



Acts Chapter 20 and 21

Last week in our study of “Acts chapter 20 Part 2” we dove into some of the things that the Apostle Paul was preaching and teaching... and... we also dove into some of the things that the Apostle Paul was not preaching and teaching.

We looked at the very clear fact that the Apostle Paul never taught anything to do with a first day of the week “Sunday Sabbath”. We also looked at the very clear fact that he, nor any of the Apostles ever taught, or indulged in a first day of the week “Sunday Sabbath”. We also know that the early church.. never taught a first day of the week “Sunday Sabbath” and we also looked at the fact... that it was indeed Constantine and his creation of the Roman Catholic Church, and it's disdain for the Jews... is what caused them to do away with Gods commanded “7th Day Sabbath” that he said would be a sign between him and his people and a perpetual agreement for all generations “forever”.

And before we let go of this most important matter... let me show you exactly what many of these so called “Protestant Churches” who now keep the Catholic Created first day of the week “Sunday Sabbath” once believed. Let me show you what their so called “Early Church Fathers” believed, let me show you what the founders... of these Denominational Charters used to believe about the 7th Day Sabbath... just so that you can see the difference between what they believe today... and what they believed at first:

Sabbath Confessions Of The Early Church Fathers

Lutheran Church:

“They [Roman Catholics] refer to the Sabbath Day, as having been changed into the Lord’s Day, contrary to the Decalogue, as it seems. Neither is there any example whereof they make more than concerning the changing of the Sabbath Day. Great, say they, is the power of the Church, since it has dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments!”

- “Augsburg Confession of Faith,” art. 28, by Melanchthon, approved by Martin Luther, 1530, The Book of Concord of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Henry Jacobs, 1911 ed.,

The 10 Commandments Of Scripture



The 10 Commandments Of Catholicism

- 1) Thou shalt have no other gods before me
- 2) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
- 3) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
- 4) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy
- 5) Honour thy father and thy mother
- 6) Thou shalt not kill
- 7) Thou shalt not commit adultery
- 8) Thou shalt not steal
- 9) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour
- 10) Thou shalt not covet

- 1) Thou shalt not have other gods besides Me
- 2) Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain
- 3) Remember to keep holy the Lord's day
- 4) Honor thy father and thy mother
- 5) Thou shalt not murder
- 6) Thou shalt not commit adultery
- 7) Thou shalt not steal
- 8) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
- 9) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife
- 10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods

Catholicism REMOVES the 4th Commandment, and splits the 10th Commandment into two separate Commandments by their own authority!

“We have seen how gradually the impression of the Jewish Sabbath faded from the mind of the Christian Church, and how completely the newer thought underlying the observance of the first day took possession of the church. We have seen that the Christians of the first three centuries never confused one with the other, but for a time celebrated both.”

The Sunday Problem, a study book of the United Lutheran Church, p. 36, 1923

“The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a Divine command in this respect, far from them, and from the early apostolic Church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday.”

Dr. Augustus Neander, The History of the Christian Religion and Church,
Henry John Rose's translation, p. 186, 1843

Anglican/Episcopal Church:

“And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because the Bible, but because the [Roman] church has enjoined it.”

Isaac Williams, Plain Sermons on the Catechism, vol. 1, pp. 334, 336

“There is no word, no hint, in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday...into the rest of Sunday no divine law enters...The observance of Ash Wednesday or Lent stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday.”

Canon Eyton, The Ten Commandments, pp. 52, 63, 65

“We have made the change from the seventh day to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy, catholic, apostolic Church of Christ.”

Bishop Seymour, Why We Keep Sunday

Baptist Church:

“There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week...Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament absolutely not.

“To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years’ intercourse with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question...never alluded to any transference of the day; also, that during forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated. “Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history...But what a pity it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god, adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism!”

Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, before a New York ministers’ conference,
Nov. 13, 1893, New York Examiner, Nov. 16, 1893

“There was never any formal or authoritative change from the Jewish seventh-day Sabbath to the Christian first-day observance.”

William Owen Carver, *The Lord's Day in Our Day*, p. 49

Disciples of Christ Church:

“‘But,’ say some, ‘it was changed from the seventh to the first day.’ Where? when? and by whom? No man 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.”

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian Baptist*,
vol. 1, no. 7, p. 164, Feb. 2, 1824

Methodist Church:

“But, the moral law contained in the ten commandments, and enforced by the prophets, he [Christ] did not take away. It was not the design of his coming to revoke any part of this. This is a law which never can be broken... Every part of this law must remain in force upon all mankind, and in all ages; as not depending either on time or place, or any other circumstances liable to change, but on the nature of God and the nature of man, and their unchangeable relation to each other.”

John Wesley, *The Works of the Rev. John Wesley*,
A.M., John Emory, ser. 25, vol. 1, p. 221

“Take the matter of Sunday. There are indications in the New Testament as to how the church came to keep the first day of the week as its day of worship, but there is no passage telling Christians to keep that day, or to transfer the Jewish Sabbath to that day.”

Harris Franklin Rall, *Christian Advocate*,
p. 26, July 2, 1942

Presbyterian Church:

“The Sabbath is a part of the decalogue—the Ten Commandments. This alone forever settles the question as to the perpetuity of the institution...Until, therefore, it can be shown that the whole moral law has been repealed, the Sabbath will stand...The teaching of Christ confirms the perpetuity of the Sabbath.”

T. C. Blake, D.D., *Theology Condensed*, pp. 474, 475

“The Sabbath was binding in Eden, and it has been in force ever since. This fourth commandment begins with the word ‘remember,’ showing that the Sabbath already existed when God wrote the law on the tables of stone at Sinai. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away with when they will admit that the other nine are still binding?”

D. L. Moody, *Weighed and Wanting*, pp. 47, 48

So once again my friends... when we see these denominational charters of men keeping the Catholic created first day of the week “Sunday Sabbath”.. and we can know and understand that they are part of an agenda driven lie that fuels the objective of our adversary who wants to be the god of this world.

These denominational charters of men have made themselves nothing more than the children of lies... who obey their father who is the father of all lies, and who has been the creator of deception from the very beginning. They follow after another Jesus, another Gospel... another spirit.

They follow after another Jesus who created his own Sabbath, and his own Easter, and his own Advent, and his own Lent, and his own Ash Wednesday and all the rest of the Devils demonically inspired trash that so many of our brothers and sisters are all still in bondage over.

They don't keep the commanded 7th Day Sabbath of the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob... they don't keep the anniversary of the death of Yahshua Hamashiach, Jesus the Messiah who all four Gospels... Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John... all tell us died on Passover Day.

They don't keep any of his appointments, none of his Moedim, and most of them could care less about what the biblical definition of the love of God is... found in 1st John 5:3.

I don't know about you my friends but my bible tells me that if anyone... even the Apostles or an angel from Heaven comes down and preaches another Jesus, or another Gospel, or another Spirit that they are accursed according to Galatians 1:8, and again we were warned in ^{2nd} Corinthians chapter 11 about those who would come into the faith to destroy the Gospel message that the Apostles left us with in our scriptures.

And once again I want us to re-read Paul's warning in Acts chapter 20 verses 29 through 32:

Act 20:29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

Act 20:30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Act 20:31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Act 20:32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

We covered this in great detail last week, but once again it's important to understand the historical implications of this prophecy, and it's profoundly legitimate warning. Most of our would be.. brothers and sisters out there simply don't get it. They don't understand it, and most of them have never even heard it. They are being destroyed for lack of knowledge because they have rejected knowledge... and everyone just seems to be okay with that.

How often sitting in a church pew on the wrong day of the week listening to some guy you hardly know.. preach out of the back half of the book... have you heard this warning? Has any Pastor, Priest, Bishop, or Pope ever brought this to your attention? Has anyone ever told you that there would be wolves with in your own congregation?

And all of these Pastors that I hear out there are all proclaiming that we all need to hold hands and sing Kumbaya.. but that's not what the scripture says is it? Are we not told to contend for the faith? Are we not told that God wants us to worship him in "Spirit and in Truth"? Are we not told to be ready in season and out of season, and to reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching?

Are we not told that the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. Are we not told to always be sober-minded, endure suffering, to do the work of an evangelist, and to fulfill our ministry?

Where are we commanded to sit and hold hands and sing kumbaya with those who teach another Jesus, another Sabbath, another commandment, another Gospel, and another Spirit?

That's why you and I are here my friends. You and I are here to drag these wicked lies out of the darkness and into the daylight. You and I are here to build up the body of the Messiah for the work of ministry so that we are no longer blown by the wind to and fro by every wind of doctrine that comes out of the mouth of a man. This is our mission... this is our passion... this is our objective.. and this is the whole duty of man.. that we keep his commandments according to Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Moving on to Acts chapter 20.. I want us to also see in verse 25 that Paul tells the elders of the Church of Ephesus that they will not see his face again... and they begin to weep in verses 37 and 38 as they accompany Paul to the ship to say goodbye. But as we'll soon see.. Paul was mistaken.. and the elders of the Church of Ephesus would indeed see his face again.

Lets turn to Acts chapter 21

Act 21:1 And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.

Act 21:2 And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail.

Act 21:3 When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo.

Act 21:4 And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

Act 21:5 When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed

Act 21:6 and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

Act 21:7 When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day.

Act 21:8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

Act 21:9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

Act 21:10 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

Act 21:11 And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

Act 21:12 When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Act 21:13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Act 21:14 And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

Act 21:15 After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem.

Act 21:16 And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.

Act 21:17 When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly.

Act 21:18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

Act 21:19 After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

Act 21:20 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,

Act 21:21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

Act 21:22 What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

Act 21:23 Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow;

Act 21:24 take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.

Act 21:25 But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality."

Act 21:26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

Act 21:27 When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,

Act 21:28 crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."

Act 21:29 For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

Act 21:30 Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut.

Act 21:31 And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

Act 21:32 He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

Act 21:33 Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what he had done.

Act 21:34 Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.

Act 21:35 And when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of

the violence of the crowd,

Act 21:36 for the mob of the people followed, crying out, "Away with him!"

Act 21:37 As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, "May I say something to you?" And he said, "Do you know Greek?"

Act 21:38 Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?"

Act 21:39 Paul replied, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people."

Act 21:40 And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

Now... before we get to far into things here in chapter 21 I want us to compare a couple of scriptures in Acts chapter 20 and 21. In Acts chapter 20 verse 22 we're told that Paul was lead by the spirit to go to Jerusalem... but we're told in Acts chapter 21 verse 4 that the spirit is telling the disciples that Paul should not go to Jerusalem. So it's important to understand what many will see as a contradiction in the scriptures. We're told in Acts chapter 20 verses 22 and 23 that Paul doesn't know exactly what's gong to happen to him in Jerusalem... but he does say that the Ruach Hakodesh (the Holy Spirit) continues to testify to him that imprisonment and afflictions await him in every city.

The Apostles know that something bad is going to happen to Paul because the same spirit that's testifying to Paul is testifying to them as well... and so the Apostles are trying to get Paul not to go to Jerusalem.. but it's important to understand that according to Gods law in Deuteronomy chapter 16.. every Jew was to go to the Temple for Shavuot (also known as Pentecost). So by not going to Jerusalem where the Temple was... was not an option for Paul.

Even though Paul knew that trouble awaited him in Jerusalem.. he knew that it was better to go than to break a commandment of God, and so it was important for Paul to go to Jerusalem both because the Ruach Hakodesh (the Holy Spirit) was guiding him there.. and because it was commanded by God... he as a Jew and a believer in the Messiah.. was to be at the Temple for Shavuot. And so once again just as we mentioned earlier in this study.. according to James and the Jerusalem council in Acts chapter 21 verse 24.. Paul always lived in accordance with the law.

The Apostles who loved Paul were simply afraid of what was going to happen to him if he went, and so there is no real contradiction.. it was simply a case of Paul doing what he knew had to be done.

Something else that we see in verse 10 is this man by the name of Agabus. Agabus was introduced to us back in chapter 11, and he prophesied that a great famine was going to take place, and it did... so we know that this "Agabus" that comes to Philips house is some kind of

prophet but we're not really told anything more about him.

And so this Agabus takes Paul's belt and ties himself up with it and prophesies that the owner of this belt is going to be tied up the same way. After hearing this... the people really don't want Paul to go to Jerusalem but Paul rebukes them and tells them that it doesn't matter what happens to him.. he's glad to give his life for his Messiah... and so they all seem to fall into line and agree to let Gods will be done.. and because there's so much to get into in the next few verses... I think we'll end our study here until next week when we'll see Paul once again being obedient to the law of God, and once again practicing what he came to preach.