keep Sunday?

You're breaking the fourth commandment by not keeping the Sabbath. You are sinning by keeping Sunday. So therefore, you are not keeping His words and you don't love Him. Love in the New Testament requires action. Love is not a fuzzy feeling in the heart. Love is not an emotional, gushy, do-gooder kind of thing. Love is powerful, by the grace of God and the Holy Spirit of God, to love God *with all your heart and mind and soul in being, and to love your neighbor as yourself, and to love the brethren as Christ loved them.* That all comes from the **grace of God, the Spirit of God, the love of God**, and is to be also done on the Sabbath. That's why we keep the Sabbath, because we love God, and we need God's grace, and we need God's mercy. That's why Jesus told the Pharisees, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' which was a Sabbath lesson. And He said, 'Go learn what this means.'

Luke 13:10: "Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on *one of the Sabbaths*; and lo, there was a woman who had *been afflicted with* a spirit of infirmity *for* eighteen years, and she was bent over and unable to straighten herself up. And when He saw her, Jesus called *her* to *Him* and said to her, 'Woman, you have been loosed from your infirmity.' Then He laid *His* hands on her; and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God" (vs 10-13). What a tremendous thing!

This also shows that on the Sabbath you are *loosed* from the bonds of Satan; you are *loosed* from his control in your life. If you are out there in the world shopping, if you are out there doing the things that Satan has perverted the Sabbath—making it a business day, a sales day, and activity day, a sports

day, a day of pleasure, a day of doing your own thing, a day of going watching sports, or participating in sports—then you are *desecrating* the Sabbath. You are serving Satan the devil because those are his activities. Here is an example of being loosed physically from an infirmity on the Sabbath. But also when you keep the Sabbath you are loosed from all of the bonds of iniquity, which binds you to the world in breaking the Sabbath.

Notice the attitude of the ruler of the synagogue, v 14: "And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath Day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the Sabbath Day." You see what spirit and attitude that he was in? He didn't want Jesus in his synagogue healing. Jesus went there and healed so He could teach everyone a lesson, and even that hard-hearted ruler of the synagogue.

Verse 15: "Therefore, the Lord answered him and said, 'Hypocrite!....'" You need to understand something: *Jesus didn't mince any words with people.* Jesus did not come to please people. Jesus did not placate the rabbis, or the priests, or the scribes.

- He came to *preach Truth*
- He came to *do good*
- He came to *preach the Gospel* of the Kingdom of God, which involves Sabbath-keeping

He said, "Hypocrite!" In another place He calls them a 'generation of vipers.' Too many of the ministers of Satan are snake-eyed and fork-tongued, who twist and pervert the Scriptures of God, take away the power and authority, and love and mercy, and graciousness of Christ, and His preaching and teaching to help people.

Verse 15: "Therefore, the Lord answered him and said, 'Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead *it* away to drink? And is it not *just as necessary for* this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound, lo, eighteen years, to be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?'" (vs 15-16).

And I'll tell you what, if you will begin keeping the Sabbath Day as Jesus gave the example and instructed, you likewise will be loosed from the bond of Satan. But that's going to take some repenting. We'll see here in just a minute. That's going to take some action upon your part. You can't continue just the way you are.

- God is calling you to change.
- God is calling you to repent.

- God is calling you to love Him and serve Him and do His will and not your will.

Verse 17: “And after He said these things, all those who opposed Him were ashamed; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were being done by Him.”

Let’s see what Jesus said concerning repentance. And let’s apply this, because it comes just before this lesson taught on the Sabbath Day by the healing and losing of the woman of her infirmities. He begins to teach how you are loosed from your sins. It begins with repentance. Then the application of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and burial in watery baptism, the watery grave, in a covenant pledge to God; that you are buried with Him in baptism; you are crucified with Him; that you can rise out of that watery grave and walk in newness of life.

Back to v 1: “Now at the same time, *there* were present some who were telling Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered *and* said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were sinners above all Galileans, because they suffered such things? No, I tell you; but if you do not repent, you shall all likewise perish’” (vs 1-3). You apply that spiritually. You apply it to the lessons that we are learning concerning the Sabbath Day.

- *unless you repent* of your Sabbath-breaking, and unless *you* start obeying God
- *unless you come to God* and understand that you are a sinner by nature, that from within every evil is there within you, and only Christ can help you

then you are going to likewise perish with all the other Sabbath-breakers. Think about losing eternal life. ***If you lose eternal life, you have perished forever!***

He said it again, v 4: “Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them, do you suppose that these were debtors above all men who dwelt in Jerusalem?” And isn’t that the way we try and justify things that happen to people? *We say, ‘Well, maybe it was God’s judgment. Maybe they deserved it.’* Here Jesus is talking about some things that happened: a slaughter; an accident. He’s telling you, don’t go around and judge them and say they deserved it because they were breaking God’s Law.

Jesus said, v 5: “No, I tell you; but if you do not repent, you shall all likewise perish.” And this repentance comes down to a very important thing.

Another incident on the Sabbath Day, Luke 14:1: “Now it came to pass, when He went into a

house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees on *the* Sabbath to eat bread, that they were watching Him.... [Here is a whole group of Pharisees. Jesus came in, He got the invitation, so He went in] ...And behold, there was a certain man *who had* dropsy *standing* in front of Him. Then Jesus answered *and* spoke to the doctors of the Law and to *the* Pharisees, saying... [all of those who were the experts in the Law] ...‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’” (vs 1-3). I imagine He looked around at each one of them in the eye just to see what their reaction was. And, of course, you need to understand that Jesus also knew their thoughts.

Verse 4: “But they were silent. And after taking hold *of him*, He healed him and *then* let *him* go. And He answered *and* said to them, ‘Who among you shall have a donkey or an ox fall into a pit, and will not immediately pull it out on the Sabbath day?’ But again, they were not able to answer Him concerning these things” (vs 4-6).

Verse 24: “For I tell you, not one of those men... [There was the parable of the supper, none of them. If you don’t do what God says, you are not going to be there with the supper. You’re not going to be in the Kingdom of God.] (Then He begins to explain how you can be in the Kingdom of God): ...And great multitudes were going with Him; and He turned *and* said to them” (vs 24-25).

Can you imagine what some of these Protestant ministers would do? Could you imagine what the pope would do when he went to Poland and there were 400,000 out there to see him? He waved his hand and they all fell down on their knees, and they all worshipped the pope. ***God says don’t worship any man; worship God only!*** And they were so happy to have all of those numbers. If there were great multitudes following a Protestant minister, and He saw all those multitudes, what would He say? ‘Oh, I’m so happy and thankful that you are here. Why don’t you all come in and you just confess Jesus, and you just give your heart to the Lord, and you come and join our fellowship group, and that will be just fine. We meet here at Sunday at eleven in the morning.’

Let’s see what Jesus said, v 26: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father, and mother...” That means ***to love God more***. But that love toward God is so intense, that maybe your father or mother will take it as hatred because you won’t do what they do. Maybe your mother and father would say to you, ‘Hey, I was born a Catholic, always a Catholic, I’m going to die a Catholic.’ But you come and say, ‘I am repenting of all this Catholicism, and all of these pagan laws, and all of these pagan things that the Catholics are doing, and Sunday-keeping, and Eucharist, and beads, and

Mary-worship, and idol-worship, and all of these hideous sins.’ And they will say, ‘You hate us. You don’t love us.’ That’s what it means. ***You love God more*** in spite of what your father and mother.

“...and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also, he cannot be My disciple” (v 26). And the Greek there is ‘adunatai’—the strongest sense of *impossibility* of being a disciple of Christ. That means you forsake your ways, your thoughts, your interpretations, your stretching of the Scriptures to suit your own ‘religious’ self if you are a ‘religious’ person. Or your justification of your sins and living in sin, if you have never even gone to church. You have to forsake *your way, your thoughts and everything.*

Verse 27: “And whoever does not carry his cross...” True Christianity is not easy. Because you are going against the world, you’re going to have trials and difficulties. You’re going to have your own individual problems to overcome, and that is bearing your cross.

“...and come after Me... [Christ is not going to come after you. *You* come after Christ. *You* seek God. *You* are the one who has to have the initiative.] ...cannot be My disciple” (v 27). It’s quite a bit different than what the world thinks. This whole thing of Sabbath-keeping is so profound.

Look what Jesus has done to redefine Sabbath-keeping for the New Covenant, so that we can come together in fellowship; we can love God; we can serve each other and do what is right. And John wrote in 1-John 1:3, that ***our fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ.***

Hebrews 3:1 and let’s understand something very profound concerning Jesus, concerning Moses “Because of this... [that means everything in chapters 1 & 2] ...Holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of *the faith* we profess—Jesus Christ, Who was faithful to Him Who appointed Him, even as Moses *was* in all His house. For He has been counted worthy of greater glory than Moses, even as He Who built the house has so much more honor than the house *itself*. For every house is built by someone, but He Who built all things *is* God. Now on the one hand, Moses *was* faithful in all his house, as a ministering servant, for a testimony of those things which were going to be spoken afterwards. But on the other hand, Christ *was faithful* as *the* Son over His own house...” (vs 1-6).

His faithfulness included Sabbath-keeping—did it not? *Yes, indeed!* We just saw it—didn’t we? If He didn’t keep the Sabbath, He could not have been faithful—correct? *Yes!* So He is faithful over His house.

“...Whose house **we are**, if we are truly holding fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm to *the* end. For this reason, even as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you will hear His voice,’” (vs 6-7). This is quoted from Psa. 95—David’s psalm for the Sabbath. That has a direct bearing to what Paul wrote in Heb. 4 concerning the Sabbath and concerning David. **Today, will you hear His voice?**

Verse 8: “Harden not your hearts, as in the rebellion, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.” What was the first rebellion? Right after God gave the Ten Commandments on the Day of Pentecost; which included, ‘Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.’ What did they do?

As soon as Moses didn’t come down from the mountain as quickly as they thought, they said, ‘Well this man Moses, we don’t know what happened to him.’ So, they went to Aaron. And Aaron caved in to the political pressure and the majority vote of the people when they said, ‘Make as gods, Aaron.’ *So Aaron did!* He made the golden calf. And the golden calf was sun-worship, because in-between the horns of the golden calf was the sundisk, showing that they were worshipping the sun. On what day do you suppose they had a feast unto their gods, which they had made? *Sunday! That was rebellion in the wilderness!* What happened to them? Those who instigated it *were consumed; the earth opened and swallowed them up!* Those things are written for our admonition that we don’t do the same thing, that we don’t tempt God. While Moses was getting all of the Law they did that.

Then when it came time for them to go into the ‘promised land,’ ten of the spies came back and said, ‘Oooh, We can’t go in; the people are tall, and the cities are walled up.’ Joshua and Caleb said, ‘No! Don’t listen to them. God will deliver us.’ And the people said, ‘God, why did You bring us out here to kill us and our children?’ They complained, and wept, and wailed, and moaned, and groaned, rebelled against God all night. God gave His judgment against the hardness of their heart and said, “Because you accuse Me of killing your children, *you* will die in this wilderness. And your children, which you said that I would kill, I will bring into the *promised land.*”

Then they had the remorse of the world: ‘Oh, we sinned! Oh, we sinned! We’ll do as the Lord said.’ And Moses said, ‘Don’t go up. God has already made His judgment. Don’t go fight. God is not with you’ They went up anyway and they got slaughtered. ***You don’t tempt God!*** You don’t come to God with your rebellion and your hard-heartedness, and expect God to accept *it* or *you*. You come to God on *God’s* terms, with a repentant heart and determination to hear His voice.

Verse 8: “Harden not your hearts, as in the rebellion, in the day of temptation in the wilderness, where your fathers tempted Me *and* tried Me, and saw My works forty years” (vs 8-9). What were they worshipping? What were those renegades doing, those who didn’t serve God?

This may come as a shock and surprise to you, because most people think that the children of Israel were obediently keeping the Sabbath in the wilderness. Such was not the case. *They rejected the Sabbath in the wilderness, and God rejected them, turned them over to their own devices!* Only those who were following the commands of God and following Moses, were keeping the Sabbath and doing what was right.

Amos 5:21: God says, “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will take no delight in your solemn assemblies... [which He does: Christmas, Easter, New Year’s and all the feast days which the Roman Catholic Church has, and the Anglican Church, and the Protestant Churches] ...Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them. Nor will I regard the peace offerings of your fat animals. Take the noise of your songs away from Me; for I will not hear the melody of your harps” (vs 21-23).

Isn’t that something, all of the silly singing that goes on in some of these churches. Some of them that’s all they do. They have songs of praise worship for 40 minutes, 5 minutes of Scripture reading, 10 minutes more of praise singing; they have another 10-minute sermon, and it’s over with. It’s a feely-good, carnal thing, designed for the lust of the eyes, the lust of the ears, the lust of the mind, to serve the flesh. *God says He doesn’t hear that!*

He says, v 24: “But let judgment roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream. Have you offered sacrifices and offerings to Me forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?... [No!] But now you have carried the tabernacle of your Moloch... [Sunday-keeping] ...and Chiun, your images, the star of your gods...” (vs 24-25).

Isn’t it interesting that the religions of this world always come back to sun-worship and star-worship? Did you know that the pope is the representative of sun-worship in the West, and the Dalai Lama is the representative of sun-worship in the East? If you’ve never heard that, you’ve got a long way to go. It’s time for you to wake up. It’s time for you to come out of your sleep. It’s time for you to stop ignoring the Truth. It’s time for you to pull the shades off your eyes, and pull the corks out of your ears, and get eye salve that you can see, and get a spiritual hearing aid so you can hear.

“...the star of your gods which you made for yourselves” (v 26). That’s why they were killed in the wilderness. Right in the presence of God they did all these things.

Now let’s come back to Hebrews 3:10. Maybe you can understand why God was wroth with them. If you have children, what if in your very house your own children came in and had sex orgies, drug parties, disrespected your house, tore it apart, and did it right in front of you? Would you not be angry? *Yes!* That’s what they did to God. Sometimes when these things take place you need to have a little personal application so that you can understand what it is. God is a God of love. But if you go against Him and sin, you are going to pay the penalty because *the wages of sin is death*, and misery in between until there is death.

Hebrews 3:10: “Because of this, I was indignant with that generation, and said, ‘They are always going astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways.’ So I swore in My wrath, ‘If they shall enter into My rest—’” (vs 10-11). The Greek here is ‘katapausin’—meaning *into* the ‘promised land.’ They were to have rest from their journeys, rest from their enemies.

Verse 12, here is the lesson. Paul says, “Beware, brethren, lest perhaps there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief...” If you don’t believe the Sabbath, you have an evil heart of unbelief and you don’t believe in God the Father and Jesus Christ. You are using the Scriptures, you are abusing the Scriptures, you are using them to your own end, and God’s judgment will be upon you, just like it was upon the children of Israel.

“...an evil heart of unbelief, in apostatizing from *the* living God. Rather, be encouraging one another each day, while it is called ‘today,’ so that none of you become hardened by *the* deceitfulness of sin” (vs 12-13). ***Sin is the transgression of the Law!*** It is deceitful. Have you been hardened by the deceitfulness of sin in your life, and yet, think you are justified, think that you are a good Christian. You better stop and think again. You better examine yourself according to the Word of God.

Verse 14: “For we are companions of Christ, ***if*** we truly hold the confidence *that we had* at the beginning steadfast until the end.” What were they doing at the beginning? ***Sabbath-keeping! Holy Day-keeping!*** That’s going back to beginning when the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost, a Holy Day of God.

Verse 15: “As it is being said... [I want you to take this and read it to yourself. And I want you to apply it to yourself and ask the question in your deepest part of your heart and mind before God]:

...**‘Today, if you will hear His voice...** [Will you hear His voice?] ...do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion.’ For some, after hearing, did rebel, but not all who came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was He indignant *for* forty years? *Was it* not with those who had sinned, whose dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear *that they* would not enter into His rest, except to those who had disobeyed?” (vs 15-18).

- Do you think you’re going to be in the Kingdom of God if you disobey?
- Do you think you’re going to be in the Kingdom of God if you harden your heart and don’t repent, and don’t start obeying God and keeping His commandments from your heart?

I tell you, NO! Christ tells you, NO! We see that they were unable to enter in because of unbelief. They didn’t have faith. It takes faith to keep the Sabbath; *it doesn’t take any faith to keep Sunday.* It takes faith to keep the Holy Days; *it doesn’t take any faith to keep Christmas, Easter, New Year’s, Halloween, and all of the satanic days of this world.* That’s just doing what’s natural. That’s following along with the world. There’s no faith involved in that. And if you think that you’re a Christian and doing God’s will by doing that, *you have hardened your heart in the deceitfulness of it!* Know that God’s judgment is going to come on you, just like it did with the children of Israel.

Now let’s see how the Apostle Paul bore that out, Hebrews 4:1: “Therefore... [consequently, because of this] ...we should fear... [that we live in sin] ...lest perhaps, a promise being open to enter into His rest...”—because the promise is open. And this rest is ‘katapausin’—which means to *enter into His final rest in the Kingdom of God.* We are going to see there are three applications of the word *rest*:

1. resting from labor
2. resting from your sins
3. entering into the rest, into the Kingdom of God

Entering into the ‘promised land’ by the children of Israel was a fore type of entering into the Kingdom of God. Now it’s the eternal Kingdom of God, and the stakes are eternal. It’s not just some physical thing.

“...to enter into His rest, any of you might seem to come short. For truly, we have had the Gospel preached *to us...* [by Christ, by the apostles, by the ministers of God, through the Word of God] ...even as they also *did...* [The Gospel to them was not the eternal Kingdom of God, but the good news of entering into the ‘promised land,’ the physical kingdom.] ...but the preaching of the Word did not

profit them because it was not mixed with faith in those who heard” (vs 1-2). They didn’t believe God that they were going to go into the ‘promised land.’ When He brought them right up to the edge to go in and conquer the land, they said, ‘No, we can’t do this, God!’

Verse 3: “For we who have believed, we ourselves are entering into the rest, as He has said...” We’re going to see that to enter into that rest means:

1. you rest on the seventh day Sabbath and the Holy Days
2. you will enter into the Kingdom of God
3. you enter into the rest of having your sins forgiven.

When you enter into the rest of Christ, He does not give you permission to sin. He gives you permission *not* to sin because you are resting in the sacrifice of Christ, and you are resting on the Sabbath Day.

“...as He has said, ‘So I swore in My wrath, “If they shall enter into My rest—”’... [It’s the same thing today, it’s conditional. Will you enter into the rest of God? You have to answer that question.] ...although the works were finished from *the* foundation of *the* world” (v 3). This goes right back to where we began this series on the Sabbath, how God created it.

Verse 4: “For He spoke in a certain place about the seventh *day* in this manner... [What are we talking about? What day is the seventh day? *It’s the Sabbath!*] ...‘And God rested on the seventh day from all His works.’”

I have with me here a Septuagint Bible, which is the Old Testament in Greek, and the wording in the Greek in the Old Testament and New Testament are almost identical. So I’m going to read it to you here. Genesis 2:2 (*Sept.*), “And God finished on the sixth day... [which is a correct translation] ...His works which He had made. And He **ceased**... [the verb form of ‘katapausin’—*stopped, to cease, to stop, to rest*] ...He ceased on the seventh day from all His works, which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it; because in it He ceased [rested] from all His works which God began to do.”

Let’s understand something here that’s very important: ***The Sabbath Day has been blessed and sanctified. You cannot have sanctification in Christ unless you keep the Holy Sabbath Day, which gives you sanctification for the proper worship of God.*** No other day was sanctified from creation until now. Not a single day other than the weekly Sabbath and the annual Sabbaths have been sanctified. And in it, you need to understand, God gave the Sabbath as a

gift. The One Who created it was Christ Who was the Lord God of the Old Testament. He is the One Who gave it to mankind. This is important for us to understand and realize when we're going through chapter 4 here.

Verse 5: "And again concerning this: 'If they shall enter into My rest'—consequently, since it remains *for* some to enter into it... [Some to be called and enter into the rest, having their sins forgiven; some called to enter in to the rest of keeping the Sabbath, and enter into the rest of the Kingdom of God.] ...and those who had previously heard the Gospel did not enter in because of disobedience" (vs 5-6). That was disobedience to the Sabbath Day.

Now we come to a special time in history again. All during the judges the people, the children of Israel, left God, left His commandments, went after Baal and Asheroth. They did the same thing under Saul, though Saul started out as the first king and was a good king at first while he was little in his own eyes! But then he sinned and rebelled against God.

Then we come to David. We have a new epic. David was a man after God's heart. God again set aside the time, and David wrote the 95th Psalm, which is all of this concerning 'today.'

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

You have to ask yourself that question today: What did they harden their hearts to? toward? *The Sabbath!* {see Hebrews series}

Verse 8: "For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken *long* afterwards of another day." In other words, if inheriting the Kingdom of God of the physical nation coming into Canaan—the 'promised land'; if that was the completion of God's plan, it would have ended everything with Joshua dividing up the land for the people. But it didn't.

That's why He spoke of it so long after that. After Joshua to David, He said again, "...'**Today**, if you will hear His voice... [concerning the Sabbath] ...harden not your hearts.'" (v 7).

Verse 9: "There remains, therefore, Sabbath-keeping for the people of God." This is a direct command for Sabbath-keeping in the New Testament. Therefore, because of God's plan of the Kingdom of God, as we started out in the beginning of the Gospel of Christ, He preached 'Repent, and

believe the Gospel, the Kingdom of God is at hand.' And if you're going to enter into that rest of the Kingdom of God, then there remains Sabbath-keeping for the people of God.

Who are the people of God? Let's come to 1-Peter 1, and this is when Peter wrote to the Gentiles who were in Paul's area. So it probably was right after Paul was martyred. Who are the people of God? Do the people of God just mean the Jews? *No!* The Jews today, though they are physically the people of God, just as the Israelites are physically the people of God, ***they are not the people of God spiritually!*** The Jews, spiritually, have been rejected. The Israelites, spiritually, have been rejected. They are not the people of God! They are the same as Gentiles in the world.

1 Peter 1:1: "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to *the* elect strangers... [that means to those who are Gentiles] ...scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia."—all the former area of the Apostle Paul.

1-Peter 2:9: "But you... [the ones he's writing to] ...*are* a chosen stock, a royal priesthood... [Not yet installed, because that will happen when Christ returns.] ...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... [because you are Gentiles] ...*were* not a people, but now *are the* people of God; who had not received mercy, but now have received mercy" (vs 9-10).

- Do you understand that the Sabbath is a gift from God?
- Do you realize that?

One of the best and greatest gifts that He has given mankind?

- That you can know who God is?
- That you can fellowship with God?
- That you can rest from your labors and works?
- That you can rest from your sins?
- That you can fellowship with God?

The people of God include the Gentiles. This is commanding Sabbath-keeping for all people of God, whether Jew or Gentile; Hebrew, or Israelite; or Scythian, or bond, or Roman, whatever it is. There is a command: 'Consequently, therefore, there remains Sabbath-keeping for the people of God' (Heb. 4:9).

Sabbath-keeping: The Greek there is 'sabbatismo.'—what we call in English today a gerund, which then has been a verb which has become a noun: *Sabbath-keeping*. That is in the nominative case here, in this case, being the subject: *Sabbath-keeping remains*.

Remains is stronger than *remember*. 'Remember the Sabbath, to keep it Holy' (Exo. 20).

‘*sabbatizmos*’ in the verb form is ‘*sabbatisee*.’ That is the infinitive. In the regular verb form it is ‘*sabbatiso*.’ In the Septuagint version of the Bible we have direct use of the word ‘*sabbatiso*’ in the form of the verb to show that it means *Sabbath-keeping*.

So, when it’s talking about Sabbath-keeping here, ‘*sabbatizmos*’ in Heb. 4:9, it’s not talking about a rest. It’s talking about a *Sabbath rest*, *Sabbath-keeping*.

Leviticus 23:32 is very important, because this is defining for us *how and when* a Sabbath should be kept in referring directly to the Day of Atonement. Leviticus 23:32 (Septuagint): “It shall be a Holy Sabbath to you... [the Day of Atonement] ...and you shall humble yourselves: from the ninth day of the month at even, from even to even, shall you keep your Sabbaths.”

In the Greek it’s plural, so this is a verb; this is a sentence including *all* of the Sabbaths. That’s why ‘*sabbatizmos*’—meaning *Sabbath-keeping*, includes the annual Holy Days. What do you suppose the verb is here in the Septuagint? The verb here is ‘*sabbatisite*’—which is the verb form for the plural *you*, you all. ‘You all shall keep [celebrate] your Sabbath.’ And it’s translated *keep* in the Septuagint; *celebrate* in the *King James*.

That’s very powerful for you to understand. There is absolutely no getting around the dogmatic statement of Heb. 4:9, ‘Therefore, there remains Sabbath-keeping for the people of God.’ That is as strong, if not stronger than the fourth commandment in Exo. 20.

We are going to find that the word ‘*katapausen*’ referring to *resting* for *keeping the Sabbath* is used. Exodus 20:8 (Septuagint): “Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it Holy....” Why? Because God made it Holy, and God gave you the Sabbath. Do you understand that the Sabbath is a gift from God? Do you realize that? One of the best and greatest gifts that He has given mankind:

- that he can know Who God is
- that he can fellowship with God
- that he can rest from his labors and his works,
- that he can rest from his sins
- that he can fellowship with God?

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it Holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work; but on the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. On it you shall do no work: you, or your son, or your daughter, or your servant, or your maidservant, your ox, your ass, or your cattle, nor the stranger that sojourns with you. For in six days

the Lord made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that in them is, and rested...” (vs 8-11).

‘*Katapause*’—the verb form of the noun ‘*katapausen*’—rest. He *rested!* If you want to enter into His rest of Sabbath-keeping, you will ‘*katapausee*’ yourself. You see how powerful that is? This is not just some little theological thing that theologians and scholars go to and purr their way through their lies to say that this excuses you from keeping the Sabbath. You need to learn something very important. The Scriptures are such that carnal-minded people who hate God, who lie, who cheat with the Word of God, who want to justify their traditions and their religions, they go to the very Scripture which condemns them for what they are doing. And where they claim that Heb. 4 says, ‘Why, it’s okay You don’t have to keep the Sabbath,’ that is the very Scripture which says, ‘Therefore, there **remains** Sabbath-keeping for the people of God’ in a dogmatic statement. You need to understand that.

“...And rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it...” (v 11), and no other weekly day. He hallowed the annual Sabbaths. That’s another whole topic. But we’re talking about the weekly Sabbath here.

We’re going to see that the verb form of ‘*sabbatiso*’ is used right here in Exodus 16:29: “See, because the LORD has given you the Sabbath... [The seventh day. It is a gift of God. He gave it to you.] ...therefore, He gives you the bread of two days on the sixth day...”—which was also a gift from God.

Now you come to the New Testament, Christ also kept the Sabbath; He was also a gift of God—was He not? And He was the bread from heaven—correct? *Yes!* You can see the parallel there; that’s quite a thing!] ...Let each one stay in his place. Do not let any one go out of his place on the seventh day.’ So the people rested on the seventh day” (vs 29-30).

The Greek there is ‘*e sabbatisen*—which is the past tense of ‘*sabbatiso*.’ When it says ‘*sabbatizmos*’ back there in Heb. 4:9, it is talking about Sabbath-keeping and celebrating the Sabbath. And yes, there are some other Scriptural references; when we come to Lev. 26 it talks about the land receiving its ‘*sabbatisite*’—*resting*.

Now let’s come on back here to Hebrews 4, and let’s understand what it’s talking about with the rest of this. When you understand that the quotes given from the Old Testament in the book of Hebrews come from the Septuagint version of the Bible, then you will understand the profound significance of Sabbath-keeping.

Hebrews 4:9: “There remains, therefore, Sabbath-keeping for the people of God. For the one who has entered into His rest...” There are two *entering ins* here.

1. you enter into the *rest from sin*

Jesus said, ‘All you that labor and are heavy burdened, come to Me, and learn of Me, and follow Me, and **I will give you rest.**’ That’s very important to understand, because Christ is not giving you rest from Sabbath-keeping, *He is giving you rest from your sins.*

Matthew 11:28: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, and I will give you rest.” There’s a double meaning to that. You come to Christ on the Sabbath, on *His* rest day, and He will give you rest. You come to Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and He will give you rest from your sins.

Verse 29: “Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me...” How did Christ keep the Sabbath? We went through and saw that—didn’t we? He gave the way for the New Covenant on how to keep it. Did you learn of Christ?

2. you enter into the *rest for your labor*

“...for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find **rest for your souls**.... [rest from sin and rest from your labor—‘katapausin’ in both cases.] ...For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light” (vs 29-30).

1-John 5:3: For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.”

You need to understand, the true Sabbath of God is kept according to the New Covenant, and is not a burden, but

- a joy
- a blessing
- a part of the grace of God
- a part of the love and fellowship of God

—that you need! If you have gone to Sunday-keeping, or you’re out there in some religion of the world

- you need to *stop*
- you need to *take account*
- you need to *look into the Word of God*
- you need to *understand what God is saying*
- you need to *understand what these Scriptures are telling you*

And if you have been a Sabbath-keeper and you are thinking about going back to Sunday-keeping

- you better *stop*
- you better *look*
- you better *listen*
- you better *hear*
- you better *not harden your heart*

Come back here to Hebrews 4:10: “For the one who has entered into His rest... [‘katapausin’—*resting* on the Sabbath] ...he also has **ceased from his works**... [after six days] ...just as God *did* from His own *works*.”

If you’re going to cease from your works, as God ceased from His works, that means, if you’re a Sunday-keeper, you’re going to quit keeping Sunday, because **that is your work!** Do you understand that? That’s not a work of God.

Verse 11: “We should be diligent therefore, to enter into that rest...” Not haphazard; not sloppily; not consider the Sabbath a sports day, or anything like that; or to neglect on the Sabbath or to lounge around on the Sabbath.

- it’s a day of *worship*
- it’s a day of *study*
- it’s a day of *fellowship*
- it’s a day of *getting close to God*

So therefore, during the six days you need to be diligent to *enter into that rest*. What will happen if you don’t? “...**lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience**” (v 11). And that disobedience means you are breaking the Sabbath, and you are not keeping it. Do you understand that? Do you grasp the significance of what this is telling us in Heb. 4? If you don’t, then he gives a very powerful lesson: *Today, while it is today, will you hear His voice, and harden not your hearts* as in the wilderness? Will you, today?

If not then, read v 12: “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart.”

Do you think that you are going to get into the Kingdom of God by rejecting the Sabbath and keeping Sunday? By rejecting the Holy Days of God and keeping the satanic days of this world? *You have another thought coming!* The Word of God *is sharp*, it *is living*, and it’s *going to cut asunder*. God’s judgment will be upon you. Think of it! Do you want the judgment of God upon you, like He did with the children of Israel? God’s judgment is coming upon this nation for all of the things that they are doing, and all of the Sabbath-breaking, and all of the Sunday-keeping, and all of the hypocritical religion that people have today in this land. **And it is**

coming, lo, it's coming!. Just like it did on the children of Israel.

Verse 13: "And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things *are* naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account."

- Are you ready to give account to God?
- Is Christ covering your life with His sacrifice?
- Are you loving Him and keeping His commandments?
- Are you loving God the Father with all your heart and mind and soul and being?
- That the account will be given that the righteousness of Christ will be imputed to you?

because

- you love God
- you love His commandments
- you love His Sabbath, you love His Holy Days
- you do the things that are pleasing to Him

Verse 14: "Having therefore a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should hold fast the confession *of our faith*... [and Sabbath-keeping] ...For we do not have a high priest who cannot empathize with our weaknesses, but *one Who* was tempted in all things according to *the likeness of our own temptations*; yet *He was* without sin. Therefore, **we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need**" (vs 14-16).

That's what you need to do now concerning the Sabbath:

- come to the very throne of God
- come to the Truth of God
- come with a repentant heart
- keep the Sabbath; keep the commandments of God
- turn to Christ with all your heart and mind and soul and being
- and honor the Sabbath
- serve God the way that He has shown

Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter (except where noted)

Scripture References:

- 1) Mark 1:14-15
- 2) Mark 3:1-6
- 3) Mark 6:1-6
- 4) Luke 4:16, 31-32
- 5) Luke 6:1-11
- 6) Matthew 12:1-8

- 7) Luke 13:10-17, 1-5
- 8) Luke 14:1-6, 24-27
- 9) Hebrews 3:1-9
- 10) Amos 5:21-26
- 11) Hebrews 3:10-18
- 12) Hebrews 4:1-8, 7, 9
- 13) 1 Peter 1:1
- 14) 1 Peter 2:9-10
- 15) Leviticus 23:32
- 16) Exodus 20:8-11
- 17) Exodus 16:29-30
- 18) Hebrews 4:9-10
- 19) Matthew 11:28-30
- 20) 1 John 5:3
- 21) Hebrews 4:10-16

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Isaiah 66
- Zechariah 14
- Matthew 7
- 1 John 1:3
- Psalm 95
- Leviticus 26

Also referenced:

Sermon Series:

- *Refuting Sunday-Keeping*
- *Hebrews*

Book: *Code of Jewish Law* by Solomon Ganzfried and Hyman Goldin

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