

VIII. The Sabbath.

LESSON XXXIX.

SABBATH INSTITUTED AT CREATION.

1. The Sabbath was instituted by the Creator. Ex. 20:8-11.
2. But since all things were created by Christ, therefore, the Sabbath must have been instituted by Christ. Heb. 1:1, 2; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16, 17.
3. The Sabbath was instituted at creation. Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:11.
4. The first step taken in instituting the Sabbath was resting on the first seventh day of time. Gen. 2:1-3.
5. This resting on the seventh day made the seventh day the Lord's rest day, or Sabbath, the same as the day on which we were born becomes our birthday.
6. The second step taken in instituting the Sabbath was blessing it; that is, honoring that day and making it holy above all other days. Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:11.
7. The third step was sanctifying the Sabbath, the seventh day; that is, setting it apart for a holy use, or commanding it to be kept holy. Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:11.
8. The fact of God's resting on the seventh day made it the Sabbath, for it was already the Sabbath when he blessed it; therefore every seventh day has been the Lord's Sabbath ever since creation. Ex. 20:11.
9. The only reason God has given for blessing and sanctifying the seventh day is the fact that he rested on it, and since he rested on it at creation, he must therefore have blessed and sanctified it at creation when the rest was completed; therefore the Sabbath was instituted at creation.
10. The Sabbath is called "the Sabbath of the Lord" (Ex. 20:10); "my Sabbaths" (Ex. 31:13); "my holy day" (Isa. 58:13); "Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:28), be-

cause the Sabbath was instituted by the Creator, Lord Jesus Christ, himself.

11. Had the Sabbath been instituted by some individual or by a people or nation, then it would have borne the author's name. But since it was instituted by the Creator, it bears his signature and title.

QUESTIONS.

1. By whom was the Sabbath instituted?
2. Who created all things? Then who instituted the Sabbath?
3. When was the Sabbath instituted?
4. What was the first step in instituting the Sabbath?
5. Whose rest day did the seventh day become, and why?
6. Explain the second step, and what did that make the Sabbath?
7. Name the third step and what it meant.
8. Which of these three steps made the seventh-day the Sabbath? Ex. 20:11.
9. What is the only reason God has ever given for blessing and sanctifying the Sabbath?
10. What expressions prove that the Creator, Christ, instituted the Sabbath? Paragraph 10.
11. By what title would it have been designated if instituted by some individual?

Note.—Gen. 2:1-3 and Ex. 20:8-11 should be committed to memory.

LESSON XL.

ONE SABBATH FOR ALL MANKIND.

1. Since the Sabbath was instituted at creation and was made for man, therefore it has been binding upon all mankind since creation. Gen. 2:1-3; Mark 2:27, 28.

2. The Sabbath command was a part of God's law, and was in full force before Israel came to Sinai. Ex. 16:4, 5, 22-28.

3. The Sabbath command teaches man that six days are alike and should be devoted to work, while the seventh is unlike the other six; for that is the Sabbath, and on it man is to rest and meet to worship God. Ex. 20:8-11; Eze. 46:1; Lev. 23:3; Isa. 66:23.

4. Since the Sabbath is a part of God's constitutional law, therefore no text of Scripture may be interpreted contrary to the Sabbath law. When it said that they gathered manna "every day," or that "every day is alike," it must be understood to mean only the six working days. Ex. 16: 4, 5, 21-28; Eze. 46: 1; Rom. 14: 5, 6.

5. Strangers, Gentiles, as well as Israel, were commanded to keep the Sabbath. Ex. 20: 10.

6. Every stranger, Gentile, that wished to serve God was required to keep the Sabbath and worship at the same temple as Israel. Isa. 56: 1-7.

7. God commands positively that all flesh shall worship him on the Sabbath day. Isa. 66: 23.

8. The observance of the Sabbath is a sign of man's loyalty to God. Eze. 20: 12, 20.

QUESTIONS.

1. Why is the Sabbath binding upon all mankind?
2. Give proof that the Sabbath command existed before the law was given on Sinai.
3. How many days are alike according to the law, and what may be done on these days?
4. How does the seventh day differ from the other six days, and to what should it be devoted?
5. How should all texts of Scripture be interpreted when speaking of days? Paragraph 4. Give examples.
6. Prove that strangers, or Gentiles, are also commanded to keep the Sabbath.
7. Give text which proves that all flesh are commanded to keep the Sabbath.
8. Of what is the keeping of the Sabbath a sign?

LESSON XLI.

CHRIST'S TEACHING ABOUT THE SABBATH.

1. Christ taught that the law of God would remain unchanged. Matt. 5: 17-19; Luke 16: 17.
2. Christ taught that the Sabbath was made for man, which includes all mankind. Mark 2: 27.

3. At Nazareth, where he had been brought up and had there worked at the carpenter's trade, it was his custom to rest and attend worship on the Sabbath, and thus he kept the Sabbath. Mark. 6:3; Luke 4:16.

4. He taught that it was lawful, according to the Sabbath law, to do well, works of necessity and mercy, on the Sabbath. Matt. 12:10-12. But this does not mean that the Sabbath should be a common working day, and that they should keep another day, Sunday, instead of the seventh.

5. He taught his disciples, furthermore, that in the time of trouble, as when Judea was invaded with Roman armies, that all in Judea, whether in the field or on the house top, probably in the city, should pray God that their flight might not be on the Sabbath. Matt. 24:15-20.

6. Since Judea was invaded by Roman armies and Jerusalem destroyed A. D. 70, this proves, therefore, that Christ taught his followers to keep the Sabbath long after his crucifixion.

7. While there are ten precepts in God's law, yet the Sabbath is the only one that he taught his followers to pray for help to keep.

8. Christ enjoined his disciples to teach all nations, not the Jews only, to observe all things he had commanded. Matt. 28:19, 20. Therefore, they must teach all that the Sabbath was made for all, and that all ought to pray for help to keep it. Mark 2:27; Matt. 24:20.

QUESTIONS.

1. What did Christ teach about the perpetuity of the law?
2. How would that affect the Sabbath?
3. For whom was the Sabbath made?
4. Tell how Christ worked and kept the Sabbath.
5. What is lawful on the Sabbath?
6. Does that make it right to do all kinds of work on the Sabbath?
7. For what were the disciples to pray?
8. If the Sabbath ceased at the cross, would it then be wrong to flee on the Sabbath, after the cross?
9. What and whom were the followers of Christ to teach?
10. Then what must we teach all nations about the Sabbath?

LESSON XLII.

SABBATH AFTER THE CROSS.

1. The day after Christ's crucifixion and the day before his resurrection, which was the seventh day of the week, is called the Sabbath in the New Testament. Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1, 2.

2. The holy women kept the Sabbath according to the command. Luke 23:54-56; 24:1.

3. The church at Antioch in Pisidia, which was raised up by Paul and was composed largely of Gentiles, kept the Sabbath. Acts 13:14, 42-44.

4. Paul advised these Christians to continue in grace; hence these Gentile Sabbathkeepers were under grace. Acts 13:43, 44.

5. At the council of the apostles and elders held at Jerusalem, A. D. 51, we learn that the converted Gentiles held their regular meetings on the Sabbath. Acts 15:19-21.

6. The first meeting held by Paul at Philippi was held on the Sabbath. Acts 16:12, 13.

7. It was Paul's custom to work at his trade, and preach on the Sabbaths. Acts 18:1-4; 17:1, 2.

8. The church raised up at Thessalonica, held their meetings on the Sabbath. Acts 17:1, 2.

9. The church at Corinth, Greece, kept the Sabbath. Acts 18:1-4, 11.

10. From the fact that inspiration calls the seventh day the Sabbath after the crucifixion, it must therefore be the true Sabbath.

11. Since the early Christian churches after Christ's ascension kept the Sabbath, it follows that they regarded it binding upon them, and hence it is equally binding now upon Christians.

QUESTIONS.

1. Which day of the week is the Sabbath, according to the New Testament?

2. Prove that the holy women kept the Sabbath after the crucifixion of Christ.

3. On which day did the church at Antioch hold their meetings?

4. Were they under grace? Give proof.

5. When did the converted Gentiles come together to worship God? Name text.
6. What can you say about keeping the Sabbath at Philippi? At Thessalonica?
7. What was Paul's custom?
8. What day was observed by the Corinthians? Proof wanted.
9. State what inspiration called the seventh day after the cross, and what does that prove?
10. How may we know that the early Christians regarded the seventh day as the Sabbath?
11. Is there in this any evidence that the Sabbath is still binding upon Christians?

LESSON XLIII.

REVIEW QUESTIONS ON LESSONS XXXIX TO XLII.

1. By whom and when was the Sabbath instituted? Lesson XXXIX, paragraphs 1-3. Give two references.
2. Name the three steps taken to institute the Sabbath. Give proof-texts. Same lesson, paragraphs 4-7.
3. Explain the meaning of blessing and sanctifying.
4. Why is the Sabbath called "the Sabbath of the Lord," "my Sabbath," etc.?
5. Prove that the Sabbath command existed before the law was given from Sinai. Lesson XL, paragraph 2.
6. How should all texts in the Bible speaking of days, etc., be explained, and why? *Ibid*, paragraphs 3, 4.
7. How can it be shown by the Bible that every Jew, and Gentile who wished to serve God, should keep the Sabbath? *Ibid*, paragraphs 1, 5, 6, 7.
8. Of what is the keeping of the Lord's Sabbath a sign? Proof asked for.
9. How can you prove that Christ taught that the Sabbath command would remain unchanged? Lesson XLI, paragraph 1.
10. What three things did Christ teach directly about the Sabbath? *Ibid*, paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 6.
11. What was Christ's custom in regard to work and keeping the Sabbath? *Ibid*, paragraph 3.

12. How much of Christ's teachings in regard to the law and Sabbath, etc., are we to teach all nations? Proof-text wanted.

13. What evidence is there in the New Testament proving that the seventh day, and not the first, is the Sabbath? Name two texts. Lesson XLII, paragraph 1.

14. How can you prove that the churches in Philippi, Thessalonica and Corinth kept the Sabbath?

15. Is there anything to prove that Christians in or under grace kept the Sabbath? *Ibid*, paragraphs 3, 4.

16. How would you prove that the Sabbath is still binding upon Christians? *Ibid*, paragraphs 10, 11.