

**Step 5: The Council of Trent:** The Catholic Church had to deal with the protestant reformation. The reformers claimed "sola scriptura" or only scripture. A large portion of Church leaders wanted the Bible as the sole authority and a large portion of Church leaders wanted church tradition. The following quote was made by the Archbishop of Reggio made in his speech at the last opening session of Trent, (17th Session) on the 18th of January, 1562.

"The Protestants claim to stand upon the written word only. They profess to hold the Scripture alone as the standard of faith. They justify their revolt by the plea that the [Catholic] Church has apostatized from the written word and follows tradition. Now the Protestant claim that they stand upon the written word only, is not true. Their profession of holding the Scripture alone as the standard of faith is false. "PROOF: The written word explicitly enjoins the observance of the seventh day as the Sabbath. They do not observe the seventh day but reject it. If they do truly hold the scripture alone as their standard, they would be observing the seventh day as is enjoined in the Scripture throughout. Yet they not only reject the observance of the Sabbath enjoined in the written word, but they have adopted and do practice the observance of Sunday, for which they have only the tradition of the [Catholic] Church. Consequently the claim of 'Scripture alone as the standard,' fails; and the doctrine of 'Scripture and tradition' as essential, is fully established, the Protestants themselves being judges."

Q. What is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is: Remember that thou keep Holy the Sabbath day.

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.

Q. Why did the Catholic Church substitute Sunday for Saturday?

A. The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday, because Christ rose from the dead on a Sunday, and the Holy Ghost descended upon the Apostles on a Sunday.

Q. By what authority did the Church substitute Sunday for Saturday?

A. The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plenitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her.

Q. What does the third commandment command?

A. The Third Commandment commands us to sanctify Sunday as the Lord's Day."

The Covert's Catechism Catholic of Catholic Doctrine p. 51

7. What does Satan want? Isaiah 14:14; Matthew 4:9; Revelation 13:4

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*Note: When we deal with the change of the Sabbath look to a higher power than man. Satan wants worship and the only way he can receive it is to confuse the issue of what consists of true worship. The seventh-day Sabbath points to Jesus as our creator and redeemer. That is why Satan has specifically attacked the Sabbath commandment. The Sabbath demonstrates that only God is worthy to be worshipped (see Rev 4:11, 14:6-7, Ex 20:8-11). The Sabbath gives us a new level of understanding of God's love for His creation. If men understood the connection between the Sabbath (creator) and the cross (savior) they would be drawn (see John 12:32) to God and only worship Him. As a result, worship for any other being other than God would be seen as foolish (For more information on the Sabbath visit the website: [www.sabbathtruth.com](http://www.sabbathtruth.com)).*

MY CHOICE: Dear God, I want to return the love that You have shown for me by honoring You rather than follow the commandments of men.

## Journey With Jesus



### Lesson #11 History's Greatest Hoax

Many years ago the czar of Russia was walking through a park near his palace. He came upon a guard, but couldn't see what he was protecting. "What are you guarding," he asked. "Your Excellency, I'm not really sure. I'm just told to guard this spot." The czar responded, "Are you telling me that we're spending state money to have you guard something, and you don't even know what it is? I'll have to look into this."

So the czar searched the government archives and soon he had his answer. He discovered a hundred years earlier, Catherine the Great received a rosebush for her birthday. She planted it and sent a soldier to guard the spot so no one would trample and kill her new rosebush. That tradition was passed down for more than a hundred years.

Could it be that many churches today are guarding an ancient tradition believing it was a command from God when it was only a command passed down from the traditions of man?

1. What did Jesus say about keeping the traditions of man? Mark 7:9

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2. How many should know scripture for themselves? 2Timothy 2:15, 1Peter 3:15

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Note: Many people will trust a religious leader's interpretation of the Bible and do not search out for themselves whether or not their pastor's explanations are correct. Each person is responsible to God to know what they believe.

### 3. Did Jesus change the Sabbath? Luke 4:16, Matthew 24:20

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Note: Jesus was referring to the time when God's people would have to flee from the Romans. That time came in 70 AD when Titus surrounded Jerusalem. Apparently the Sabbath still was meant to be kept then.

### 4. Did Paul change the Sabbath? Acts 17:2, 20:27

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### 5. Did the disciples change the Sabbath? (Notice the 8 "first day" texts in the N.T.)

➤ 1-5. Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1-4; Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:1-4; John 20:1 The first 5 "first day" references all speak of the same account of the resurrection of Jesus.

➤ 6. John 20:19

Is this church service? Why were they assembled? For the fear of the Jews! They did not want to end up on a Roman cross so they hid. That is where Jesus appeared to them and it happened to be the first day of the week. Is there anything here that says the Sabbath was changed to the first day of the week? NO!

➤ 7. Acts 20:7-11

Does this verse imply that there is a Sunday worship service because they were breaking bread and Paul was preaching? Preaching and breaking bread does not make a day holy. Paul preached many days of the week. Breaking bread doesn't mean they were having communion it means they were eating. Acts 2:46 says they broke bread daily in the temple and from house to house. They broke bread everyday not just on Sunday. In Acts 27:33-35 Paul also broke bread with unbelievers. Breaking bread was a common term for having dinner.

This event actually takes place beginning on Saturday night and not Sunday morning. In today's society we begin a new day at 12 a.m., but the Jews followed the biblical model of a new day beginning at sunset or evening (See Genesis 1:5, 8; Daniel 8:26).

The Bible says that he preached until midnight. If he preached until midnight that must mean he began to preach before midnight. It also mentions that there were candles burning. Why would they need candles, because it was dark. So that means Paul was preaching on the dark part of the first day of the week. What would the Jews call the dark part of the first day of the week? Morning! What would we call the dark part of the first day of the week today in our time? Saturday night! This is very simple. Paul preached Saturday evening then went on a journey Sunday morning not to Church, but to catch a ship. This was Paul's good-bye party and farewell sermon.

➤ 8. 1 Corinthians 16:1-3

An offering is being taken up (59A.D). The question is why? There was a famine and Paul is taking up a collection to help the poor. He writes to the church in Corinth and asks them to set some money aside (For further info on the famine see also Acts 11:27-29, Romans 15:25-28).

### 6. How was the Sabbath changed to the first day of the week?

**Step 1: Roman Persecution:** Within a few decades of after Jesus returned to heaven, the Christian church was challenged by persecution from the Roman Empire. While other religions had a peaceful existence in the Roman Empire the Romans displayed a remarkable hatred towards Jews and Christians. Nero, the Roman Emperor who had Paul beheaded and crucified Peter upside down, was notorious for throwing Christians to wild animals in the Coliseum for entertainment. The Diocletianic Persecution (or Great Persecution) was the last and most severe persecution of Christians in the Roman empire. Persecution began in the army and spread throughout the empire. In 303, the Emperors Diocletian, Maximian, Galerius and Constantius issued a series of edicts rescinding the legal rights of Christians and demanding that they comply with traditional Roman religious practices. Later edicts targeted the clergy and demanded universal sacrifice, ordering all inhabitants to sacrifice to Roman gods. From 303-313 A.D., thousands of Christians were killed, tortured, and imprisoned until Constantine and Licinius issued an edict (Edict of Milan), which granted Christians ( and others) liberty to practice their religion in the empire.

**Step 2: Constantine's conversion & baptized paganism:** In 312 AD, on his way to the battle of Novean Bridge, Emperor Constantine claimed to experience a vision of a cross superimposed on the sun (some say chi & rho, 2 letters of Gk. alphabet). Then he claimed to hear the words "In Hoc Signo Vince," which means in Latin, "in this sign you will conquer." When he defeated Maxentius he took this victory as a sign from the Christian God that the Roman Empire was to conduct her business under the banner of the cross. He then met with a man named Licinius and made an alliance with him. They agreed on something called The Edict of Milan (313AD). It provided for: the return of property, which had been confiscated from Christians, freedom of religion, and persecution of Christians is over. The good news is that persecution was over, but the bad news is many half-hearted pagan Christian converts flooded into the church. It created a more serious problem than persecution did. These people came into the church, but kept their pagan traditions. In order to maintain the peace it was suggested that pagan symbols and practices be changed to give them Christian significance.

**Step 3: Constantine's Sunday Law in 321 AD:** "On the venerable day of the Sun let the Magistrates and the people residing and cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain growing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost." History of the Christian Church p. 380

**Step 4: The Council of Laodicea:** When the Roman branch of Christianity in the West rose into prominence it didn't take long for this Sunday worship practice to become universal. "Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather than honoring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians, but if any shall be found to be Judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ." The Council of Laodicea, Canon 29. 363-364 AD.