

The Sabbath of the New Testament

1. WHEN Jesus was here, did He keep the commandments of God? John 15:10. Note 1.
2. Did He observe the seventh-day Sabbath? Luke 4:16, 31; Ex. 20:8-11. Note 2.
3. Is Jesus our example in all things? 1 Peter 2:21.
4. Does God expect us to follow His example? 1 John 2:6.
5. Does the New Testament mean the seventh day when it speaks of the Sabbath? Luke 23:52-56; 24:1; Mark 15:42-47; 16:1, 2.
6. Which day is the Sabbath of the commandment and the Sabbath of the New Testament?—The day just before the first day of the week. Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1, 2. (Illustrate by the calendar week.)
7. Which day did the women associated with Jesus observe? Luke 23:55, 56.
8. Did the early Christian churches observe the Sabbath? For example, note Acts 13:14, 44, Antioch; Acts 16:12, 13, Philippi; Acts 17:1, 2, 4, Thessalonica; Acts 18:1-4, Corinth. Note 3.
9. How many Sabbath meetings are recorded in the above references?—Total, 84 meetings.
10. Is there any commandment in the New Testament to observe the first day of the week? Read every verse where the first day is mentioned: Matt. 28:1; Luke 24:1; Mark 16:2, 9; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2. Note 4.
11. Where do we find the New Testament record of the only meeting held on the first day of the week?—Held at Troas on a Saturday night. Acts 20:5-12. In accordance with the Bible plan of reckoning time, the first day of the week began at sundown, consequently the meeting held by Paul on Saturday evening was in the early or dark part of the first day of the week.
12. Which day of the week is the "Lord's day"? Luke 6:5-11; Rev. 1:10.

Notes on Reading No. 13

NOTE 1.—John Wesley: "The moral law contained in the ten commandments, and enforced by the prophets, He did not take away. It was not the design of His coming to revoke any part of this. . . . Every part of this law must remain in force upon all mankind and in all ages, as not depending either on time or place, or any other circumstance liable to change, but on the nature of God and the nature of man, and their unchangeable relation to each other."—*Bible Readings for the Home Circle*," p. 375.

NOTE 2.—Rev. William Prynne, D. D., says: "It is certain that Christ Himself, His apostles, and the primitive Christians for some good space of time, did constantly observe the seventh-day Sabbath, . . . it being still solemnized by many Christians after the apostles' times, even till the Council of Laodicea [A. D. 364]."—*Dissertation on the Lord's Day*," p. 33.

NOTE 3.—Rev. Lyman Abbott says: "The current notion that Christ and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day of the week for the seventh, is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament."—*Editorial in the Christian Union*, Jan. 19, 1882.

NOTE 4.—"Nor is there anywhere in the New Testament any express statement that the first day of the week was to be kept in place of the seventh, or was in any way the Sabbath."—*Chambers' Encyclopedia*, art. "Sabbath."