

James Russell, Elder:

The study of God's true annual Holy Days began for the Church of God, in Truth in 1992. We learned after 25 years of being in the Worldwide Church of God we had been keeping the Holy Days according to the Pharisees "Jewish Hebrew calendar," which the Worldwide Church of God called the "Sacred Calendar" established by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in 1934. From early on we were taught, the Sabbaths and Holy Days picture God's plan of Salvation.

When looking into the Jewish Hebrew calendar we found that there were "postponement rules" incorporated into it, starting officially in 358-359 A.D. by the Pharisee Hillel II. These postponements caused God's true Holy Days to be put off or changed by one or two days, sometime by a whole month, like the year 2016.

While looking into these postponement rules we found that even the meaning of the Holy Days had been changed. Not only had time been changed by the Jews, but also the Romans had changed Holy Days into pagan holidays. All nations have been deceived by this false teaching of Judaism and Catholicism. The Protestant reformation accepted the change of the Sabbath to Sunday by the Catholics in 325 A.D. They also followed the pagan holidays, Christmas and Easter! This is the same scenario as Judaism did, changing or postponing God's Holy Days- then calling them holidays.

When reading God's instruction book for human behavior and the guide for a happy life, we find that God set in motion His calendar from the very beginning. Genesis 1:1 sets the start of God's re-creation. On the first day, God divided the light from the darkness that was upon the face of the deep. "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were THE FIRST DAY" (Gen 1:2-5). Following that first day, came the rest of God's week days. The second day" (Gen 1:6-8). The third day" (Gen 1:6-13). The fourth day" (Gen 1:14-19). The fifth day (Gen 1 :20-23). The sixth day, (Gen 1: 24-31). And THE SEVENTH DAY, (Gen 2:3).

Now notice what God said on the fourth day," And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day" (Gen 1:14-19). "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. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them" (Gen 2:2-3,1).

The reason we went over God's creation in these seven day is to prove that the first day of the first week, of the first month, and every month there after starts in darkness, with the beginning of the new dark moon phase (Gen 1:1), **not** on a fourth day crescent moon! If we start our count for the first day of the calendar with the light of the crescent moon on the fourth day, we would not have come to a seventh day Sabbath! God's called know that the seventh day of creation is God's true Sabbath. On the Gregorian calendar it is called Saturday. God's called does not keep Sunday the first day of the week as God's Sabbath day.

By keeping God's true weekly Sabbath day, we are kept in the remembrance of the seven days of creation, designed to keep us in the true worship of God on the seventh day. God gave this seventh day as a true day of rest for His children to keep them reminded of the knowledge and true worship of the true God and a memorial of His creation. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it Holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: **in it thou shalt not do any work**, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Ex 20:8-11).

We are told to open our Bible and prayerfully study God's word for truth. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim 2: 15). We are not to argue or refute God's word, but to learn and act on God's will!

We are commanded as Christians, to grow in Knowledge as well as grace. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" (2 Peter 3: 18). We are to honor and glorify Christ and the Father by learning and living the words of the Bible. The Bible is to inspire us into changing and overcoming our human nature, so we can be in the Kingdom of God with Christ and the Father. God's word is to correct and reprove false teachings, error and prejudice are cleaned out of our lives. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim 3:16-17).

Most Sunday keepers object to God's Sabbath, because they contend that at the death of Christ the laws of God, the Ten Commandments was nailed to the cross. To them this means we do not have to keep God's commandments, statutes or judgments!

The weekly Sabbath and God's annual Holy Day Sabbaths stand and fall together. If the preachers of the world can do away with God's weekly Sabbath, then they can certainly do away with God's Holy Day Sabbaths. They argue that the annual Sabbaths were a part of the law of Moses. They say, "What came in with Moses, went out with the death of Christ."

As we study through scripture, we can see that God does not change His plan and purpose for mankind to obtain eternal life. "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?" (Mal 3:6-7). To "return" to God is to repent of sin, and put on the new changed man in ones life!

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