

***WILL SUNDAY LEGISLATION HELP
SOCIETY? OR WILL THE SABBATH?***



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Introduction

As we draw closer to the end of earth's history, there is a movement that is working behind the scenes for the establishment of a national Sunday law in America and an eventually global blue-law, in an effort to convert the world to Jesus, despite the fact that Jesus testified that He was YHWH of the Sabbath-day, and that any additions to the teachings of Scripture will bring condemnation.

From time to time statements appear in print or on the electronic media glorifying and exalting Sunday holiness as of great benefit and blessings to humanity. Such a claim is taken up by this booklet and exposed to be excessively erroneous, and to be very destructive to human salvation and morality. Meanwhile, the Seventh-day Sabbath of the ten commandments is investigated and presented from the Scriptures as the only holy day that can truly benefit humanity.

Sunday holiness is a creature of human invention, and as such it has no knowledge-giving power to unite man to God or to confer the Spirit of God to man. The Seventh-day Sabbath on the other hand has with it the whole knowledge of Salvation since it stands for YHWH as the sanctifier thus the Savior. The teachings of this booklet is to be used in studies to draw men to the Sabbath of YHWH while withdrawing their allegiance from Sunday holiness. Deception concerning Sunday holiness is dispelled and enlightenment concerning the Seventh-day Sabbath is given that all may understand for themselves and choose for themselves. It is the hope of the author that this study will save many from the deceptions of a Sunday law and turn them to Jesus Christ the Savior to whom obedience is manifested in the keeping of the Sabbath. Amen

WILL SUNDAY LEGISLATION HELP SOCIETY? OR WILL THE SABBATH BE THE REAL HELP? WHICH DAY?

We are living in the end of world history. The Evangelical organization called the “Christian coalition of America” is calling for a day of rest to be instituted nationally.

“We not only need a day of prayer and unity but many of us here at Christian Coalition believe it is time to legislate a National Day of Rest. As Dr. James Dodson reminds us, families need time for rest and worship. The United Mine Workers (U.M.W.) of America support this agenda also.” Pastor Mike Brown, National Church liaison, **Christian Coalition of America Alert**, p. 1. (March 26, 2002).

2. What day are they seeking to have legislated as a National Day of Rest? Why, Sunday of course.

“Christopher Columbus has given an inspiring example of respect for the sanctity of Sunday ...” **Ibid**, p. 1.

3. What is their logic or “spiritual” reasons for wanting Sunday enforced? Here is what they say.

“Destroy the sanctity of Sunday and you throw civilization back into darkness and mire of pagan materialism—The observation of

Sunday is essential to the welfare of this Nation.” **Ibid**, p. 1.

4. Now the question to be asked, will Sunday holiness preserve society, or Sabbath day holiness? Is it true that **it is Sunday** that will throw society back into “darkness” and “mire of pagan materialism”? We need to know what Sunday holiness stood for and **really** stands for today.

a. We are told that Sunday was known as the “venerable day of the sun”, this means that ancient pagans **venerated the sun on Sunday**, this is where the day got its original significance.

“It was natural that in the worship of the Sun the day of the Sun (Sunday) would be regarded as a very sacred festival by the heathen. In the first civil law enforcing the observance of Sunday as a day of rest among the Roman people, the emperor Constantine, who issued the edict in A.D. 321, speaks of it as “the venerable day of the Sun.”—Code of Justinian, bk. 3. Title 12, law 3.” Robert Leo Odom, **How Did Sunday Get its Name?**, pp. 21-22.

b. Sunday was known in ancient paganism as the day of the Sun god, this is what gave the day its value to honor it, **sun-worship**.

“In Herculaneum, for example, there was found inscribed in Greek upon a wall a list which was entitled “Days of the Gods” in capital letters. Underneath this title there appears in the

same language, and in capital letters also, the names of the seven planetary deities in the genitive form and in the exact order of the days in the astrological week as follows: Kronou (of Saturn) [Saturday], Heliou (of Sun) [Sunday], Selenes (of Moon) [Monday] ...” Robert Leo Odom, **Sunday in Roman Paganism**, pp. 88-89.

- c. Sunday was kept holy in honor of the false god Mithra. Sunday holiness was thus **paganism for the ancient Roman Empire**.

“That Sunday was the sacred day of Mithra, the Invincible Sun, is a fact known and taught by the many outstanding authorities of modern times. For example, a well-known Roman Catholic work, *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, not only states that in Mithraism “the seven days of the week were dedicated to the planets,” but also declares, “Sunday was kept holy in honor of Mithra.” *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. 10. pp. 403,404, art. “Mithraism.” “Quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 155.

- d. Sunday was known as the “Lord’s day” in the Mithraic religion, because he was known as the excellent Lord. Thus Sunday as the Lord’s day in ancient Roman paganism meant the **worship of the sun god Mithra**.

The first day of each week, Sunday, was consecrated to Mithra since time remote, as several authors affirm. Because the Sun was God, the Lord *par excellence*, Sunday came to be called the Lord’s day, as was later was done by Christianity.” Agostinho

de Almeida Paiva, *O Mithraismo*, p. 3.” Quoted in **Ibid**, p. 149.

“The one [Mithraism] and the other [Christianity] hallowed Sunday, as the Lord’s day, and the one and the other celebrated the birth of its god on the 25th of December; and it is beyond doubt that Mithraism preceded Christianity in this and in other points.” **Ibid**, p. 60. Quoted in **Ibid**, p. 149.

- e. Sunday was the Lord’s day, referring to Mithra the sun god long before Christianity, thus to the ancient Roman Empire Sunday meant **sun worship and the worship of a false god**.

“As a solar festival, Sunday was the sacred day of Mithra; and it is interesting to notice that since Mithra was addressed as *Dominus* ‘Lord,’ Sunday must have been the Lord’s day’ long before Christian times.” A Weigall, *The Paganism in Our Christianity*, p. 145. Quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 150.

- f. Sunday was imposed on Christianity in place of the Sabbath, and it came from Mithraism. This means Sunday means for that church (that became the Roman Catholic body) an apostasy from worshipping the true God in Christ, according to God. Sunday thus stands for **apostasy from God**.

“It [Mithraism] had so much acceptance that it was able to impose on the Christian world its own Sun-Day in place of the Sabbath, its Sun’s birthday, 25th December, as the birthday of Jesus.” Gilbert Murray, “Religion and Philosophy,” in

Christianity in the Light of Modern Knowledge, pp. 73,74,
Quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 150.

- g. Sunday was made prominent, not from Christ rising on a Sunday, no, but because it was sun worship. Thus Sunday meant **sun worship for the Roman Empire**.

The preeminence [of the sun] contributed to the general recognition of Sunday as a holiday.” Franz Cumont, **Astrology and Religion Among the Greeks and Romans**, p. 163.

- h. The Gnostics, a group that contributed to the changing of Christianity into Roman Catholicism kept Sunday, but not in honor of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but because the sun was their Christ. Thus in the eyes of God Sunday holiness stood for **the worship of a false christ**.

“They [the Gnostics] celebrated the Sunday of every week, not on account of its reference to the resurrection of Christ, for that would have been inconsistent with their Docetism, but as the day consecrated to the sun, which was in fact their Christ.” August Neander, **General History of the Christian Religion and the Church, Vol. 11**, p. 194. Quoted in, W.E. Straw, **Origin of Sunday Observance**, pp. 42-43.

- i. When pagans observed Christians keeping Sunday, they thought that the Sun was the Christian god. This shows that Sunday holiness stands for **sun worship even in the so-called**

Christian Church.

“Tertullian, writing early in the third century, says that the well-informed pagans mistook the Sunday-keeping Christians for sun worshipers. “Others, certainly more cultured, think that the sun is the god of the Christians, because it is known that we pray toward the east [the sunrising] and make a festivity on the day of the Sun. Do you do less?”—*Apology*, chap. 16.” Quoted in, Robert Leo Odom, **How Did Sunday Get its Name?**, pp. 25-26.

- j. The Catholic Church admits changing the day from Saturday to Sunday. This means that Sunday holiness stands for the **religious authority of the Roman Catholic Church.**

“Q. *Which is the Sabbath-day?*

A. Saturday is the Sabbath-day.

Q. *Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?*

A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the [Roman] Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”—Peter Geiermann, *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, edition of 1957, p. 50.

Quoted in **Ibid**, p. 29.

- k. The Catholic Church deliberately defies the Command of God to keep the seventh-day Sabbath, and decrees Sunday holiness for Christians; this exalts the popes above the God of the Sabbath. Thus Sunday holiness means **defiance against God, and the**

exaltation of the pope as God.

“In section 249 of his encyclical letter *Mater et Magistra*, dated May 15, 1961, Pope John XXIII referred to the Sabbath commandment in the Decalogue (Exodus 20:8-11). But disregarding the fact that God says: “The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God,” the pope boldly declared in section 251: “The [Roman] Catholic Church has decreed for many centuries that Christians observe this day of rest on Sunday.””
Ibid, p. 30.

1. Sunday is a Catholic institution defended only by Catholic principles, thus Sunday holiness stands for **Catholic religious supremacy**.

“Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles ... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.” *The Catholic Press* of Sydney, Australia, August 25, 1900. Quoted in Carlyle B. Haynes, **From Sabbath to Sunday**, p. 46.

- m. The Catholic Church tells Protestants (and by extension Evangelicals) that their keeping of Sunday is not at all Scriptural, but is merely due to following the influence of the Roman Catholic Church which has the authority to command Sunday holiness. Thus Sunday holiness in the eyes of God stands for **Papal worship**; and since this exalts the popes as

god, then it stands for the **popes being gods**.

“It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest to the Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church.”

Monsignor Segur, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, Edition of 1868, Part 3, sec. 14, p. 225. Quoted in **Ibid**, p. 46.

“The Catholic Church for over one hundred years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday ... The Christian Sabbath is therefore to this day the acknowledged offspring of the Catholic Church as spouse of the Holy Ghost, without a word of remonstrance from the Protestant world.” Reprinted by the *Catholic Mirror* as pamphlet, *The Christian Sabbath*, pp. 29,31. Quoted in **Ibid**, pp. 46-47.

- n. Sunday holiness causes the Protestants who keep it to exalt the Roman Catholic Church, since this day exists in the Christian world solely because of the influence of the Catholic Church. Therefore, since the Catholic Church headed by the pope is exalted, then Sunday holiness stands for the **exaltation of the pope as authoritative above God**, thus making him a god. Sunday holiness stands for the making the pope a god.

“Ques.—How prove you that the church hath power to command feasts and holy days?”

Ans.—By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church.

Ques.—How prove you that?

Ans.—Because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church's power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin; and by not keeping the rest [of the feast days] by her command, they again deny, in fact, the same power." Reverend Henry Tuberville, D.D., *An Abridgement of the Christian Doctrine*, p. 58. Quoted in **Ibid**, p. 45.

- o. Sunday is the mark of the unscriptural nature of the Catholic Church since it places this Church above the Bible. Thus Sunday holiness means **being unscriptural in one's moral practices**.

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change of the Sabbath was her act ... And the act is a **mark of her ecclesiastical power** and authority in religious matters. Letter from cardinal Gibbon's office, October 28, 1895, By C.F. Thomas Chancellor. Quoted in, Jacob M. Teske, **The Seventh-day Sabbath and a National Sunday Law**, p. 45.

“Sunday is our **mark of authority!** ... The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact.” *The Catholic Record* of London, Ontario, Canada, September 1, 1923. Quoted in **Ibid**, p. 45.

5. To add to all this, the pope does claim to be God on earth.

“Pope Leo XIII made the following statements: We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” *Encyclical Letter*, June 20, 1894. Quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 40.

“The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ himself, hidden under the veil of flesh.” *The Catholic National*, July, 1895. Quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 40.

“In an Antwerp edition of *The Extravagantes*, 1584, column 153, the pope is given the title *Dominum Denum nostrum Pagam*” (“our Lord God, the pope”).” **Ibid**, p. 43.

7. A summary of all the meanings of Sunday holiness so far can indicate to us if it will save us from “darkness” and the “mire of Pagan materialism”, or bring the world into the same horrible state if legislated.

- i. Veneration of the sun
- ii. Sun worship
- iii. Paganism (of the Roman Empire).
- iv. The worship of the sun god Mithra
- v. Worship of a false god.

- vi. Apostasy from God
 - vii. The worship of a false christ, the sun
 - viii. Sun worship in the Christian Church
- ix. The religious authority of the Roman Catholic Church.
- x. Defiance against God, and the exaltation of the pope as God.
 - xi. Catholic religious supremacy
 - xii. Papal worship, the popes are gods.
 - xiii. The exaltation of the popes as authoritative above God.
 - xiv. Being unscriptural in one's moral practices.
8. Certainly we can see that **none of the above points** will help any society. In fact God warns against the worship of the sun, it is abominable to Him and is darkness. Jeremiah 19:13; Deuteronomy 4:15-19; Deuteronomy 17:2,3; Jeremiah 8:2; Ezekiel 8:15-17.
9. We are also warned against worshipping false gods. Mithra is a false god. Jeremiah 11:10; Jeremiah 16:20,21.
10. YHWH is the **one true** God. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Psalms 83:18; Jeremiah 10:6-10)
11. False gods worship (whether Mithra or the pope) destroys the human mind. Jeremiah 13:10; Jeremiah 10:7,8.

12. False religion breeds social injustices Jeremiah 2:1,5,11-13,23,27,28,33,34.
13. YHWH's day is the Seventh-day Sabbath, it is the Lord's day. Isaiah 58:13. Mark 2:27,28.
14. The Sabbath exalts YHWH as the true God, since He is the true God, the Sabbath means **identifying the true God, YHWH**. Ezekiel 20:20. (This is against false gods).
15. The Sabbath points to God resting from labor, thus the Sabbath means **rest from labor as God's example**. Genesis 2:2,3. (This is against bodily overwork). Exodus 34:21.
16. The Sabbath stands for keeping all God's Commandments, thus the Sabbath means **keeping all God's Commandments**. Exodus 16:28-31. (This is against Anti-nomianism).

The Sabbath is the identifying mark of the fact that the Universe was created, and that it was a six-days **completed** Creation. This is directly against evolution and all its selfish evils. Thus the Sabbath means **creation completed perfect in six days by God**. Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:17.

18. The Sabbath reveals YHWH as the Sanctifier or the One that makes us sinless. This is against righteousness by works and salvation in sin. Thus the Sabbath means **made sinless or holy**

by YHWH. Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12.

19. The Sabbath is a rest to YHWH, this means contemplation of His Love or divinity is the object of keeping the day. This would mean that the Sabbath engenders spiritual contemplation and worship of God. This is against an unspiritual and unholy existence. Thus the Sabbath means **spiritual contemplation and worship of God**. Exodus 34:2,3.
20. The Sabbath is here presented as causing parental respect and family stability. This is against the destruction of the family. Thus the Sabbath causes (and means) **the preservation of the family**. Leviticus 19:3.
21. The Sabbath is here presented as respect and holy regard for YHWH's Sanctuary in which is His Way or Plan of Salvation (Psalms 77:13), this is against every false plan. Thus the Sabbath stands for the true **Plan of Salvation**. Leviticus 19:30.
22. The Sabbath is presented in connection with all the feast and holidays of Israel which symbolizes the whole Plan of Salvation in history. This is against false plans that never really existed. Thus the Sabbath means the **historicity of salvation**. Leviticus 23:1-4.
23. The Sabbath is presented as receiving salvation and thus being in obedience to God. This is against sinfulness and being empty of salvation. Thus the Sabbath means **salvation and obedience**.

Isaiah 56:1,2,4,6.

24. The Sabbath is presented as the experience of total self denial, selflessness and pleasure in God. This is obviously against selfishness and pleasure in unrighteousness. Thus the Sabbath means **selflessness and pleasure in God**. Isaiah 58:13,14.

25. man to take up his bed and walk. This was the presentation of genuine heart religion as against ritualism. The Sabbath thus means **genuine heart religion**. John 5:1-18.

26. The Sabbath is presented as an expression of the mercy or Grace of God against ritualism. Thus the Sabbath means **the Grace of God to humanity**. Matthew 12:1-7.

27. The Sabbath is presented as an instrument of blessing for man against losing anything, thus the Sabbath means **blessings for humanity**. Mark 2:27.

28. We are told that Jesus is the YHWH of the Sabbath day. This is identifying Jesus as YHWH God against those who claim He is not God. Thus the Sabbath means that **Jesus is YHWH God**. Mark 2:28.

29. Jesus healed again on the Sabbath day showing that day is for doing good and doing acts of mercy, against ritualism. The Sabbath therefore means **doing good and acts of mercy**. Mark

3:1-5.

30. Jesus' example of reading or explaining the Scriptures on the Sabbath day is presented, it is against idleness and unspirituality on the Sabbath. Thus the Sabbath means the **preaching and teaching of the Word of God**. Luke 4:16-22.

31. The Sabbath is represented as the natural selection of obedience to those who believe the Gospel, this is against transgression of the law. The Sabbath therefore means **obedience through conversion**. Hebrews 4:1-3.

32. There is a Sabbath-keeping for the people of God, and this is against unbelievers who are not the people of God, thus the Sabbath means **being of the true people of God**. Hebrews 4:9-11.

33. To be in the Spirit on YHWH's day means, that the Sabbath is for the sake of abiding in the Spirit of Truth, this is obviously against empty-mindedness and godlessness on the Sabbath. The Sabbath therefore means **abiding in the Spirit of Truth**. Revelation 4:9-11.

34. Now we can sum up the various meanings of the Sabbath that it gives as an influensive knowledge, and ask ourselves, will this "throw civilization back into darkness and mire of Pagan materialism", or is the Sabbath, the seventh-day, "essential to the welfare" of society? Let us look at the points of the value of the Sabbath put together.

- i. Identifies the one true God YHWH.
- ii. Rest from labor as God's example
- iii. Keeping all God's commandments
- iv. A perfect, completed six-days creation
- v. Made sinless or holy by YHWH
- vi. Spiritual contemplation and the worship of God
- vii. The preservation of the family
- viii. The Plan of Salvation
- ix. The historicity of salvation
- x. Salvation and obedience
- xi. Selflessness and pleasure in God
- xii. Genuine heart religion
- xiii. The Grace of God to humanity.
- xiv. Blessings for humanity
- xv. Jesus is YHWH God
- xvi. Doing good and acts of mercy
- xvii. Preaching and teaching the Word of God
- xviii. Being of the true people of God
- xix. Abiding in the Spirit in truth

35. These meanings are by no means exhaustive, for it is not Sunday holiness, but the **Sabbath** is the day in honor of the resurrection of Christ.

- a. Jesus is the firstfruits which symbolizes the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:20,23.

- b. The firstfruits were offered on the 16th of the first Biblical month. Leviticus 23:10,11,6,7; Numbers 28:26.

- c. Since the Passover lamb was slain on the 14th of the first month, and that lamb symbolizes Jesus who slain ... (Leviticus 23:5; 1 Corinthians 5:7). Numbers 28:16.

- d. Then the point of the resurrection is not on the day it occurred at the time, (Sunday), but on the **date**, the 16th of the first month, which can fall on any day of the month. So it is not Sunday that should be kept if men are looking to keep a day, it is the 16th of the first month on what ever day it falls. (Numbers 28:26; Leviticus 23:10,11; Joshua 4:18,19; Joshua 5:10-12).

- . When Christ was resurrected His body was in fact given back life. Acts 2:23,24,30-32.

- f. God only can give life, because God is the Creator indeed. Acts 17:24,25.

- g. The Sabbath is the fruit-sign that God is indeed the only Creator. Exodus 20:8-11.

h. Therefore, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the act of God giving His body life because God is the Creator, this resurrection indeed shows God's Creatorship. (Acts 3:15; Acts 4:10; Acts 17:24,25; Exodus 31:16,17).

i. Thus the best sign of the resurrection

since it proves God's Creatorship is the Sabbath. Exodus 20:8-11.

36. The only example of the first day of the week, Sunday, we can get in the Bible is that Paul instructed the church to lay aside money in their homes for collection. So we may perhaps call the First day, Sunday, a "**personal money day**", but certainly not any holy day. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2.

Fin.