

# LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE THREATENED

## SUNDAY WILL BE ENFORCED AS THE MARK OF THE BEAST

**Sunday Laws Are Coming Soon!**—On Friday, June 15, 2007 in the Weekend Edition Opinion Journal page W-11 of the Wall Street Journal appeared an article by Mollie Ziegler Hemingway entitled: “The decline of the Sabbath in America: Less praying, more working and playing.”

This article was circulated worldwide to over 2 million people promoting Sunday-keeping and Sunday closing laws as necessary for saving our culture. The Wall Street Journal’s editorial perspective is one-sided.

The USA Today endorsed Sunday observance in an article written by Gladys Edmunds on Oct. 24, 2007 entitled: “Better Take a Break, Or You’ll Break Down.” Similar ads have appeared in daily newspapers across America and the rest of the world: Associated Press, July 15, 2008 “Sunday Shopping banned in Croatia,” Associated Press, May 27, 2008 “Louisiana Barber Ticketed for Working on Sunday,” Time Magazine, Dec. 17, 2008 “Sunday Shopping? France Says No,” CBS News Sunday Morning, Feb. 1 2009, “A History of Sunday,” Associated Press, December 5, 2008 “Auto Dealers to ask Legislature for Sunday Sales Ban.” These are just a few headlines from different publications who have recently been endorsing Sunday observance. We should welcome an intelligent, healthy discussion on issues that will affect both the morality and economy of our nation.

One only needs to look at modern history to find out the *true* nature of Sunday laws: “The earliest recognition of the observation of Sunday as a legal duty is a constitution of Constantine, the first Roman church-state emperor, in 321 A.D.” Encyclopedia Britannica, Ninth Edition, Article “Sunday.”

Constantine was responsible for the first Sunday law. In Constantine’s day, Rome’s official religion was sun worship – the cult of Sol Invictus [Invincible Sun] and Constantine was its head priest. As an ambitious politician and life-long pagan wanting to unite his empire, he instituted Sunday by law as a day of rest for both the Christians and for the pagans who worshiped the sun god. The purpose was to get the pagans or the unchurched to come to church. And what better way than through a legal enactment.

Constantine decreed on March 7, 321 “Dies Solis” [day of the sun] as the Roman day of Rest: “*On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed.*”

Forty years after Constantine’s first Sunday law, Church Bishops met at the Council of Laodicea to establish Sunday as the official religion throughout all of Christianity, and to excommunicate and persecute those who kept the Seventh-day Sabbath.

“Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath [Saturday], but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord’s Day [Sunday]; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema [cursed] from Christ.” Council of Laodicea 363-364 A.D, Canon 29.

This decree abolished the Seventh-day Sabbath and institutionalized Sunday to be kept by all Christians. The cult of Sol Invictus continued to be part of Rome’s state religion until paganism was abolished by decree of Theodosius I on February 27, 390. However, by then Sunday had become popular largely because it was established and enforced by the power of the church and the state.

In America, Sunday laws are often referred to as Blue Laws and were established as early as 1655 by the church clergy, who also exercised civil authority. The purpose of these early Puritan Sunday laws was to try to have people be in church, to pray to God, and read the Bible. Failure to do so would result in fines, imprisonment, or possible death. This of course caused church attendance to go up, as well as church offerings. Enforcing the conscience will not bring happiness, enjoyment, or salvation through Jesus Christ.

Most recently, in his 1997 Apostolic Letter, “Dies Domini” (Keeping the Lord’s Day), the late Pope John Paul II called upon Christians in every nation to secure Sunday as a day of rest and worship **through civil legislation!**

For many years, we have seen Sunday closing laws on local, state, and municipal levels. Men are forced to close certain kinds of businesses, and are prohibited from some secular activities on the first working day [Sunday] of the week, lest they be fined or imprisoned. And the situation will grow worse in the days ahead, “And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (Read Rev. 13:15-17).

All the material that is in this document proves one thing: “The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments...and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand [from mainstream churches] for a law enforcing Sunday observance.” The Great Controversy p. 592, Pacific Press Publishing Association, published in 1888, (bracket ours).

### Sabbath from a Theological Perspective: Sunday or Saturday?

**Jesus**—“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” Luke 4:16.

**Jesus declared**—“...The sabbath was made for man\* [Greek: anthropos, mankind]...” Mark 2:27. “The Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day” Mat. 12:8.

**God commanded**—“But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God” Exodus 20:10.

**Paul**—“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures.” Acts 17:2-3.

“And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks” Acts 18:4.

**Paul declared**—“There remaineth therefore a rest [Sabbath] to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His” Hebrews 4:9, 10.



“For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day...And God did rest the seventh day from all his works,” “And blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Hebrews 4:4.

**Paul and the Gentiles**—“And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. And the next Sabbath came almost the whole city together to hear the Word of God.” Acts 13:42, 44.

The book of Acts records 84 Sabbaths on which the Apostle Paul and his associates held religious services (Acts 18:4-11). Yet there is not ONE word in the entire Bible authorizing Sunday keeping in place of the Seventh-day Sabbath.

**Disciples**—“And that day was the preparation and the sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and ointments; **and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment**” (Luke 23:54-56).

Notice that Luke, a non-Jewish biblical writer, approximately 37 years AFTER the resurrection of Christ, still called the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week) a Commandment of God.

“And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James...very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun... And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man...And he saith unto them, be not affrighted; Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen.” (Mark 16:1-6). It is well known that Sunday was the resurrection day. “*The Sabbath was past*” when it dawned. Thus it is evident that the Sabbath is Saturday, the day before Sunday.

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17). “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matthew 5:18).

Throughout the New Testament, there are no fewer than 59 references to the Sabbath.

**Sabbath in the New Earth**—“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain; and it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 66:22, 23). According to Colossians 2:14-17, the sacrifices with its rituals as registered in Leviticus 23 and other texts, were nailed [abolished] on the cross. But not the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment that is Eternal, as indicated in the above Bible verses.

**The Encyclopedia Britannica**—“There is no evidence that in the earliest years of Christianity there was any formal observance of Sunday as a day of rest or any general cessation of work.” 1911 Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Article: Sunday (www.1911encyclopedia.org).

**Baptist**: “Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of Paganism, and christened with the name of the sun-god, then adopted as sanctified by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism.” Dr. E.T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manuel. From a photostatic copy of a notarized statement by Dr. Hiscox.

**Methodist**: “It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week. Many believe that Christ changed the Sabbath. But, from His own words, we see that He came for no such purpose. Those who believe that Jesus changed the Sabbath base it only on a supposition.” Amos Binney, Theological Compendium, 1902 edition, pp. 180-181. Binny [1802-1978] was a Methodist minister and presiding elder, whose Compendium was published for forty years in many languages. He also wrote a Methodist New Testament Commentary.

**Disciples of Christ**: “If it [10 Commandments] yet exist, let us observe it...And if it does not exist, let us abandon a mock observance of another day for it. ‘But,’ some say, ‘it was changed from the seventh to the first day.’ Where? When? And by whom? No, it never was changed, nor could it be, unless creation was to be gone through again – for the reason assigned [Genesis 2:1-3] must be changed before the observance or respect to the reason, can be changed. It is all old wives’ fables to talk of the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that

personage who changed it who I think his name is ‘Doctor Antichrist.’ Alexander Campbell, the Christian Baptist, February 2, 1824, vol. 1 no. 7. Campbell [1788-1866] was an Irish Protestant who founded in America the denomination known as the Disciples of Christ.

**Lutheran**: “They [the Catholics] allege the change of the Sabbath into the Lord’s Day, as it seemeth, to the Decalogue [Ten Commandments]; and they have no example more in their mouths than the change of the Sabbath. They will needs have the Church’s power to be very great, because it hath dispensed with a precept of the Decalogue.” The Ausburg Confession, 1530 A.D. (Lutheran), part 2, article 7, in Philip Schaff’s, the Creeds of Christendom, fourth edition, vol. 3 p. 64.

**Roman Catholic**: “Question: Which is the Sabbath day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Answer: 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, 1957 edition.

**Roman Catholic**—“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act... And the act is a **MARK** of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.” H.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons. Nov 11, 1895.

Call or write for your **FREE BOOK!**

**ETERNAL GOSPEL CHURCH**  
Founded in 1992 by Seventh-day Adventist Believers  
PO Box 15138 - West Palm Beach, FL 33416  
Toll-free 1-866-7TH-DAY-A  
eternalgospel@att.net | eternalgospel.com

