

# THE HOLY DAYS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

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Last week we asked — are the Holy Days really for us today? Most church-going people don't keep them.

We saw:

- There is a hint that they may go back to Creation
- Statutes forever
- They will be kept in The Millennium
- Found plenty of references in Acts and Paul's letters to Holy Days

It would seem obvious that believers should keep on observing them?

But no! We don't find that. Churches say they're Jewish — or Old Covenant — or we are accused of legalism.

But surely Bible-believing church-goers should have some clear Word from God that they can safely reject His Moedim? They can't just decide on their own?

Well — they struggle to find any solid reasons (because there aren't any 😊) — but they've managed to conjure up 3 or 4 vague references in the New Testament that they often use (abuse!).

We'll look at them today!

As background ... just imagine in the early days of the Church ... the major trouble you would expect if you just came along in those days and said Sabbath was no longer important. "Keep any old day you want".

There would have been riots. Think of all of the fuss in the New Testament about circumcision! And yet ... of the Sabbath and the Holy Days ... silence.

Let's start.

#### **Ephesians 2:14-15**

14 **For He Himself is our peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

15 **having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances**, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

“Jesus has abolished The Law of Commandments contained in ordinances”.

When Jesus died ... He “fulfilled” (i.e. abolished) the Law of Moses.

Now we’re free to murder ... steal ... commit adultery — really? Is that what it means?

Hmmm?

Let’s look at the context. Paul is talking to a congregation made up of Jews and Gentiles. There was usually a problem in bringing Jews and Gentiles together. The Jews looked down on uncircumcised Gentiles. And — that was the problem here.

### **Ephesians 2:11-13**

11 **Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh**--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--

12 **that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.***(you were losers)*

13 **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

NOW — brought near.

### **Ephesians 2:17-22**

17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

18 **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

19 **Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,**

20 **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,**

21 **in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,**

**22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**

NOW — the Jews and Gentiles are one — united into one Holy Temple.

How did this happen? Jesus broke down “The wall of division” by bringing to an end the “Law of Commandments contained in ordinances”.

Let’s read verses 14 and 15 again.

**Ephesians 2:14-15**

14 **For He Himself is our peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

15 **having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances**, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Verse 15 is actually Law of Commandments contained in Dogmas (Greek).

**Nowhere in The bible is “Dogma” used of any Law of God!**

It appears 14 times in the Greek Old Testament and appears about 4 other times in the New Testament — and always relates to a Law of Man (King of Babylon or Caesar or others in authority) — not relating to any of God’s laws.

Were there any such man-made “Dogmas” that kept Jews and the Gentiles at arms length?

Yes. The rabbis and Jewish sages had set up many rules and regulations to prevent the Jews from being contaminated by Gentiles. For example:

**Acts 10:24-29**

24 And the following day they entered Caesarea. **Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.**

25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together.

28 Then he said to them, "**You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.** (It's not unlawful in the scriptures. They were man-made laws)

29 "Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?"

#### **Acts 10:44-48**

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

45 **And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.**

46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

47 "**Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?**"

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

#### **Galatians 2:11-14**

11 **Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;**

12 **for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.**

13 **And the rest of the Jews (in the Church) also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.**

14 **But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"**

Peter was so influenced by his previous culture and rules that he abandoned Gentile believers.

These were the dogmas that Jesus abolished — by showing His and The Father's acceptance of all ... giving His spirit to all ... bringing all into His "Body".  
ONE BODY!

No more wall of division!

And nothing to do with abolishing 10 commandments!

A similar passage in Colossians.

**Colossians 2:13-14**

13 **And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (all of our sins have been forgiven. When did that happen? When Jesus was nailed to the Cross)**

14 **having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

Popularly taught as Jesus nailing the 10 Commandments to the Cross. So ... it's okay to murder ... lie ... steal ... definitely okay to ignore the Sabbath!

Does it say 10 Commandments are nailed to the Cross? (Wasn't it Jesus who was nailed to the Cross?)

Jesus wiped out (blotted out) the handwriting of requirements that was against us.

Requirements = Dogma = Ordinances in the KJV.

Against us? The Holy ... Just ... Perfect Law of God?

Scholars have found the particular phrase used here in other literature — means a written acknowledgement of debt (usually in debtor's own handwriting).

When we break God's law we incur a debt. The ultimate debt is the PENALTY OF DEATH.

Jesus paid that. Jesus died in our place. The debt is satisfied — extinguished — blotted out.

Other translations make it clearer.

### **Colossians 2:14 (NIV)**

14 **having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness**, which stood against us

### **Colossians 2:14 (NASB)**

14 **having canceled out the certificate of debt** consisting of decrees against us

Notice the context in verse 13 — forgiveness of trespasses.

When Jesus was nailed to the Cross ... the record of our guilt was obliterated.

Nothing to do with cancelling the 10 Commandments and the Sabbath Day!

Another popular passage:-

### **Romans 14:5-6**

5 **One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike**. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.

In practice: Choose any day you like to worship God — as long as it's Sunday.

☺ NO!

The context is key. The whole chapter is about eating meat ... or avoiding meat. In particular ... the meat ... that probably came from the pagan temples (Jupiter/Mars/Minerva etc).

Many believers realised the gods weren't real. They were very relaxed about where their meat came from. Others were very nervous.

### **Romans 14:1-3**

1 **Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.**

2 **For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.**

3 **Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats;** for God has received him

Nothing doubtful about the Sabbath! This was about personal opinions.

#### **Romans 14:10**

10 **But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother?** For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Bad behaviour.

#### **Romans 14:13-17**

13 **Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.**

14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean (*koinos ... not defiled*) of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

15 **Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.**

16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

17 **for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

Food is the problem.

#### **Romans 14:20-23**

20 **Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offence.**

21 **It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.**

22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

23 **But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.**

The entire chapter is about eating meat (and drinking wine) that has “suspicious” origins.

The Sabbath Day is nowhere in view!

So what about the days of verses 5 and 6?

#### **Romans 14:5-6**

5 **One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike.** Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. **He who eats, eats to the Lord,** for he gives God thanks; and **he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat,** and gives God thanks.

It's still about eating ... or not eating ... on certain days. There were seemingly some disputes. Consider:

The Pharisees fasted twice a week (Monday and Thursday).

Catholics today ... abstain from eating meat on Fridays.

Muslims don't eat anything during the daytime at Ramadan.

So ... in context: It looks like some bullying and condemnation going on among believers at Rome? Over whether you should or shouldn't eat meat.

Nothing to do with the Sabbath or Holy Days!

#### **Colossians 2:16-17**

16 ***So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,***

17 ***which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.***

The popular view is that believers were being "pressured" to keep the Sabbath (which as we all know has been "done away" 😊).

It is alleged that Paul was saying "You don't need to keep the Sabbath — it was just a shadow — now we have Jesus!" NO! It's actually the reverse.

Context: Paul was certainly very concerned about DECEPTION — the Colossians being deceived.

#### **Colossians 2:4-7**

4 ***Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.***

5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

They have been taught God's way ... God's truth. LEST ANY DECEIVE YOU!

### **Colossians 2:8**

8 **Beware** lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ

BEWARE!

### **Colossians 2:18**

18 **Let no one cheat you of your reward**, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, **vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind**,

LET NO ONE DEFRAUD YOU OF YOUR REWARD!

### **Colossians 2:20-22**

20 **Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations**--

21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,"

22 **which all concern things which perish with the using--according to the commandments and doctrines of men?**

DOCTRINES OF MEN! Not God's law. Man-made instructions.

"Let no one judge you". Not even God? Not Jesus? Not His ministers — like Paul himself?

Judge — by what standard? I would suggest God's Word — which nowhere even hints at Sabbath and the Holy Days being abolished.

In context ... Paul is defending Commandment keeping believers. They were keeping the New Moons ... Festivals and Sabbaths — they were feasting on these days. Paul says ... don't let these people condemn you. It's not their business.

Note Also: These days are — still — a shadow of things to come.

### **Galatians 4:10-11**

10 **You observe days and months and seasons and years.**

11 I am afraid for you, lest I have laboured for you in vain.

You observe days — such as Sabbath. You're wrong!?

Where does it say these are God's Holy Days? There were — and are — lots of religious festivals everywhere.

I could write the exact same words to my former Catholic friends?

"You observe days (Sunday/Ash Wednesday/Good Friday) ... months and seasons (Lent/Advent/Easter) ... years (Jubilee Years when the Pope opens the Holy Door in the Vatican)".

I could then ask: Why don't you keep the Holy Days given by God in the Bible?!!

Context:

### **Galatians 4:8-11**

8 **But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.**

9 **But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?**

10 **You observe days and months and seasons and years.**

11 **I am afraid for you, lest I have laboured for you in vain.**

Gentiles turning back?

Are God's Holy Days "weak and beggarly elements"?

That's pretty much it! Those passages are the usual suspects — and they say nothing about overturning God's Sabbath (or Holy Days ... or the entire 10 Commandments).

They don't have a leg to stand on!

We have Jesus keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days. Paul and Luke keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days. Paul writing to churches about keeping Holy Days.

They will be kept in the World Tomorrow.

Finally.

#### **Hebrews 4:9**

9 **There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.**

There remains “a rest”?

The Greek is Sabbatismos. It appears only once in the Bible. It has been found at least 4 times in Greek Christian literature and means “A Sabbath Celebration”.

#### **Hebrews 4:9 (NIV)**

9 **There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;**

#### **Hebrews 4: (George Lamsa)**

9 **It is therefore the duty of the people of God to keep the Sabbath.**

If only Sunday-keepers/church-goers had such a plain verse in the New Testament?! But ... they don't!

Their practice is entirely based on religious tradition — mostly Roman Catholic religious tradition.