

Sunday Sacredness

Sunday sacredness is like the offering of Cain

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In the gospel Jesus warned the religious leaders against worshipping God falsely. He accused the Pharisees and the scribes of breaking the commandments of God in order to keep tradition. He said to them.

Mark 7:7-12. *"...in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men - the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. He said to them, " all to well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said 'Honour your father and your mother; and, he who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say,' if a man says to his father or mother, whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban - (that is a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down."*

In this rebuke Jesus said that these men were violating the fifth commandment IE "Honour your father and your mother; that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you". It is clear that Jesus condemned tradition if it meant that it violated the commandments of God. In the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, as a sacred day in the place of God's holy day Sabbath -Saturday, we are upholding tradition in the place of God's Commandments. As Sunday sacredness is a tradition of the church that has no support in the Bible at all. It amounts to worshipping God in vain, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

This is nothing new. It all began outside the garden of Eden when Cain and Abel came to worship God. as recorded in Genesis 4:2-8.

Gen 4:2-8 *" Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the first-born of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it". Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him."*

Both of these two brothers came to worship God. So they are a part of the church. Abel brought a lamb as a sacrifice to worship God with. This sacrifice was a part of the sacrificial system that was instituted



by God and represented the coming of the redeemer Christ, who according to the gospel, was the sacrificial lamb of the world. Cain chose not to worship God the way God decreed but chose to worship God in a manner that suited him. Instead of offering the lamb of faith he chose to offer the works of his own hands. His worship and offering were rejected. Because of this Cain murdered his brother. This is the first murder ever committed and ironically it is a religious murder based on religious bigotry and within the same family.

The formal worship of God on the seventh-day Sabbath is God's own appointed time of formal worship. To do things God's way is to be like Abel and worship God the way you are told. To do things your own way is to be like Cain - to reject God's way and devise a worship that suits you. The Sabbath - Sunday controversy is in the same category. Those Christians who observe the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment are like Abel in that they are worshipping God in God's own appointed time. While those people who knowingly reject the seventh-day.

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Sabbath and observe the first-day Sunday in its place, and those who observe no day at all but claim that every day is the Sabbath, are like Cain. They are honouring tradition above the word of God, the fruit of the hands of man, a practice that Jesus condemned, and like Cain are choosing to worship as it suits them instead of the way God commanded.

As with Cain and Abel the end result will be murder. In the last days the decree will go forth that anyone who does not worship the beast and receive the mark of the beast will be sentenced to death. So ironically the last murders will be the same as the first. False worship based on tradition verses true worship based on the commandments of God.

Roman Catholic testimony regarding the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

James Cardinal Gibbons, archbishop of Baltimore, states “The Scriptures alone do not contain all the truths which a Christian is obliged to practice. Not to mention other examples, is not every Christian obligated to sanctify Sunday and to abstain on that day from unnecessary servile work? Is not the observance of this law among the most prominent of our sacred duties? But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorising the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day we never sanctify.” (*Gibbons. The Faith of Our Fathers, pp 72-73 1876, reprinted by TAN Books and Publishers 1980.*)

According to the Cardinal Sunday sacredness is nothing more than Roman Catholic tradition that is practiced in the place of a direct commandment of God. Therefore Sunday observance should be rejected and looked upon as being in the same category as the offering of Cain.