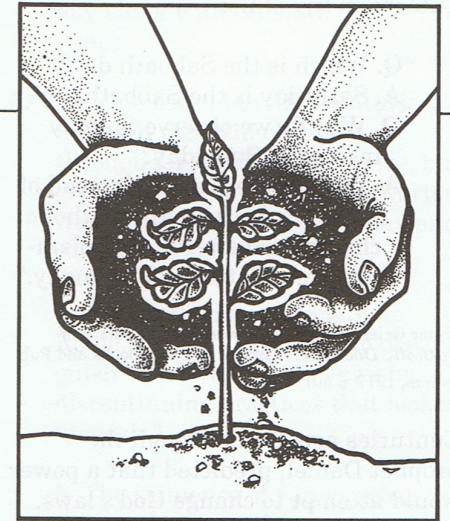


# Stay Alive

*with Jesus...*



**WHY DO  
SO MANY  
WORSHIP ON  
SUNDAY?**

**LESSON 12**



6. Behind the governments and powers of earth a “man of sin” has been at work trying to “change times and laws.” This deceptive force is none other than Satan. What has been his goal?  
Isaiah 14:13,14 (especially last part of verse 14)

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7. What was one of Satan’s temptations to Jesus? Matthew 4:9

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8. Satan wants to “be like the Most High.” He desires Worship. By substituting another day for God’s true worship day, he has hoped to get worship and allegiance through deception. Jesus unmasked Satan’s deception. What was His answer?  
Matthew 4:10

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Do you feel as startled by these findings as Robert Whiteside did more than a century ago? Robert struggled with the decision to change his lifetime beliefs and habits, but finally he decided to follow God’s word. He became a minister and preached Bible truths for more than half a century.

Acts 20:7, 8

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“Luke (the writer of Acts) recorded 84 Sabbath services (after Christ’s ascension) and only one first-day meeting, referred to in the text above.”

*(Arthur G. Lickey, God Speaks to Modern Man. Washington, D.C.: Review & Herald Publishing Assn., 1952, p. 430)*

2. This meeting was not a regular weekly worship service, but a meeting to bid Paul farewell. The fact that they “broke bread” didn’t make it a holy day, because in Acts 2:46, we read that the believers were “breaking bread from house to house, daily.”<sup>1</sup> I Corinthians 16:1,2 is the eighth and last of the first-day texts in the New Testament. What did Paul ask the people to do on the first day of the Week? I Corinthians 16:1,2

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The Revised Standard Version reads “Put something aside and save.” Paul was collecting money for the poor in Jerusalem and asked that people take a Weekly inventory on the first day of each week, and save some of their earnings for this collection.

As you can see, none of these eight texts prove that the first day of the Week had become the worship day for the apostles. In fact, nowhere in the Bible can you find authorization for the sanctification of the first day of the week.

3. The apostles didn’t change the day of worship and neither did Jesus. What did He say about changing the Law?

Matthew 5:17,18

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Then where and how did the change from Sabbath-keeping to Sunday-keeping come about?

▼ **A BRIEF LOOK INTO HISTORY**

1. In the first century A.D., there is no evidence of Christians worshipping on Sunday. The New Testament says that Jesus and the apostles worshipped on the seventh day.
2. During the second century, some Christians in Rome and Alexandria began worshipping on Sunday along with Sabbath observance.
3. From the second to fifth centuries, Sabbath was still observed throughout the Roman empire, but gradually many Christians started worshipping on both Saturday and Sunday. Why?
  - a. Anti-Semitism, especially in Rome, caused Christians to distinguish themselves from Jews by discontinuing practices that looked “Jewish.”
  - b. The influence of sun worship among the pagan Romans contributed to the growing acceptance of Sunday as a day of worship.
4. The first known Sunday law was passed by the Roman emperor, Constantine in A.D. 321 and legislated that people rest on Sunday.
5. In AD 364, the Council of Trent issued the first ecclesiastical

Sunday law. This law asked that people work on Saturday and rest on Sunday. By 538, an even more severe law concerning Sunday Worship was passed by the church.

As you can see, the change was gradual and subtle and caused by many factors. The Catholic Church, however, claims the change from Sabbath to Sunday-keeping as one of the marks of her authority.

The 1977 edition of The Convert’s Catechism says this:

- 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 Catholic" church, transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”

*(Peter Geiermann, The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine; Rockford, IL: Tan Books and Publishers, 1977, p 50)*

4. Centuries ago, God, through the prophet Daniel, predicted that a power would attempt to change God’s laws. What was this prophecy? Daniel 7 :25  

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5. Paul predicted a deception would take place before Christ returned the second time. What did he tell the Thessalonians? 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4  

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