

# The Protest is Not Over: What Happened to The Sabbath?

“The Protest is Not Over: Transformation is Key to Reformation.” Somewhere along the way we forgot God’s Day. Message Magazine’s Daily Devotional for Sunday, November 11, 2018.

[Listen to “Thoughts in Worship 11.11.2018” on Spreaker.](#)

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made” (Genesis 2:1–3).

## Most Wonderful Time of The Week

I love the Sabbath. Every Saturday, God has provided special time for us to worship, fellowship, focus, serve, and experience regeneration on new levels, not available during the week. I say new levels because, while those who love God worship Him everyday, there is only one day (the Sabbath) that God blessed, set aside for holy use, and spiritual rest, commemorating our rest in the blessing of salvation. If God blessed it, that means it’s special.



Remember. Remember is an interesting word. Keep. Keep is an interesting word too. Holy. Holiness is an intriguing principle. In Exodus 20:8-11, the Bible says God commanded in His perpetual law, for us to remember the seventh-day Sabbath. In this context, we are memorializing the creatorship of God. We are showing honor for His power to give life and to breathe new life into those who are being saved. The Bible says that we should remember the Sabbath to keep it holy. In this context, to keep means to consecrate, sanctify, dedicate as special, and to devote.

## Holy Set-Aside

I am intrigued by the redundancy of God’s command. He said to remember the Sabbath to consecrate it as holy. It’s almost like He’s saying that the day/time He blessed during the creation week should be holy, holy. To keep is to devote as holy, that which God said was holy. If God said it, I believe it. I want to experience all that He has prepared for those who remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

For some reason, we human beings seem to be anti. I mean, some of us are bent on doing the opposite of right. If a child's father says go left, that child often chooses to go right. If the speed limit says 55 miles per hour, we often go faster. It is strange behavior, which I could expound further, but I will stop here.



Even in the case of Sabbath time, our God said to remember and keep it holy, but we often forget and treat the time as mundane as the other six work days of the week. Then somebody got the idea that it would be acceptable to exchange the holiness only accorded to the Sabbath, to Sunday. Then, if that was not bad enough, some churches have added extra so-called holy days to the calendar like Epiphany, All Saints, Christmas (some call it holy), Ascension, Mary Mother of God, and other obligatory purported holy days depending upon your locale.

## **Last Holy-day Standing?**

This is odd, since those who ascribe holiness to these times, disavow and discredit the only biblically valid holy day in our era. After God nullified all other holy days when Jesus gave His life for us, because they were shadows that pointed forward to His life, death, and everlasting ministry, the seventh-day Sabbath continued.

Let's ask God to help us keep things simple, shall we? God gave us blessed, holy time. Let's remember it every week. And, please do not venture upon hallowed ground and invent new holy days that God never sanctioned. This is way above all of our spiritual paygrades. Let God be God, and give thanks for what He has provided to keep us in remembrance of His love, holiness, and sovereignty. Amen.

---

# **Investigating Personal Freedom**

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Thursday, March 12, 2015  
Based Upon Romans 14

I absolutely love the Bible! It has been the subject of much debate and scrutiny for more years than I can count, but our God has made certain that the power of His words, and the certainty of the truth they indicate will stand the test of time. The valued principles that are resident within its pages, along with the power and presence of His blessed Holy Spirit, have

changed the lives of countless millions of people who have encountered God Himself there. As a result, they have been transformed from hopeless wretches, speeding down the highway to eternal death, to blessed men and women whose characters are being transformed into the very image of Jesus Christ as we await His arrival to eradicate all sin and death forever. In light of this I need to highlight a very important principle, which will inform our brief devotional thought for today. The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah taught, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, And drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; Line upon line, line upon line; Here a little, and there a little:" (Isaiah 28:9-10). That is to say that if we are ever to arrive at an understanding of truth as it is in Jesus from God's Word, we must allow the Scriptures to inform our understanding. We must compare Scripture with Scripture. Let me share just one more principle directly from the mouth of Jesus before we tackle today's theme: "If any man desires to do His will (God's pleasure), he will know (have the needed illumination to recognize, and can tell for himself) whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking from Myself and of My own accord and on My own authority." (John 7:17, AMP). Indeed there was a direct context in play here, but the principle remains consistent, nonetheless in Scripture: Those who are willing to submit to God's revelations will always grow to fully understand them. Now ask yourself, "Am I willing to do God's will and grow?"

Romans 14 seems to be a massive plot full of land mines awaiting one false move that will blow off a spiritual body part if we are not careful. Let's make this real easy at the onset here. The chapter is not about eating pork or poison. It is not about self-sanctifying Sunday or even Thursday above the only day God made holy, the seventh-day Sabbath. The focus of the chapter is much simpler and clearer than all of that. It is two-fold: First, Jesus, the Lord of us all, and the One who gave Himself for us is the only qualified Judge (John 5:22). He knows and sees all, not us. It is to Him that we owe homage, not any of us. Therefore, since we all are subject to Him, we must put away our blasphemous, uneven scales of injustice, and allow our God to do what only He can do in each of our lives. The second general theme of the chapter is that those who claim to follow Christ, must not only choose against judgementalism, but also choose to protect the consciences of our brothers and sisters who are weaker in the faith, by not doing things, even lawful things, around them, which could be confusing to them. These would become stumbling blocks to them. It does not get much simpler or clearer than that.

Now, many of you may be thinking that I danced all around the points of contention here. Never fear, my friends. It is time to employ Isaiah's principle now. Can we find any Scripture that gives context to Paul saying that some eat meats and others eat veggies, but it's all good? Absolutely. There is no way in the world that Paul was in any way attempting to assert that only weak individuals would continue to keep the biblical dietary laws of clean and unclean. God was very clear that certain things should never pass our lips. They are harmful and unclean. Consuming scavenging creatures of all kinds will always be unclean. Consuming certain animal fats and all blood will always be unclean. Consuming even clean animals that are diseased and ready to die, or were injured or killed by other animals will always be

harmful and thus unsanctioned by Scripture (Please refer to the website [www.amazingdiscoveries.org](http://www.amazingdiscoveries.org) and type "unclean meats" into the search box for in-depth study on this subject).

So what was Paul saying then? "Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much. But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes. So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. But for us, There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live. However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do. But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. For if others see you—with your "superior knowledge"—eating in the temple of an idol, won't they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed. And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ. So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble." (1 Corinthians 8, NLT).

Simply stated, there were Gentile and Jewish converts to the newfound Christian faith. Jewish converts, who obviously ate only clean meats, would get their meats from marketplaces where the Gentile converts knew the false-god worshippers would get their meats for sacrifice. That was exceedingly troubling to them. In their early conversion, they were too weak to understand that a false god could not make clean meat become unclean. So they abstained. Paul taught the Jewish converts to stop using their liberty (to eat clean meats that were sacrificed to impotent idols) as a stumbling block to their Gentile brothers and sisters. He said, "Let not then your good be evil spoken of:" (Romans 14:16).

The issue of holy days was very similar. There is no way Paul was in any way abrogating the Holy Law of God, which enjoins all to keep holy the Seventh-day Sabbath. Please refer to the website [www.amazingdiscoveries.org](http://www.amazingdiscoveries.org) and type "Sabbath" into the search box for in-depth study on this subject.

So what was Paul saying then? "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." (Colossians 2:16–17). If I were to paraphrase these two verses, I would say, "Do not allow anyone to condemn you regarding Old Testament meat and drink offerings (Leviticus 2:1; Numbers 15:4-5; Joel 1:9), or with regard to ceremonial holy days like Passover, Rosh Hashanah, or the Feast of Tabernacles. These all pointed forward to Jesus Christ who has already come!"

Were I to further paraphrase Romans 14:5-6 to continue the thought I would say, "So, if you are fully persuaded that God still requires us to observe these Old Testament feast days, you had better do it. If you believe that Jesus fulfilled all of those, and thus you no longer esteem them, you must not observe them." For the Scripture says, "Your personal convictions [on such matters]—exercise [them] as in God's presence, keeping them to yourself [striving only to know the truth and obey His will]. Blessed (happy, to be envied) is he who has no reason to judge himself for what he approves [who does not convict himself by what he chooses to do]. But the man who has doubts (misgivings, an uneasy conscience) about eating, and then eats [perhaps because of you], stands condemned [before God], because he is not true to his convictions and he does not act from faith. For whatever does not originate and proceed from faith is sin [whatever is done without a conviction of its approval by God is sinful]." (Romans 14:22–23, AMP).  
Click here to visit the Thoughts in Worship archive: <http://goo.gl/SlsVnS>