

Revisiting the Reformation ~ Please prayerfully consider the random questions below.

About 505 years ago, a Catholic monk itemized nearly 100 thoughts regarding the practices of Catholicism. We are grateful that Martin Luther and others paved the way for us to return to the Bible for truth, yet we are still tethered to some religious doctrines that have NO solid Scriptural foundation. We seek to speak the **truth in love** to individuals practicing Catholicism, Protestantism, Rabbinic Judaism, and other faiths. May the eyes of our hearts be enlightened with the spirit of wisdom and revelation to know God as we nobly join the Bereans by thinking for ourselves and examining the scriptures to discern the truth.

To be successful, deception must be done in such a way that those being deceived do not realize they are being deceived. Here are 12 possible reasons (there could be more/others) why the enemy does NOT want us to keep the Sabbath, which are why we may want to consider keeping the Sabbath:

- 1 – **This enemy tactic has worked before. One of the reasons God's people were exiled was that they profaned the Sabbaths.** [Ezekiel 20:23-24; Nehemiah 13:13-18]
- 2 – **[The primary reason I started researching this...] Since failing to keep the Sabbath is linked to idolatry – including sun worship, fornication, and child sacrifice – keeping the Sabbath may be a key to abolishing abortion.** [Ezekiel 20:10-32; Ezekiel 23:36-39]
- 3 – **Honoring God's Sabbath may be a key to removing the rest of the Babylon of religion from our hearts and practices.** [Revelation 18:4; Jeremiah 51:6; Hebrews 8:8-10]
- 4 – **This may be a key to ending or decreasing antisemitism.** [Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 58:13-14; Romans 12:14]
- 5 – **This may bless the Jewish people by making it easier for them to keep the Sabbath, especially if some of the businesses decide to close for Sabbath (like they currently do for Sunday).** [Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 58:13-14; Romans 12:14]
- 6 – **Our witness to Jewish people is hindered when Christianity defies sanctifying the Sabbath, which contradicts "Old Testament" Scripture, so – to them – Sunday Christianity could not originate from the Torah or other Jewish Scriptures.** [Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15]
- 7 – **Keeping Sabbath may be one of the most loving things we can do to demonstrate to the Jewish people that Yahshua HaMashiach is the Lord of the Sabbath.** [Isaiah 56:6-7; Matthew 12:8]
- 8 – **Keeping Sabbath may be a key to bringing about the "one new man" in Ephesians 2.** [Exodus 12:49; Numbers 15:15-16; Ruth 1:16; Ephesians 2:11-22; Ezekiel 37:15-23]
- 9 – **Keeping Sabbath holy is one of the tests God used to see whether His people would believe Him enough to obey Him by treating that specific day differently.** [Exodus 16:4-5, 22-28]
- 10 – **Making the Sabbath like any other day hinders our relationship with God, both in getting us out of timing with His appointments, and – nowadays – we stay so busy doing our own thing that we don't have time to draw closer to Him.** [Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Isaiah 55:6-9; Amos 8:4-7; Luke 10:38-42]
- 11 – **Not drawing closer to God negatively affects our ability to honor and obey Him in other ways.** [Isaiah 55:6-9; Isaiah 58:13-14; James 4:3-10]
- 12 – **We may help demonstrate our discipleship of Jesus, Who did what He saw the Father do, by keeping the Sabbath holy and a day to delight in God.** [Ephesians 5:1; John 5:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Corinthians 4:14-17; Isaiah 58:13-14; 1 John 2:3-6]

Similar to Luther, there are, guessing, at least 100 Biblically-based "theses" questions in just the Sabbath.

If you find at least one of these reasons compelling, I hope that you will **think for yourselves and look into this. Be aware of the non-Biblical sources** (including Bible commentaries and dictionaries) you review, as sources on **both sides may lack objectivity. Go back to the original Hebrew and Greek, looking at the context and culture. And pray for Holy Spirit's guidance to reveal His truth and His heart's desires.**

Whatever you feel led, keep bitterness out. **Love the practitioners** who have been deceived. **Forgive and pray** for the others, that the Lord will **enlighten us all to His Truth.**

NOT affiliated with Seventh-Day Adventists nor any other Seventh-Day group.

But since there are Seventh-Day BAPTISTS, might there not also be Seventh-Day _____ as well?

100 + Questions (theses, and growing)

- 1 Since failing to keep the Sabbath is linked to idolatry – including sun worship and fornication and sometimes to child sacrifice – could keeping the Sabbath be **a key to abolishing abortion?** (Ezekiel 23:37-39; 2 Kings 23:3-25 (focus on 3-14))
 - a. **Ezekiel 23:37-39** 37 For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery [against Me] with their idols and have even forced their sons, whom they bore to Me, to pass through the fire as [an offering of] food to them (idols). 38 Moreover, they have done this to Me: they have defiled My sanctuary on the same day [of their idolatries] and have profaned My Sabbaths. 39 For when they had killed their children [as offerings] to their idols, then they came the same day to My sanctuary to profane it [by daring to offer a sacrifice there also]. And behold, this they did within My house. **2 Kings 23:3-14** 3 The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep His commandments, His testimonies, and His statutes with all his heart and soul, to confirm the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant. 4 Then the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second rank and the doorkeepers to bring out of the temple of the Lord all the articles made for Baal, for [the goddess] Asherah, and for all the [starry] host of heaven; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel [where Israel's idolatry began]. 5 He got rid of the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense [to pagan gods] in the high places in Judah's cities and all around Jerusalem—also those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations [of the zodiac], and to all the [starry] host of heaven. 6 Josiah brought out the Asherah from the house of the Lord to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, and burned it there, and ground it to dust, and threw its dust on the graves of the common people [who had sacrificed to it]. 7 And he tore down the houses of the [male] cult prostitutes, which were at the house (temple) of the Lord, where the women were weaving [tent] hangings for the Asherah [shrines]. 8 Then Josiah brought all the [idolatrous] priests from the cities of Judah, and desecrated the high places where the priests had burned incense [to idols], from Geba to Beersheba, [that is, north to south]; and he tore down the high places of the gates which were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the city gate. 9 However, the priests of the high places were not allowed to go up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem [to serve], but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers. 10 Josiah also defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of Ben-

hinnom (son of Hinnom), so that no man could make his son or his daughter pass through the fire [as a burnt offering] for Molech.

11 **And he got rid of the horses that the kings of Judah had given [in worship] to the sun** at the entrance of the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the official, which was in the annex; **and he burned the chariots of the sun.** 12 The altars [dedicated to the starry host of heaven] which were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courtyards of the house of the Lord, the king tore down; and he smashed them there and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron. 13 The king desecrated the high places which were opposite [east of] Jerusalem, which were on the right (south) of the mount of corruption which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the repulsiveness of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the repulsiveness of Moab, and for Milcom the repulsiveness of the sons (descendants) of Ammon. 14 He broke in pieces the sacred pillars (cultic memorial stones, images) and cut down the Asherim and replaced them with human bones [to desecrate the places forever].

- 2 Can it be said that the church is living up to its role, given the way things are (legalized abortion, males competing as females to win first place, etc.)? Can we set aside what we have taught and what we have received and re-examine everything we thought we knew, and think for ourselves, and put on the Berean mindset and actually SEARCH the scriptures to see whether what we believe has as firm a foundation as we were taught by those who were taught by those who were taught by those who were taught, etc.? (Jeremiah 16:19-21; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Isaiah 28:16; Acts 17:10-12)
- a. **Jeremiah 16:19-21** 19 O Lord, my strength and my fortress, My refuge in the day of affliction, The **Gentiles shall come** to You From the ends of the earth **and say, "Surely our fathers have inherited lies, Worthlessness and unprofitable things."** 20 Will a man make gods for himself, Which are not gods? 21 "Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know My hand and My might; **And they shall know that My name is the Lord.; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15** 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one **take heed how he builds on it.** 11 **For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.** 12 Now if anyone **builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,** 13 each one's work will become clear; for **the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.** 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.; **Isaiah 28:16** 16 Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, **I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;** Whoever believes will not act hastily.; **Acts 17:10-12** 10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they entered the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now **these people were more noble and open-minded** than those in Thessalonica, so **they received the message** [of salvation through faith in the Christ] **with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.** 12 **As a result many of them became believers,** together with a number of prominent Greek women and men.
- 3 Can the church really expect the government to **repent (of abortion)** when the church herself has not first repented (of disobedience)? (1 Peter 4:17-18; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14)
- a. **1 Peter 4:17-18** 17 **For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God;** and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"; **2 Chronicles 7:13-14** 13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
- 4 **In not keeping** the Lord's Sabbath (as He defined it, thus openly defying it), have we not further emboldened the enemies of God to dismiss the other commandments? (2 Samuel 12:14a)
- a. **2 Samuel 12:14a** 14 However, because by this deed you have **given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme,** God so blessed and hallowed the seventh day, that He had the written words of its remembrance put in the holiest of holy places on the entire earth. Let that sink in. And we disdain it? ~ And since we disdain that one, is it a far step from disdaining the honoring of our parents? And if we honored our parents [especially copying from the good ones], would we have degenerated into the mess we're in in this nation today? That is, where murders are happening at an exponentially-higher rate than it has ever had, thousands of babies are killed every day, on top of the other murders, and adultery is running rampant, because that's what's producing over an average of eighty (80%) percent of the **babies that are being slaughtered,** among other things? (Deuteronomy 32:6; Isaiah 1:2-4)
- a. **Deuteronomy 32:6** Do you thus deal with [repay] the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? **Is He not your Father, who bought you?** Has He not made you and established you?; **Isaiah 1:2-4** 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: "**I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me;** 3 The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib [manger or feed trough]; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider [understand]." 4 Alas, sinful nation, A people laden [Lit. heavy, weighed down] with iniquity, A brood [offspring, seed] of evildoers, **Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord,** They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.
- 6 So (according to some rationale), as long as we obey the Spirit of the law, the letter of the law doesn't matter. That Christ is our Sabbath means that we don't have to obey the fourth commandment to "Remember the Sabbath" day. So, because of that apparently popular rationale in many churches, one can argue that, as long as we love our babies, and we don't want them to suffer the anguish and misery of being in poverty and being abused and being mistreated or being in foster care or whatever, then we don't have to keep the letter of the law of the sixth commandment to "not murder," so we can **have abortions** and still keep the Spirit of the law because we love our babies too much to see them go through all the pains of life when they can just go to Heaven instead. Given that, is it not easier to see how disregarding and/or weakening the honoring of one of the ten commandments, the rest of the ten commandments are weakened? Maybe it was that the commandments were written on our stony hearts that was to be done away with so that the commandments could be written on our softened, responsive, obedient hearts? (James 2:20-26; Ezekiel 11:19; Ezekiel 36:26-27)
- a. **James 2:20-26** 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead** [NU *useless*]? 21 Was not **Abraham our father justified by works** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that **faith was working together with his works,** and by works faith was made perfect [complete]? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted [credited] to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 **For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.; Ezekiel 11:19-20** 19 Then I will **give them one heart,** and I will **put a new spirit within them** [Lit. *you* (pl.)], and **take the stony heart out** of their flesh, and **give them a heart of flesh,** 20 that they may **walk in My statutes and keep My judgments** and do them; and they shall be **My people,** and I will be their God.; **Ezekiel 36:26-27** 26 I will give you a **new heart and put a new spirit within you;** I will **take the heart of stone out** of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will **put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes,** and you will keep My judgments and do them.
- 7 Would the (**non-abortion** supporting) churches be willing to deny the commandment against murder as easily as they have denied the Sabbath commandment? (Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Timothy 1:5-11)
- a. **Exodus 20:1-17** 1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage [slaves]. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve [*worship*] them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting [*punishing*] the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. 8 "**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the **seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.** In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore **the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.** 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. 13 "**You shall not murder.** 14 "You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."; **1 Timothy 1: 5-11** 5 Now the end [*aim, goal, purpose*] of the commandment is **charity** [*agape*] out of a **pure heart,** and of a **good conscience,** and of **faith unfeigned:** 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; 7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. 8 Now we know [without any doubt] that **the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully and appropriately,** 9 understanding the fact that law is not enacted for the righteous person [*the one in right standing with God*], [*The terrible enumeration of sins and sinners in these 9th and 10th verses, while following the order of the ancient Tables of Sinai, seems to allude pointedly to the vices especially prevalent in that day in the great centres of the Roman empire.*] but for lawless [*459-anomos: lawless, without law; "no-law," i.e. lawless disregard for proper authority*] and rebellious [*506 anupotaktos: not subject to rule; not submissive; disobedient (unruly), unwilling to come under Christ's Lordship; refusing to "fall in line with" (fit in with) God's plan; uncooperative, with a defiant attitude towards duly-appointed authority; uncontrollable, refractory (unsubdued); anti-authoritarian (rebellious).*] people, for the ungodly [*765 asebes: ungodly, impious; desitute of reverential awe toward God, contemning God, impious; lack of reverence ("without due respect"), i.e. failing to honor what is sacred – especially in the outward (ceremonial) sense.*] and sinful [*unite irreligion and contempt for all sacred things*], **for the unholy** [*462. anosios- irreverent; utter disregard of what is sacred, i.e. willful*

(arrogant) **disrespect of the things of God**; "impious; wicked" (J. Thayer).] and profane [952 *bebélos*: permitted to be trodden, by impl. unhallowed; accessible; ("profane because of improper entrance") refers to people unfit to access (know) God, because they approach Him apart from faith], [includes the prohibitions of the first four Commandments (the First Table, as it is termed), where sins against God are especially dwelt upon. The sins against man, which form the subject of the prohibitions of the Second Table (Commandments Five to Ten), are included in the following enumeration of wrong-doers.] for those who kill [smite or ill-users of] their fathers or mothers [the Fifth Commandment], for murderers [the Sixth Commandment], 10 for sexually immoral persons [the Seventh Commandment], for homosexuals, for kidnappers [the Eighth Commandment], and slave traders [I.e. those who exploit other people for evil or selfish reasons.], for liars [the Ninth Commandment], for perjurers—and for whatever else [the Tenth Commandment] is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted;

- 8 If failing to keep the Sabbath was a major factor leading to exile in the "Old Testament," why is it now okay to defile it in the "New"? (Nehemiah 13:17-18; Matthew 12:8)
- a. **Nehemiah 13:17-18** 17 Then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What is **this evil thing that you are doing—profaning the Sabbath day?** 18 Did your fathers (ancestors) not do the same, and did our God not bring all this trouble on us and on this city? Yet **you are adding to the wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.**"; **Matthew 12:8** 8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.
- 9 When Sabbath is first mentioned in Scripture, what is said about it? Which day is it? Is it like other days? What is done on it? Did this first mention in its context have to do with animal sacrifices? Or with man spending his first full day enjoying the first Sabbath with Elohim, resting in Elohim, enjoying Him, His creation, blessings, and life? (Genesis 2:1-3; Genesis 1:26-31)
- a. **Genesis 2:1-3** So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And by **the seventh day** God completed His work which He had done, and **He rested (ceased)** ^[sabbath] on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified [qadesh]** it [as His own, that is, **set it apart as holy** from other days], because in it **He rested [sabbath]** from all His work which He had created and done.; **Genesis 1:26-31** 26 **Then God said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; and let them have complete authority** over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and **over the entire earth**, and over everything that creeps and crawls on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And **God blessed them [granting them certain authority]** and said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subjugate it [putting it under your power]; and rule over (dominate) the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 So God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of the entire earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to all the animals on the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that moves on the ground—to everything in which there is the breath of life—I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so [because He commanded it]. 31 **God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good and He validated it completely. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.**
- 10 What is the Sabbath a sign of? How are we to know that YHWH sanctifies us? How might Sabbath-keepers be different from non-Sabbath-keepers? How are we to know that YHWH is Elohim? (Ezekiel 20:12, 20)
- a. **Ezekiel 20:12, 20** Also **I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign** between Me and them, that they might know [without any doubt] **that I am the Lord who sanctifies them** (separates and sets them apart); **Sanctify My Sabbaths and keep them holy**; and they shall be **a sign** between Me and you, that you may know [without any doubt] **that I am the Lord your God.**
- 11 What was the first thing that God labeled holy, or God set apart? Should we now believe that God changed His mind about the very first thing He set apart or made holy and decide that it's okay for it to be profaned? (Genesis 2:3; Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8-9)
- a. **Genesis 2:3** 3 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.; **Numbers 23:19** 19 **God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it?** or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?; **Malachi 3:5-6** 5 "Then I will come near you for judgment; **I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, and against those who oppress** the laborer in his wages and widows and the fatherless, and against those who turn away the alien [from his right], **and those who do not fear Me [with awe-filled reverence];**" says the Lord of hosts. 6 "For **I am the Lord, I do not change** [but remain faithful to My covenant with you]; that is why you, O sons of Jacob, have not come to an end.; **Hebrews 13:8-9** 8 **Jesus Christ is [eternally changeless, always] the same yesterday and today and forever.** 9 **Do not be carried away by diverse and strange teachings;** for it is good for the heart to be established and strengthened by grace and not by foods [rules of diet and ritualistic meals], which bring no benefit or spiritual growth to those who observe them.
- 12 Is God still holy? Does God still call us to be Holy? (Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:13-16)
- a. **Leviticus 11:44-45** 44 For **I am the Lord your God; so consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am holy.** You shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm or crawl on the ground. 45 For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; therefore **you shall be holy, for I am holy.**" 1 **1 Peter 1:13-16** 13 So **prepare your minds for action**, be completely sober [in spirit—steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert], fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 **[Live] as obedient children [of God];** do not be conformed to the evil desires which governed you in your ignorance [before you knew the requirements and transforming power of the good news regarding salvation]. 15 **But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct** [be set apart from the world by your godly character and moral courage]; 16 because **it is written, "You shall be holy (set apart), for I am holy."**
- 13 We looked at holiness as what we wore or didn't wear; what we didn't drink, what we didn't smoke ... but what did God say about holiness? (Exodus 26:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23; etc. Strong's 6942, 6944)
- a. **Exodus 26:33** You shall hang the veil from the hooks [that connect the curtains together], and you shall bring the ark of the Testimony there within the veil. **The veil shall separate for you the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23** 21 **But test all** ^[Or everyone, that is, anyone claiming to be a prophet.] **things carefully [so you can recognize what is good]. Hold firmly to that which is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil [withdraw and keep away from it]. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose];** and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 14 What day does God set apart for Himself? The first? The seventh? The eighth? What does He want us to set apart for Him? (Genesis 2:3; Exodus 16:23; Exodus 19:22; Exodus 20:8, etc. Strong's 6942, 6944)
- a. **Genesis 2:3** So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it** [as His own, that is, **set it apart as holy from other days**], because in it He rested from all His work which He had created and done.; **Exodus 16:23** He said to them, "This is what the Lord has said: '**Tomorrow is a solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord**'; bake and boil what you will bake and boil [today], and all that remains left over put aside for yourselves to keep until morning."; **Exodus 19:22** Also have the priests who approach the Lord **consecrate (sanctify, set apart) themselves [for My sacred purpose],** or else the Lord will break forth [in judgment] against them [and destroy them]."; **Exodus 20:8** "**Remember the Sabbath (seventh) day to keep it holy** (set apart, dedicated to God).
- 15 What authority do we have to UN-bless that what God has blessed? (Numbers 23:8, 19-20; Genesis 2:3)
- a. **Numbers 23:8, 19-20** 8 **How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed?** or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied?... 19 **God is not a man, that He should lie;** neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good? 20 Behold, **I have received commandment to bless: and He hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.; Genesis 2:3** 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.
- 16 What authority do we have to revoke the gifts that He has given? (Mark 2:27; Romans 11:29)
- a. **Mark 2:27** 27 Jesus said to them, "**The Sabbath was made for man**, not man for the Sabbath.; **Romans 11:29** 29 **For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call].**
- 17 Since we've questioned – thanks to Luther and other Reformers around the 1500s – doctrines such as indulgences, Mary being Mother of God, infant baptism, denial of mass publication of Scriptures, and other things ... should we not also consider questioning all of Catholic teachings? Especially ones that they themselves admit that there's NO Biblical basis or foundation for them? Or should we not be willing to question any and all religious teachings to see whether they DO have a solid Biblical basis or foundation? (Acts 17:10-12)
- a. Reflective ~ personal - at a minimum the Bereans... **Acts 17:10-12** 10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were **more fair-minded** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **sought the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.** 12 Therefore **many of them believed**, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men
- 18 How much longer will we not even be willing to question the religious system that had expressly forbidden the keeping of the Sabbath when that same religious system had taught doctrines that we consider un-Biblical (such as indulgences, purgatory, and Mary being the Mother of God instead of only the earthly Mother of Jesus) and has a history of militantly opposing and/or murdering people that did not agree with their doctrine (their control)?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.

- 19 Did not Jesus and scripture warn that some will claim to be of His people when they are actually lying and deceptive? (Revelation 2:9; Revelation 3:9; 1 John 2:18-21; Matthew 7:15)
- Revelation 2:9** 9 “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the **blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not**, but are a synagogue [congregation] of Satan.; **Revelation 3:9** 9 Indeed I will make **those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie**—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.; **1 John 2:18-21** 18 Children, it is the last hour [the end of this age]; and just as you heard that the antichrist is coming [the one who will oppose Christ and attempt to replace Him], even now many antichrists (false teachers) have appeared, which confirms our belief that it is the last hour. **19 They went out from us [seeming at first to be Christians]**, but they were not really of us [because they were not truly born again and spiritually transformed]; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but **they went out [teaching false doctrine]**, so that it would be clearly shown that none of them are of us. **20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One [you have been set apart, specially gifted and prepared by the Holy Spirit], and all of you know [the truth because He teaches us, illuminates our minds, and guards us from error]**. **21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie [nothing false, no deception] is of the truth.** **Matthew 7:15** 15 “**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing**, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
- 20 The more real a counterfeit looks, the more likely it is to be used. The more true a deception appears, the more likely it is to be believed. Wouldn't we immediately spot a twenty from a Monopoly set as not real? So, if Scripture could be tainted to justify something, wouldn't it be easier to be believed?
- Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced, but the enemy as an angel of light could have been used.
- 21 Did not the devil use scripture to tempt the Lord Jesus after the 40 days in the wilderness? Did not the devil use God's word to tempt Eve? (Matthew 4:5-6; Luke 4:9-11; Psalms 91:11-12; Genesis 3:1-5)
- Matthew 4:5-6** 5 Then **the devil** took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6 and said to Him**, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For **it is written**: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’”; **Luke 4:9-11** 9 Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and **said to Him**, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. **10 For it is written**: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,’ **11 and**, ‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” **Psalms 91:11-12** 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. **12 In their hands they shall bear [lift] you up, Lest you dash [strike] your foot against a stone.**; **Genesis 3:1-5** 1 Now **the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman**, “**Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’**” **2** And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; **3** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” **4** Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- 22 What do you think of this quote stating that church commandments take precedence over the Word of God? “We are informed that some people in different districts of the kingdom, have adopted and observed Saturdaykeeping. It is **severely forbidden**—in holy church canon—one and all to observe days excepting those which the holy Pope, archbishop, or the bishops command. **Saturdaykeeping must under no circumstances be permitted** hereafter further than the church canon commands.” ... “Therefore, we counsel all the friends of God throughout all Norway who want to **be obedient towards the holy church** to let this **evil of Saturdaykeeping** alone; and the rest **we forbid under penalty of severe church punishment to keep Saturday holy.**” – Catholic Provincial Council at Bergen, 1435. (1 Samuel 15:24; Exodus 1:15-17; Acts 4:18-20; Acts 5:29)
- 1 Samuel 15:24** 24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “**I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord** and your words, **because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.**; **Exodus 1:15-17** 15 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah (beauty) and the other named Puah (splendor), **16** “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” **17 But the midwives feared God [with profound reverence] and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded**, but they let the boy babies live. **Acts 4:18-20** 18 So they sent for them, and commanded them not to speak [as His representatives] or teach at all in the name of Jesus [using Him as their authority]. **19** But Peter and John replied to them, “**Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you and obey you rather than God, you must judge** [for yourselves]; **20** for we, on our part, cannot stop telling [people] about what we have seen and heard.”; **Acts 5:29** 29 Then Peter and the apostles replied, “**We must obey God rather than men** [we have no other choice].
- 23 What do you think about this quote: In “1563, the Council of Trent ruled that ... **the fact that the Church had changed the Fourth Commandment clearly proved that Tradition was greater than Scripture.**”? (2 Corinthians 11:2-4; Mark 7:6-9)
- 2 Corinthians 11:2-4** 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy because I have promised you to one husband, to **present you as a pure virgin to Christ.** **3 But I** am afraid that, even as **the serpent beguiled** Eve by his cunning, your minds may be corrupted and led away from the simplicity of [your sincere and] pure devotion to Christ. **4** For [you seem willing to allow it] **if one comes and preaches another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or **if you receive a different spirit** from the one you received, or **a different gospel** from the one you accepted. You tolerate all this beautifully [welcoming the deception];; **Mark 7:6-9** 6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. **7** And **in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**’ **8** For **laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men** ...” **9** He said to them, “**All too well you reject [set aside] the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.**”
- 24 What do you think about these quotes from an official US Catholic Papacy magazine, The Catholic Mirror, in 1893? “**The Catholic Church** for over 1,000 years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, **changed the day [of worship] from Saturday to Sunday.** ... **In the Old Testament**, reference is made 126 times to the Sabbath, and **all these texts conspire harmoniously in voicing the will of God commanding the seventh day to be kept, because God Himself first kept it, making it obligatory on all as ‘a perpetual covenant.’** ... **Examining the New Testament from cover to cover critically**, we find the Sabbath referred to 61 times. We find, too, that the Savior invariably selected the Sabbath (Saturday) to teach in the synagogues and work miracles. The four Gospels refer to the Sabbath (Saturday) 51 times. ... Hence the conclusion is inevitable ... **that of those who follow the Bible as their guide, the Israelites and ... Seventh-day [observers], have the exclusive weight of evidence on their side**, whilst **the biblical Protestant has not a word in self-defense for his substitution of Sunday for Saturday.** ... They have **ignored and condemned** their teacher, **the Bible** ... **and they have adopted a day [instituted and] kept by the Catholic Church.**” There is just one refuge left for the Protestants. That is to take their stand squarely and fully upon the “written word only”, “the Bible and the Bible alone”, and thus upon the Sabbath of the Lord. Thus acknowledging no authority but God’s, wearing no sign but His (Eze. 20:12,20), obeying his command, and shielded by his power, they shall have the victory over Rome and all her alliances, and stand upon the sea of glass, bearing the harps of God, with which their triumph shall be forever celebrated. Rev.18 [Babylon’s destruction], and 15:2-4 [victorious over the beast, unifying Moses’ writings and Jesus’ teachings]. ... It is not yet too late for Protestants to redeem themselves. Will they do it? Will they stand consistently upon the Protestant profession [of the Bible alone]? Or will they still continue to occupy the “indefensible, self-contradictory, and suicidal” position of professing to be Protestants, yet standing on Catholic ground, receiving Catholic insult, and bearing Catholic condemnation? **Will they indeed take the written word only, the Scripture alone, as their sole authority and their sole standard?** Or will they still hold the “indefensible, self-contradictory, and suicidal” doctrine and practice of following the authority of the Catholic Church and of wearing the sign of her authority? **Will they keep the Sabbath of the Lord, the seventh day, according to Scripture? Or will they keep the Sunday according to the tradition of the Catholic Church?**” (2 Corinthians 11:2-4; Mark 7:6-9)
- 2 Corinthians 11:2-4** 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy because I have promised you to one husband, to **present you as a pure virgin to Christ.** **3 But I** am afraid that, even as **the serpent beguiled** Eve by his cunning, your minds may be corrupted and led away from the simplicity of [your sincere and] pure devotion to Christ. **4** For [you seem willing to allow it] **if one comes and preaches another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or **if you receive a different spirit** from the one you received, or **a different gospel** from the one you accepted. You tolerate all this beautifully [welcoming the deception];; **Mark 7:6-9** 6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. **7** And **in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**’ **8** For **laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men** ...” **9** He said to them, “**All too well you reject [set aside] the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.**”
- 25 Whether the Catholic religion started Sunday worship or not; or whether the Catholic religion capitalized on Constantine being in power and started Sunday worship through him or not; or whether Constantine recognized that some (likely Nicolaitans) had adopted the heresies that Jesus said He hated or not, and jumped on them, and politicized religion to be a powerful factor of control for his empire or not; the Catholic religion decided to up it a notch, and, through the popes (and/or through the emperors), essentially said (if Paul's writings really meant each person could choose which day to worship), No more will you be able to choose which day you worship. Essentially, **the Catholic religion said you must NOT, under any circumstance** (short of further papal decrees), **rest (and worship) on the very day that God blessed and God sanctified and God set apart to be holy for OUR sakes.** But, since they admit there is NO Scriptural basis for forbidding Sabbath-keeping, why would they go to that extreme?
- Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 26 Sid Roth wrote a book, They Thought For Themselves, about Jewish people who set aside their traditions (from Rabbinic Judaism) and asked questions about what they were being taught and why. When will Christians – Protestants – do the same and start questioning Why are we being taught this? And examine the scriptures for themselves, like the Bereans, to see if these teachings are scriptural? (Jeremiah 16:19-21; Acts 17:10-12)

- a. **Jeremiah 16:19-21** 19 O Lord, my strength and my fortress, My refuge in the day of affliction, **The Gentiles shall come to You** From the ends of the earth and say, **“Surely our fathers have inherited lies, Worthlessness and unprofitable things.”** 20 Will a man make gods for himself, Which are not gods? 21 “Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know My hand and My might; And they shall know that My name is the Lord.; **Acts 17:10-12** 10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they entered the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now these people were more noble and open-minded than those in Thessalonica, so they received the message [of salvation through faith in the Christ] with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. 12 As a result many of them became believers, together with a number of prominent Greek women and men.
- 27 Since scripture exhorts us to examine ourselves to see whether we are true and not counterfeit, should not we also examine church doctrines to see which of the doctrines are true and which are subtle, deceptive counterfeits? (2 Corinthians 13:5; Acts 17:10-12; Revelation 2:2; 2 Corinthians 11:12-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-23, etc.)
- a. **2 Corinthians 13:5** 5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified ^[do not stand the test]; **Acts 17:10-12** 10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they entered the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now these people were more noble and open-minded than those in Thessalonica, so they received the message [of salvation through faith in the Christ] with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. 12 As a result many of them became believers, together with a number of prominent Greek women and men.; **Revelation 2:2** NKJV 2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience ^[perseverance], and that you cannot bear ^[endure] those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; **2 Corinthians 11:12-15** 12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-23** 16 Rejoice always and delight in your faith; 17 be unceasing and persistent in prayer; 18 in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench [subdue, or be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy] Spirit. 20 Do not scorn or reject gifts of prophecy or prophecies [spoken revelations—words of instruction or exhortation or warning]. 21 But test all ^[Or everyone, that is, anyone claiming to be a prophet.] things carefully [so you can recognize what is good]. Hold firmly to that which is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil [withdraw and keep away from it]. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose]; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 28 If we believe a specific church or religion is counterfeit [apostate or Babylon], why are we not testing everything from that counterfeit [or apostate or Babylon] church or religion?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced. [Don’t throw out the baby with the bath water, but don’t keep the dirty water, either.]
- 29 What if that one world religion is a counterfeit of the unity that is to be in the body of Christ, the Oneness, that Jesus said that He wanted us to be one in Him and in Abba? What if that’s a counterfeit of that? (Revelation 13:11-17; Revelation 14:8-11; John 10:16; John 17:11, 20-23; Numbers 15:15-16)
- a. **Revelation 13:11-17** 11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 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.; **Revelation 14:8-11** 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.; **John 10:16** 16 I have other ^[i.e. the Gentiles.] sheep [beside these] that are not of this fold. I must bring those also, and they will listen to My voice and pay attention to My call, and they will become one ^[Jews and Gentiles will be joined through their personal belief in Jesus. The revelation that God intended to unite the Jews and Gentiles into one body of believers was a difficult concept to accept for many in the early church.] flock with one Shepherd. **John 17:11, 20-23** 11 I am no longer in the world; yet they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, so that they may be one just as We are. 20 “I do not pray for these alone [it is not for their sake only that I make this request], but also for [all] those who [will ever] believe and trust in Me through their message, 21 that they all may be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe [without any doubt] that You sent Me. 22 I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected and completed into one, so that the world may know [without any doubt] that You sent Me, and [that You] have loved them, just as You have loved Me. **Numbers 15:15-16** 15 “The community will have the same rule for you as well as for the resident outsider. It will be a lasting statute throughout your generations. As for you, so for the outsider will it be before Adonai. 16 The same Torah and the same regulations will apply to both you and the outsider residing among you.”
- 30 What is so precious or what is so important about the Sabbath that the enemy would not only counterfeit it but also deceive most of Christendom today into profaning it? (Ezekiel 20:12; 1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 19:1-4, 36b-37; Leviticus 20:7-8)
- a. **Ezekiel 20:12** Also I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know [without any doubt] that I am the Lord who sanctifies them (separates and sets them apart); **1 Peter 1:16**, AMP, “because it is written, **“YOU SHALL BE HOLY (set apart), FOR I AM HOLY.”**” **Leviticus 19:1-4**, AMP, Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. 3 Each of you shall respect ^[Lit fear; the Hebrew can refer to respect or reverence as essentially healthy forms of fear.] his mother and his father, and you shall keep My Sabbaths; I am the Lord your God. 4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods (images cast in metal); I am the Lord your God. WHY?: **Leviticus 19:36b-37** I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. 37 You shall observe and keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them. I am the LORD.” ... **Leviticus 20:7-8** You shall consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am the LORD your God. 8 You shall keep My statutes and do them. I am the LORD who sanctifies you.
- 31 Why would a God Who was concerned that things be done decently and in order suddenly be unconcerned and lackadaisical about whether and when people gather to worship Him? What if those (presumed anti-Sabbath) verses really are talking about something else ... something other than keeping the weekly seventh day Sabbath day? What if they’ve just been misused by the enemy to deceive us? - Is not the enemy great at twisting the words of God for his own purposes? (1 Corinthians 14:40; Romans 14:5-6; Matthew 4:5-6; John 8:44)
- a. **1 Corinthians 14:40** 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.; **Romans 14:5-6** 5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and ^[NU omits the rest of this sentence.] he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.; **Matthew 4:5-6** 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’”; **John 8:44** 44 You are of your father the devil, and it is your will to practice the desires [which are characteristic] of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar and the father of lies and half-truths.
- 32 Is God the author of confusion? Is God the author of doubts and doubting? God plainly said rest on the seventh day. He plainly blessed the seventh day and made the seventh day holy, plainly, even to the first mention of it. So, where is the confusion? Why is there confusion over this? Except for the enemy coming in and saying, Yea, hath God really sssaid you should keep the sssseventh as your sssabbath? (1 Corinthians 14:33; John 20:27-29; Hebrews 12:2; Genesis 2:1-3; Genesis 3:1)
- a. **1 Corinthians 14:33** 33 For God is not the author of confusion ^[disorder] but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.; **John 20:27-29** 27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and put out your hand and place it in My side. Do not be unbelieving, but [stop doubting and] believe.” 28 Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, do you now believe? Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, and favored by God] are they who did not see [Me] and yet believed [in Me].”; **Hebrews 12:2** 2 looking unto Jesus, the author ^[originator] and finisher ^[perfecter] of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.; **Genesis 2:1-3** So the heavens and the earth

were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested (ceased) ^[sabbath] on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and sanctified ^[qadesh] it [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it He rested ^[sabbath] from all His work which He had created and done.; Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty (subtle, skilled in deceit) than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And the serpent ^[The relationship between Satan and the serpent is not made clear, but Satan is identified with the serpent later in Rev 12:9, 14, 15, and 20:2. It seems difficult to believe that Eve would not have been suspicious of a talking creature, but at this point in time Eve probably knew next to nothing about animals; and in any case, the serpent, as it existed before the curse (v 14), was a very different creature from the reptile that is familiar to us today.] (Satan) said to the woman, “Can it really be that God has said, ‘You shall not eat from any ^[Or every-] tree of the garden?’”

- 33 Is it more important to honor the religious systems and the traditions of man more so than to honor the written Word of God (especially where there is no clear-cut establishment of a reversal of those things written by God)? (Mark 7:8-9, 13; Matthew 15:7-9)
- a. **Mark 7:8-9, 13** 8 You disregard and neglect the commandment of God, and cling [faithfully] to the tradition of men.” 9 He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside and nullifying the commandment of God in order to keep your [man-made] tradition and regulations. ... 13 so you nullify the [authority of the] word of God [acting as if it did not apply] because of your tradition which you have handed down [through the elders]. And you do many things such as that.” **Matthew 15:7-9** 7 You hypocrites (play-actors, pretenders), rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said, 8 ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 9 ‘But in vain do they worship Me, For they teach as doctrines the precepts of men.’”
- 34 Neither pork, nor circumcision, nor tithing is mentioned in the ten commandments. Should these be considered (with the same weight) when deliberating on whether the fourth commandment of the ten - the Sabbath - should still be remembered Biblically?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 35 Did Catholic authorities either militantly mandate that pork must be eaten? Or militantly condemn or forbid the refusal to eat pork? [I did not find where they forbid the refusal to eat pork or mandate the eating of pork, but perhaps you can.] If not, contrast that with their militant demand that Sabbath be profaned, and ask yourself Why? What is so important that, **IF** the Catholic system is believed to be apostate and/or Babylon and/or Anti-Christ, they would be so against the Sabbath day?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced. [But consider: A- Laws regarding pork, circumcision, and tithing were NOT kept inside the ark in the Holiest place. B- Rabbinic traditions regarding Sabbath are far more numerous than the Biblical laws regarding Sabbath.]
- 36 When Jesus rebuked their corrupted practices and doctrines, was He trying to create a new religion? (Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 3:28-31)
- a. **Matthew 5:17-20** 17 “Do not think that I came to do away with or undo the Law ^{[i.e. the Pentateuch.] [of Moses]} or the [writings of the] Prophets; I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For I assure you and most solemnly say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke ^[of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things ^[which it foreshadows] are accomplished. 19 So whoever breaks one of the least [important] of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least [important] in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever practices and teaches them, he will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness (uprightness, moral essence) is more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.; **Romans 3:28-31** 28 For we maintain that an individual is justified by faith distinctly apart from works of the Law ^[the observance of which has nothing to do with justification, that is, being declared free of the guilt of sin and made acceptable to God]. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not also the God of Gentiles [who were not given the Law]? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since indeed it is one [and the same] God who will justify the circumcised by faith [which began with Abraham] and the uncircumcised through [their newly acquired] faith. 31 Do we then nullify the Law by this faith [making the Law of no effect, overthrowing it]? Certainly not! On the contrary, we confirm and establish and uphold the Law [since it convicts us all of sin, pointing to the need for salvation].
- 37 Or was Jesus showing them how their teachings did not line up with the law and what they needed to correct? (Mark 7:1-13; Matthew 5:21-48)
- a. **Matthew 5:21-48**; 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 31 “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. **Mark 7:1-13** Now the Pharisees and some of the scribes came from Jerusalem and gathered around Him, 2 and they had seen that some of His disciples ate their bread with [ceremonially] impure hands, that is, unwashed [and defiled according to Jewish religious ritual]. 3 (For ^[Mark explains Jewish customs and translates Hebrew terms for his Gentile readers.] the Pharisees and all of the Jews do not eat unless they carefully ^[Lit with the fist. This probably refers either to the method of washing the hands or, perhaps more likely, to the volume of water used.] wash their hands, holding firmly to the traditions of the elders; 4 and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse ^[The Greek word used is baptize, which in this context refers to an immersion ritual normally performed in a miqveh, a special bathtub large enough for the purpose and filled with water that was to be collected naturally. The miqvehs typically were built into the ground outside where they could collect rain water.] themselves [completely according to ritual]; and there are many other things [oral, man-made laws and traditions handed down to them] which they follow diligently, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper utensils.) 5 So the Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus, “Why do Your disciples not live their lives according to the tradition of the elders, but [instead] eat their bread with [ceremonially] unwashed hands?” 6 He replied, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites (play-actors, pretenders), as it is written [in Scripture], ‘These people honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 ‘They worship Me in vain [their worship is meaningless and worthless, a pretense], Teaching the precepts of men as doctrines [giving their traditions equal weight with the Scriptures].’ 8 You disregard and neglect the commandment of God, and cling [faithfully] to the tradition of men.” 9 He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside and nullifying the commandment of God in order to keep your [man-made] tradition and regulations. 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother [with respect and gratitude]’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of his father or mother must be put to death’; 11 but you [Pharisees and scribes] say, ‘If a man tells his father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you is Corban, (that is to say, already a gift to God),”’ 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother [since helping them would violate his vow of Corban]; 13 so you nullify the [authority of the] word of God [acting as if it did not apply] because of your tradition which you have handed down [through the elders]. And you do many things such as that.”
- 38 Was Jesus challenging their teachings so He could do away with the law? (Matthew 5:17-20)
- a. **Matthew 5:17-20** 17 “Do not think that I came to do away with or undo the Law ^{[i.e. the Pentateuch.] [of Moses]} or the [writings of the] Prophets; I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For I assure you and most solemnly say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke [of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things [which it foreshadows] are accomplished. 19 So whoever breaks one of the least [important] of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least [important] in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever practices and teaches them, he will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness (uprightness, moral essence) is more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.;
- 39 Was Jesus pointing them back to Biblical truths? (Matthew 15:3-9)
- a. **Matthew 15:3-9** 3 He replied to them, “Why also do you violate the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition [handed down by the elders]? 4 For God said [through Moses], ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of or insults or treats

improperly father or mother is to be put to death.’ **5 But you say,** ‘If anyone says to his father or mother, “**Whatever** [money or resource that] **I have that would help you is** [already dedicated and] **given to God,**” **6 he is not to honor his father or his mother** [by helping them with their need].’ So **by this you have invalidated the word of God** [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect] for the sake of your tradition [handed down by the elders]. **7 You hypocrites** (play-actors, pretenders), rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said, **8 ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 9 ‘But in vain do they worship Me, For they teach as doctrines the precepts of men.’”**

40 Or did Jesus seek to reaffirm the truths of the Bible? (Matthew 5:21-48; Matthew 22:34-40)

- a. **Matthew 5:21-48;** 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘**You shall not murder,** and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ **22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.** And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire. **23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘**You shall not commit adultery.**’ **28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.** 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 31 “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ **32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery;** and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘**You shall not swear falsely,** but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ **34 But I say to you, do not swear at all:** neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘**You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.**’ **44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,** 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.; **Matthew 22:34-40** 34 Now when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced (muzzled) the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 One of them, a lawyer [an expert in Mosaic Law], asked Jesus a question, to test Him: 36 “Teacher, which is **the greatest commandment in the Law?**” 37 And Jesus replied to him, ““**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**” 38 **This is the first and greatest commandment.** 39 **The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself** [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for others].’ 40 **The whole Law and the [writings of the] Prophets depend on these two commandments.”****

41 Has Sunday become the sacred idol (an unholy substitute for the Sabbath)—like the sacred cow worshipped in Dan after the ten northern tribes separated from Judah? (1 Kings 12:26-33)

- a. **1 Kings 12:26-33** 26 **Jeroboam [doubted God’s promise to him and]** said in his heart, “Now **the kingdom will return** to the house of David. 27 **If these people go up to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices,** then their heart will turn to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah; and **they will kill me** and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” 28 **So the king took counsel [and followed bad advice] and made two calves** [^{Cf the incident of the golden calf in the wilderness, and see note Ex 32:4. Jeroboam evidently was convinced that the Israelites would respond to calf idols just as their ancestors had (despite the consequences), and unfortunately he was right.] of gold. And he said to the people, “It is too much for you to go [all the way] up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 29 He set the one [golden calf] in Bethel, and **the other he put in Dan** [^{Northernmost city in Jeroboam’s kingdom.}] 30 **Now this thing became a sin [for Israel]; because the people went to worship before the one** [or the other of them] **as far as Dan.** 31 And Jeroboam also made houses on high places, and he made priests from all [^{Lit the extremities of the people.}] people who were not of the sons (descendants) of Levi. 32 Jeroboam held a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth [^{Jeroboam chose the eighth month to worship idols in competition with the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem during the seventh month at the temple.}] month, like the feast which is kept in Judah, and he went up to the altar; he did this in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 So he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel **on the fifteenth day of the eighth month,** in the month which he had devised in his own heart [**in defiance of God’s commandments**]; and he **held a feast for the Israelites** and he went up to the altar to burn incense [^{Or sacrifices.}] [**in defiance of God’s law.**]}

42 Since Messiah fulfilled the law, and He had 40 days with His disciples AFTER His resurrection, why did He not **expressly command** His disciples to observe the seventh-day Sabbath on Sunday, which is the first or the eighth day (as the official US Catholic Papacy magazine, The Catholic Mirror, admitted in 1893 their church had done well over 1,000 years ago)?

- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.

43 Since Messiah fulfilled the law, and He had 40 days with His disciples AFTER His resurrection, why did He not **expressly forbid** His disciples from keeping the seventh-day Sabbath (as did the 1435 Catholic Provincial Council at Bergen)?

- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.

44 Where exactly, specifically, is it found that we are told to NOT keep the Sabbath, especially when Scripture indicates that the apostles, the early church, and the gentiles were all keeping Sabbath?

- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.

45 Is there clear evidence that the Apostles taught the gentiles to profane the Sabbath? (Matthew 12:8; Acts 13:42-44)

- a. **Matthew 12:8** 8 **For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.;** **Acts 13:42-44** 42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, **the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.** 43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. 44 **And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.**

46 Was Jesus speaking against the 6 rules of Sabbath in the "Old Testament" or the 1515+ (39*39) rules of Sabbath in the traditions of men? (Matthew 12:8; Matthew 24:20; Mark 7:6-9; Matthew 5:17-20)

- a. **Matthew 12:8** 8 **For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.;** **Matthew 24:20** 20 But **pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.;** **Mark 7:6-9** 6 He replied, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites (play-actors, pretenders), as it is written [in Scripture], ‘These people honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 ‘They worship Me in vain [their worship is meaningless and worthless, a pretense], Teaching the precepts of men as doctrines [giving their traditions equal weight with the Scriptures].’ **8 You disregard and neglect the commandment of God, and cling [faithfully] to the tradition of men.”** 9 He was also saying to them, “**You are experts at setting aside and nullifying the commandment of God in order to keep your [man-made] tradition and regulations. ; Matthew 5:17-20** 17 “**Do not think that I came to do away with or undo the Law** [^{I.e. the Pentateuch.}] [^{of Moses}] or the [writings of the] Prophets; **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** 18 For I assure you and most solemnly say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not the smallest letter or stroke [of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things** [^{which it foreshadows}] **are accomplished.** 19 So whoever breaks one of the least [important] of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least [important] in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever practices and teaches them, he will be called **great in the kingdom of heaven.** 20 “For I say to you that **unless your righteousness (uprightness, moral essence) is more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

47 IF the word used for Sabbath in the Hebrew is NOT (or perhaps very rarely) translated as week, why is the word used for Sabbath in the Greek (# 4521) sometimes also translated as week? What if the times when σαββάτων (sabbatōn) and σαββάτου (sabbatou) are translated as week instead of sabbath, it takes us further away from the understanding of how the resurrection of Jesus fulfills the firstfruits offering? Is “first day of the week” what these scriptures really say, or **might** they be more correctly understood if translated as something like, “...on the **first day of the counting of the sabbaths...**?” (Look at Worrell New Testament and Smith’s Literal Translation for each - Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, Mark 16:9, Luke 24:1, John 20:1, John 20:19. Coverdale Bible of 1535 and other translations from the full list from <https://biblehub.com/parallel/> are interesting)

- a. **Matthew 28:1** Worrell New Testament Now, **in the end of sabbaths** at the dawning toward **the first day of sabbaths,** came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.; **Matthew 28:1** Smith’s Literal Translation And **after the sabbaths,** in the shining forth to **one of the sabbaths,** came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to behold the tomb.; **Mark 16:2** Worrell New Testament And, very early on **the first day of the sabbaths,** they come to the tomb, the sun having risen.; **Mark 16:2** Smith’s Literal Translation And very early in the morning of **one of the sabbaths,** they came to the tomb, the sun having risen.; **Mark 16:9** Worrell New Testament And, having risen early on **the first day of a sabbath,** He appeared first to Mary Magdalene from whom He had cast out seven demons.; **Mark 16:9** Smith’s Literal

- Translation And having risen early **the first of the sabbath**, he was manifested first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast seven demons.; **Luke 24:1** Worrell New Testament But, on **the first day of the sabbaths**, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they prepared.; **Luke 24:1** Smith's Literal Translation And in **one of the sabbaths**, in the depth of the dawn of day, they came to the tomb, bringing spices which they had prepared, and certain with them.; **John 20:1** Worrell New Testament Now on **the first day of the sabbaths** Mary Magdalene comes early in the morning while it was yet dark to the tomb, and sees the stone taken out of the tomb.; **John 20:1** Smith's Literal Translation And in **one of the sabbaths** comes Mary Magdalene in the morning, there yet being darkness, to the tomb, and sees the stone taken away from the tomb.; **John 20:19** Worrell New Testament When, therefore, it was evening, on that day, **the first day of sabbaths**; and, when, through fear of the Jews, the doors were shut, where the disciples were; Jesus came and stood in the midst, and saith to them, "Peace be to you!"; **John 20:19** Smith's Literal Translation Then it being evening, **in that one day of the sabbaths**, and the doors shut where the disciples were gathered together for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and says to them, Peace to you.
- 48 What if the times when σαββάτων (sabbatōn) and σαββάτου (sabbatou) are translated as week instead of sabbath, it leads us away from some other Biblical truth? (Luke 18:12, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Acts 20:7) [Luke 18:12 Smith's Literal Translation **I fast twice of the Sabbath**; I pay tithes of all I possess.; Luke 18:12 Worrell New Testament **I fast twice on the Sabbath**; I give a tenth of all that I acquire.]; 1 Corinthians 16:2 Smith's Literal Translation **According to one day of the sabbaths** let each of you put by himself, treasuring up that which he is prospered in, that when I come there be no collections.; 1 Corinthians 16:2 Worrell New Testament **On the first day of the sabbaths**, let each one of you lay by him, treasuring it up, as he may prosper, that no collections be made, when I come.; Acts 20:7 Smith's Literal Translation And **in one of the sabbaths**, the disciples having been assembled together to break bread, Paul conversed with them being about to go forth the morrow; and he continued the word until midnight.; Acts 20:7 Worrell New Testament And **on the first day of the sabbaths**, we having come together to break bread, Paul was discoursing to them (being about to depart on the morrow), and continued the discourse until midnight.]
- a. **Luke 18:12** Smith's Literal Translation I fast twice **of the Sabbath**; I pay tithes of all I possess.; **Luke 18:12** Worrell New Testament I fast twice **on the Sabbath**; I give a tenth of all that I acquire.; **1 Corinthians 16:2** Smith's Literal Translation According to **one day of the sabbaths** let each of you put by himself, treasuring up that which he is prospered in, that when I come there be no collections.; **1 Corinthians 16:2** Worrell New Testament **On the first day of the sabbaths**, let each one of you lay by him, treasuring it up, as he may prosper, that no collections be made, when I come.; **Acts 20:7** Smith's Literal Translation And **in one of the sabbaths**, the disciples having been assembled together to break bread, Paul conversed with them being about to go forth the morrow; and he continued the word until midnight.; **Acts 20:7** Worrell New Testament And on the **first day of the sabbaths**, we having come together to break bread, Paul was discoursing to them (being about to depart on the morrow), and continued the discourse until midnight.
- 49 Can 1 Corinthians 16:2 in the Catholic Public Domain Version be an illustration of the power of the Catholic teachings to redefine or rewrite scripture through influencing the translations into the common language? (1 Corinthians 16:2 Catholic Public Domain Version On the **first day of the week, the Sabbath**, let each one of you take from himself, setting aside what will be well-pleasing to him, so that when I arrive, the collections will not have to be made then.) Is that what that scripture really says, or **might** it be more correctly translated as something like, "**First, on every sabbath day, let everyone of you put treasures aside...**"
- a. **1 Corinthians 16:2** in Mace New Testament **every sabbath-day** let every one of you set apart something of what he has happily gain'd, for the common treasury, that there may be no collection when I come.; **1 Corinthians 16:2** in Coverdale Bible of 1535 Vpon **some Sabbath daye** let euery one of you put aside by him selfe, and laye vp what so euer he thinketh mete, that the colleccion be not to gather whan I come.; **1 Corinthians 16:2** in Bishops' Bible of 1568 Upon **some Sabbath daye**, let euery one of you put asyde by hym selfe, and laye vp as God hath prospered hym, that then there be no gatherynges when I come.
- 50 Have you considered that the verses that are quoted to defend not honoring the Sabbath may have been misinterpreted or mistranslated or misunderstood in their historical context, or taken out of context, or something similar? (A couple examples are Colossians 2:16 and Romans 14:5-6 in translation, context, and relation to Hebrews 10:24-25.)
- a. **Colossians 2:16** NKJV So let no one judge you **in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths**, **Colossians 2:16** AMP 16 Therefore let no one judge you **in regard to food and drink or in regard to [the observance of] a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day**. [The AMP clarifies with "the observance of," likely meaning to what extent it is observed (Rabbinical or Biblical) as opposed to whether it is observed. In other words, its observance is assumed.] **Romans 14:5-6** NKJV 5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who **observes the day, observes it to the Lord**; and [Lexicon omits the rest of this sentence.] he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. **He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.** **Romans 14:5-6** AMP 5 One person regards one day as better [or more important] than another, while another regards every day [the same as any other]. Let everyone be fully convinced (assured, satisfied) in his own mind. 6 **He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord. He who eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; while he who abstains, abstains for the Lord** and gives thanks to God. [Context of chapter appears to deal with food, so perhaps these verses are NOT talking about Sabbath but about whether or not to fast on certain days.] **Hebrews 10:24-25** 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (If "every day is the same" then assembling together could be easily forsaken.)
- 51 Have you considered the Colossians 2:16 (Therefore let no one judge you in regard to food and drink or in regard to [the observance of] a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day.) verse regarding a Sabbath refers more-so to how these were kept, as far as whether they were kept Biblically or whether they were kept Pharisitically versus whether they were kept? Would they not have been expected to continue to assemble together, according to Hebrews 10:24-25?
- a. **Colossians 2:16** NKJV So let no one judge you **in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths**, **Colossians 2:16** AMP 16 Therefore let no one judge you **in regard to food and drink or in regard to [the observance of] a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day**. [The AMP clarifies with "the observance of," likely meaning to what extent it is observed (Rabbinical or Biblical) as opposed to whether it is observed. In other words, its observance is assumed.]; **Hebrews 10:24-25** 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (If "every day is the same" then assembling together could be easily forsaken.)
- 52 Since Rabbinic Judaism is steeped in additional observances that are not in the Bible, what if the passage in Colossians had more to deal with the specific ways certain days are observed? (Colossians 2:8, 14, 16, 20-22)
- a. **Colossians 2:8, 14, 16, 20-22** 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, **after the tradition of men**, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ... 14 **Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us**, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; ... 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of [3313 μέρετ merei, in some points of (observing)] an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: ... 20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, **are ye subject to ordinances**. 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) **after the commandments and doctrines of men?**
- 53 Since Rabbinic Judaism encouraged its practitioners to fast weekly on certain days, what if the passage in Romans had more to deal with which days to fast and not with which days to worship? (Romans 14:5-6)
- a. **Romans 14:5-6** 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 5 One person regards one day as better [or more important] than another, while **another regards every day** [the same as any other]. Let everyone be fully convinced (assured, satisfied) in his own mind. 6 **He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord. He who eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; while he who abstains [from eating], abstains [from eating] for the Lord and gives thanks to God.**
- 54 Can we speak against the religious traditions that negate Scripture and were handed down to us through the centuries, even as Jesus spoke against the Pharisees' traditions which negated Scripture, which negated the law, that Jesus came to complete? (Matthew 15:1-14; Matthew 23; Matthew 12)
- a. **Matthew 15:1-14** Then some Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem came to Jesus and said, 2 "Why do Your disciples violate the tradition [I.e. **the oral commentary on the Law, later codified as the Mishnah**.] (religious laws) handed down by the [Jewish] elders? For Your disciples do not [ceremonially] wash their hands before they eat." 3 He replied to them, "**Why also do you violate the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition** [handed down by the elders]?" 4 For God said [through Moses], 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of or insults or treats improperly father or mother is to be put to death.' 5 But you say, 'If anyone says to his father or mother, "Whatever [money or resource that] I have that would help you is [already dedicated and] given to God," 6 he is not to honor his father or his mother [by helping them with their need].' So by this you have invalidated the word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect] for the sake of your tradition [handed down by the elders]. 7 You hypocrites (play-actors, pretenders), rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said, 8 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 9 'But in vain do they worship Me, For they teach as doctrines the precepts of men.'" 10 After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said, "Listen and understand this: 11 It is not what goes into the mouth of a man that defiles and dishonors him, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles and dishonors him." 12 Then

the disciples came and said to Jesus, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard you say this?” 13 He answered, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant will be torn up by the roots. 14 Leave them alone; they are blind guides [leading blind followers]. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”; **Matthew 23:1-36** 1 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: “The **scribes and the Pharisees** sit in Moses’ seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe [NU omits to observe], that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. 4 For they **bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders**; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 5 But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. 6 They love the best [Or place of honor] places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ 8 But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher [Leader], the [NU omits the Christ] Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled [put down], and he who humbles himself will be exalted [lifted up]. 13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. 14 [NU omits v. 14.] Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. 15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell [Gr. Gehenna] as yourselves. 16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’ 17 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies [NU sanctified] the gold? 18 And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ 19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? 20 Therefore he who swears [Swears an oath] by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. 21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells [M dwelt] in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. 23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. 24 Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! 25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence [M unrighteousness]. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. 29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn [decorate] the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ 31 “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. 33 Serpents, brood [offspring] of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? 34 Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, 35 that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.; **Matthew 12:1-14** 1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!” 3 But He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane [desecrate] the Sabbath, and are blameless? 6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. 7 But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For **the Son of Man is Lord** even [NU, M omit even] **of the Sabbath.**” 9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—that they might accuse Him. 11 Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore **it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.**” 13 Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. 14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

55 How could Jesus have been offered up as the spotless, sinless Lamb of God if He were violating the law of God? Was Jesus really preaching against the law of God? Or was Jesus actually preaching against what became known as Rabbinic Judaism and the adding to and subtracting from the law by man’s traditions? (1 Peter 1:18-19; Matthew 5:17-18; Mark 7:6-13)

a. **1 Peter 1:18-19** 18 knowing that **you were not redeemed with corruptible** [perishable] **things**, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**; **Matthew 5:17-18** 17 “**Do not think that I came to do away with or undo the Law** [i.e. the Pentateuch.] [of Moses] or the [writings of the] Prophets; **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** 18 For I assure you and most solemnly say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke [of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things** [which it foreshadows] **are accomplished.**; **Mark 7:6-13** 6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And **in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**’ 8 For **laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men . . .**” 9 He said to them, “**All too well you reject [set aside] the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.** 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 11 But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 **making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down.** And many such things you do.”

56 According to Scripture, did Jesus Himself speak against the Sabbath of God? According to Scripture, did Jesus violate the Sabbath of God? According to Scripture, did the apostles, the church under the apostles’ care, or the early gentiles who learned under the apostles profane, or otherwise violate, the Sabbath of God? How much longer are we to continue to believe the apostate (Babylonian) church (religion) – who has proven herself to be operating in an antichrist spirit in several ways – regarding this counterfeit of Sabbath to Sunday as well?

a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.

57 How is it that, not only do we NOT want to keep what should be the easiest commandment to keep, but we also want to forbid it from being kept, or we want to silence or punish those who still proclaim that Scripture has not repented of teaching that it should be remembered?

a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.

58 What makes us think we can pursue God the way that the world does, when God’s word tells us differently? (Deuteronomy 12:29-32; 2 Kings 17:24-28)

a. **Deuteronomy 12:29-32** 29 “When the Lord your God cuts off and destroys before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and settle in their land, 30 **beware that you are not lured (ensnared) into following them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods, so that I too may do likewise?’** 31 **You shall not behave this way toward the Lord your God,** for they have done for their gods every repulsive thing which the Lord hates; for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire [as sacrifices] to their gods. 32 “**Everything I command you, you shall be careful to do it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.** **2 Kings 17:24-41** 24 The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons (people) of Israel. They took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities. 25 **Now when they began to live there, they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them which killed some of them.** 26 So the king of Assyria was told, “**The nations whom you have sent into exile and settled in the cities of Samaria do not know the custom of the god of the land; so He has sent lions among them, and they are killing them because they do not know the manner of [worship demanded by] the god of the land.**” 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, “**Take back [to Samaria] one of the priests whom you brought from there, and have him go and live there; and have him teach the people the custom of the god of the land.**” 28 **So one of the priests whom they had exiled from Samaria came [back] and lived in Bethel and taught them how they should fear [and worship] the Lord.**

59 Could be that David was aware of the time the Philistines sent the ark back on a new cart? What makes us think that we can seek after God the way that idolaters do when God calls us to be set apart for Him? (1 Samuel 6:7-12; 2 Samuel 6:3-10; Exodus 25:12-14)

a. **1 Samuel 6:7-12** 7 Now then, **make a new cart and prepare two milk** [Here this refers to cows still nursing their calves.] **cows** on which a yoke has never been placed; and hitch the cows to the cart and **take their calves back home**, away from them. 8 **Then take the ark of the Lord and put it on the cart;** and put the articles of gold which you are returning to Him as a guilt offering in a box beside it. **Then send it away** [without a driver]. 9 But watch, if [The nature of the milk cows would be to turn back toward their calves, not proceed forward, as they did, toward Beth-shemesh.] it goes up by the way of its own territory to Beth-shemesh [A town belonging to the tribe of the sons of Judah.], then [you will know that] He has done us this great evil. But if not, then we will know that it was not His hand that struck us; this disaster happened to us by chance.” 10 And the men did so, and took two milk cows and hitched them to the cart, and corralled their calves at home. 11 **They put the ark of the Lord on the cart,** and the box containing the golden mice and the replicas of their tumors. 12 **And the cows went straight toward Beth-shemesh along the highway, lowing as they went, and**

did not turn away to the right or the left. And the Philistine lords (governors) followed them to the border of Beth-shemesh. **2 Samuel 6:3-10** **3 They placed the ark of God on a** [This was a violation of the requirement that the ark be transported on poles carried by the Levites (Ex 25:12-14; cf Num 7:9).] **new cart** and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart. 4 So they brought it with the ark of God from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio was walking in front of the ark. 5 Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating and dancing before the Lord with all kinds of instruments made of fir or cypress wood, with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals. 6 When they came to Nacon's threshing floor, **Uzzah reached out [with his hand] to the ark of God and took hold of it, because the oxen [stumbled and] nearly overturned it.** 7 And the [Lit the nose of the Lord was hot.] anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah, **and God struck him there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.** 8 David became angry [Lit hot.] and grieved and offended because of the Lord's outburst against Uzzah, and that place has been called Perez-uzzah (outburst against Uzzah) to this day. 9 So David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" 10 David was unwilling to move the ark of the Lord into the City of David with him; instead he took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. **Exodus 25:12-14** **12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners;** two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. 13 And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. **14 You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them.**

60 In approaching God the way we want to approach Him, are we not essentially making Him in our own image, according to our own desires?
a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.

61 How can the Sabbath be fully considered part of the law when God demonstrated the concept back in the very first week of Genesis? (Genesis 2:1-3)
a. **Genesis 2:1-3** 1 So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And **by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested (ceased - 7673 shabbath) on the seventh day** from all His work which He had done. 3 So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it** [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it He rested from all His work which He had created and done.;

62 What is so evil about the 4th commandment that it's the main (if not the only) one most of Christendom refuses to honor? (Hebrews 4:1-11)
a. **Hebrews 4:1-11** Therefore, while **the promise of entering His rest still remains and is freely offered today**, let us fear, in case any one of you may seem to come short of reaching it or think he has come too late. 2 For indeed we have had the good news [of salvation] preached to us, just as the Israelites also [when the good news of the promised land came to them]; but **the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not united with faith** [in God] by those who heard. 3 For **we who believe** [that is, we who personally trust and confidently rely on God] **enter that rest** [so we have His inner peace now because we are confident in our salvation, and assured of His power], just as He has said, "As I swore [an oath] in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest," [this He said] although His works were completed [God "rested" because everything that needed to be done was done—everything was complete, fully accomplished. In human terms this expression is used when a lawyer completes his presentation in a court of law; he "rests" his case—everything is in evidence, there is nothing left to present.] from the foundation of the world [waiting for all who would believe]. 4 For somewhere [in Scripture] He has said this about **the seventh day**: "And God **rested on the seventh day** from all His works"; 5 and again in this, "They shall not enter My rest." 6 Therefore, since **the promise remains for some to enter His rest**, and those who formerly had the good news preached to them failed to [grasp it and did not] enter because of **[their unbelief evidenced by] disobedience**, 7 He again sets a **definite day**, [a new] "Today," [providing another opportunity to enter that rest by] saying through David after so long a time, just as has been said before [in the words already quoted], "Today if you hear His voice, **Do not harden your hearts.**" 8 [This mention of a rest was not a reference to their entering into Canaan.] For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak about another day [of opportunity] after that. 9 **So there remains a [full and complete] Sabbath rest for the people of God.** 10 For the one who has once entered His rest has also rested from [the weariness and pain of] his [human] labors, just as God rested from [those labors uniquely] His own. 11 Let us therefore **make every effort to enter that rest** [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves], so that no one will fall by following the same example of disobedience [as those who died in the wilderness].

63 What is so potent about observing the 4th commandment that the enemy has offered us a counterfeit to keep us away from it? (Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:27; Ezekiel 20:20)

a. **Luke 10:38-42** 38 Now while they were on their way, Jesus entered a village [called Bethany], and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister named **Mary, who seated herself at the Lord's feet and was continually listening to His teaching.** 40 But Martha was very busy and distracted with all of her serving responsibilities; and she approached Him and said, "Lord, is it of no concern to You that my sister has left me to do the serving alone? Tell her to help me and do her part." 41 But the Lord replied to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered and anxious about so many things; 42 but **only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part [that which is to her advantage], which will not be taken away from her.**" ; **Matthew 12:8** **For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.** ; **Mark 2:27** **Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.** ; **Ezekiel 20:20** **Sanctify My Sabbaths and keep them holy; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that you may know [without any doubt] that I am the Lord your God.**

64 Would we rather agree with what other human beings may say about which day of the week we are to rest than agree with what Elohim said in the First mention and throughout Scripture? (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:8; Romans 3:3-4)

a. **Genesis 2:1-3** So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And **by the seventh day** God completed His work which He had done, and **He rested (ceased) [sabbath]** on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified** [qadesh] it [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it **He rested [sabbath]** from all His work which He had created and done. ; **Exodus 20:8-11** 8 "Remember the Sabbath (seventh) day to keep it holy (set apart, dedicated to God). 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but **the seventh day is a Sabbath** [a day of rest dedicated] to the Lord your God; **on that day you shall not do any work, you or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock or the temporary resident** (foreigner) who stays within your [city] gates. 11 **For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy** [that is, set it apart for His purposes]. ; **Matthew 12:8** **For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.** ; **Romans 3:3-4** 3 What then? If some did not believe or were unfaithful [to God], **their lack of belief will not nullify and make invalid the faithfulness of God and His word**, will it? 4 Certainly not! **Let God be found true [as He will be], though every person be found a liar**, just as it is written [in Scripture], "That You may be justified in Your words, And prevail when You are judged [by sinful men]."

65 The instruction to tithe is NOT written in stone, yet we keep it. Why would we NOT honor the commandment put in the Holy of Holies of resting? Resting! On the seventh day. To be holy. To cause the Holy One to want to return to us. (**Exodus 20:1-17**; Deuteronomy 10:1-5; Deuteronomy 5:12, 14-15; Isaiah 58:13-14)

a. **Deuteronomy 10:1-5** "At that time **the Lord** said to me, 'Cut out for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make an ark (chest) of wood for yourself. 2 **I will write on the tablets** the words that were on the first tablets which you shattered, and you shall put them in the ark.' 3 So I made an ark of acacia wood and cut out two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain with the two tablets [The size of the two tablets of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written is uncertain. They probably were not great tombstone-sized slabs like those depicted in works of art, but were likely smaller rectangular plates, two of which could be carried by one man.] in my hand. 4 The Lord wrote on the tablets, like the first writing, **the Ten Commandments** [Lit Words.] which the Lord had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly; then the Lord gave them to me. 5 Then I turned and came down from the mountain and **put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and they are there, just as the Lord commanded me.** ; **Deuteronomy 5:12, 14-15** 12 'Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy (set apart, dedicated to God), as the Lord your God commanded you. 14 but **the seventh day is a Sabbath** [a day of rest dedicated] **to the Lord your God; on that day you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock or the stranger who stays inside your [city] gates, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.** 15 You shall remember [with thoughtful concern] **that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm;** therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. ; **Isaiah 58:13-14** 13 "If you turn back your foot from [unnecessary] [The ancient rabbis established strict limits for travel on the Sabbath, excepting unintentional violations and religious errands. This verse became a rabbinic proof text to rule on whether a person who had put one foot beyond the Sabbath limit for his city could reenter the city. But the Hebrew text may not refer to travel at all; turn back your foot from the Sabbath can be interpreted as an idiom referring to keeping oneself from violating the Sabbath in other ways.] travel on] the Sabbath, **From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a [spiritual] delight, and the holy day of the LORD honorable, And honor it, not going your own way** Or engaging [Lit finding.] in your own pleasure Or speaking your own [idle] words, 14 **Then you will take pleasure in the LORD, And I will make you ride on the high places of the earth, And I will feed you with the [promised] heritage of Jacob your father; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**"

66 Did not Luther speak against the Catholic system that defended selling indulgences (collecting money) while denying the need for truly repenting inwardly and outwardly? Many Christian churches defend tithing (collecting money) which is NOT one of the ten commandments while denying the need to keep the seventh-day Sabbath which actually IS one of the ten commandments. Does anyone else think that is a bit of an eerie coincidence? (Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Timothy 1:5-11)

a. **Exodus 20:1-17** 1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage [slaves]. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of

anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve [worship] them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting [punishing] the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. 8 **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** 9 **Six days you shall labor and do all your work,** 10 **but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.** 11 **For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.** 12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. 13 **“You shall not murder.** 14 “You shall not commit adultery. 15 “You shall not steal. 16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”; **1 Timothy 1: 5-11** 5 Now the end [aim, goal, purpose] of the commandment is charity [agape] out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; 7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. 8 **Now we know [without any doubt] that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully and appropriately,** 9 understanding the fact that law is not enacted for the righteous person [the one in right standing with God].

[The terrible enumeration of sins and sinners in these 9th and 10th verses, while following the order of the ancient Tables of Sinai, seems to allude pointedly to the vices especially prevalent in that day in the great centres of the Roman empire.] but for lawless [459- anomos: lawless, without law; “no-law,” i.e. lawless disregard for proper authority] and rebellious [506 anupotaktos: not subject to rule; not submissive; disobedient (unruly), unwilling to come under Christ’s Lordship; refusing to “fall in line with” (fit in with) God’s plan; uncooperative, with a defiant attitude towards duly-appointed authority; uncontrollable, refractory (unsubdued); anti-authoritarian (rebellious).] people, for the ungodly [765 asebeis: ungodly, impious; destitute of reverential awe toward God, contemning God, impious; lack of reverence (“without due respect”), i.e. failing to honor what is sacred – especially in the outward (ceremonial) sense.] and sinful [unite irreligion and contempt for all sacred things], for the unholy [462. anosios- irreverent; utter disregard of what is sacred, i.e. willful (arrogant) disrespect of the things of God; “impious; wicked” (J. Thayer).] and profane [952 bebēlos: permitted to be trodden, by impl. unhalloved; accessible; (“profane because of improper entrance”) refers to people unfit to access (know) God, because they approach Him apart from faith] [includes the prohibitions of the first four Commandments (the First Table, as it is termed), where sins against God are especially dwelt upon. The sins against man, which form the subject of the prohibitions of the Second Table (Commandments Five to Ten), are included in the following enumeration of wrong-doers.] for those who kill [smilers or ill-users of] their fathers or mothers [the Fifth Commandment], for murderers [the Sixth Commandment], 10 for sexually immoral persons [the Seventh Commandment], for homosexuals, for kidnappers [the Eighth Commandment], and slave traders [i.e. those who exploit other people for evil or selfish reasons.], for liars [the Ninth Commandment], for perjurers—and for whatever else [the Tenth Commandment] is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.;

- 67 How is it we can defend paying tithes when tithes is not in the Ten Commandments, but we refuse to defend keeping the Sabbath which is in the Ten Commandments ... and the Ten Commandments were in the Holy of Holies – in the ark of the Covenant? Is not the ark (at least, in part) a symbol of our hearts upon which the Words of God can be written? Are not our hearts to be spiritually circumcised to love Him and keep His ways and to honor YHWH, thus exceeding the righteousness of the Pharisees? (Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 25:8-10, 16-17, 21-22; Matthew 5:20; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Deuteronomy 10:12-17; Deuteronomy 30:6; Hebrews 10:16)
- a. **Exodus 20:8-11** 8 **“Remember the Sabbath (seventh) day to keep it holy (set apart, dedicated to God).** 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath [a day of rest dedicated] to the Lord your God; on that day you shall not do any work, you or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock or the temporary resident (foreigner) who stays within your [city] gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day. That is why **the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy** [that is, set it apart for His purposes]; **Exodus 25:8-10, 16-17, 21-22** 8 Have them build a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them. 9 You shall construct it in accordance with everything that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture. 10 “They shall make an ark of acacia wood two and a half cubits [Ancient measurements like the cubit were intended to be practical in that they usually were equivalent to something that was handy and readily available. The cubit was the distance from the elbow to the outstretched fingers, and the hand width (v 25)—as its name implies—was the width of the four fingers.] long, one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high. ... 16 You shall put into the ark the Testimony (Ten Commandments) which I will give you. 17 “You shall make a mercy [This was a special cover serving as the place of atonement for sin, where the high priest would sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice to reconcile the Israelites to God.] seat (cover) of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. ... 21 You shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony which I will give you. 22 There I will meet with you; from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, I will speak [intimately] with you regarding every commandment that I will give you for the Israelites.; **Matthew 5:20** 20 “For I say to you that **unless your righteousness (uprightness, moral essence) is more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**; **2 Corinthians 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.; **Deuteronomy 10:12-17** 12 “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear [and worship] the Lord your God [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], to walk [that is, to live each and every day] in all His ways and to love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul [your choices, your thoughts, your whole being], 13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? 14 Behold, the heavens and the highest of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth and all that is in it. 15 Yet the Lord had [Lit strengthened His heart.] a delight in loving your fathers and set His affection on them, and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16 So **circumcise [that is, remove sin from] your heart, and be stiff-necked (stubborn, obstinate) no longer.** 17 For the Lord your God [Heb Elohim. The primary word translated “God” in the O.T.; the mighty God, the Creator; the great triune God manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.] is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, the awesome God who does not show partiality [Lit lift up faces.] nor take a bribe.; **Deuteronomy 30:6** 6 “And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants [that is, He will remove the desire to sin from your heart], so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, so that you may live [as a recipient of His blessing].; **Hebrews 10:16** 16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.”
- 68 Please show me where the commandment in the Holy of Holies to “Remember the Sabbath day” got replaced in Scripture with “Remember to tithe from your gross pay.”
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced. [Not personally opposed to tithing, but rather questioning the apparent hypocritical preaching of tithing while preaching against the seventh day...]
- 69 Since Messiah fulfilled the Sabbath, why did the disciples keep the Sabbath? Did not Paul keep the Sabbath (AFTER the Jerusalem council on the circumcision question, if Messiah fulfilled it)? (Acts 13:14, 42, 44; Acts 16:13; Acts 17:2; Acts 18:4, 11, 19)
- a. **Acts 13:14, 42, 44** 14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. ... 42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the **Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.** 43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. 44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.; **Acts 16:13** 13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.; **Acts 17:2** 2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.; **Acts 18:4, 11, 19** 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. ... 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. ... 19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.
- 70 Did not Paul say, imitate him, as he imitated Christ? If keeping the Sabbath really didn’t matter because they were fulfilled in Christ, then why would Paul have kept the Sabbath if he expected the Gentiles to follow his example? Would not Paul be “FREE” from that law? (Leviticus 19:1-3; 1 Peter 1:16; John 5:19; 1 Corinthians 11:1)
- a. **Leviticus 19:1-3** 1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, ‘**You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.** 3 Each of you shall respect {Lit fear; the Hebrew can refer to respect or reverence as essentially healthy forms of fear.} his mother and his father, and you shall keep My Sabbaths; I am the Lord your God.; **1 Peter 1:16** 16 “because it is written, **“YOU SHALL BE HOLY (set apart), FOR I AM HOLY.”**”; **John 5:19** 19 “So Jesus answered them by saying, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself [of His own accord], unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever things the Father does, the Son [in His turn] also does in the same way.”; **1 Corinthians 11:1** “Imitate me [Paul], just as I imitate Christ.”
- 71 What day did God work? The seventh day? The first through sixth days? (Genesis 1:1, 31; Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:11)
- a. **Genesis 1:1, 31** 1 In the beginning God (Elohim) created [by forming from nothing] the heavens and the earth. ... 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.; **Genesis 2:1-3** 1 So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it He rested from all His work which He had created and done.; **Exodus**

- 20:11** 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy [that is, set it apart for His purposes].
- 72 Jesus said He does what He sees Abba do. And we are to be His disciples and do what He does. Did Jesus profane the Sabbath? (John 5:19; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 19:1-4, 36b-37; Leviticus 20:7-8; Hebrews 4:15)
- a. **John 5:19**, AMP, “So Jesus answered them by saying, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself [of His own accord], unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever things the Father does, the Son [in His turn] also does in the same way.”; **1 Corinthians 11:1**, Paul wrote, “Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”; **1 Peter 1:16**, AMP, “because it is written, “**YOU SHALL BE HOLY (set apart), FOR I AM HOLY.**””; **Leviticus 19:1-4**, AMP, Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “**Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.**” 3 Each of you shall respect {Lit fear; the Hebrew can refer to respect or reverence as essentially healthy forms of fear.} his mother and his father, and **you shall keep My Sabbaths; I am the Lord your God.** 4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods (images cast in metal); I am the Lord your God. WHY?: **Leviticus 19:36b-37** I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. 37 You shall **observe and keep all My statutes and all My ordinances** and do them. I am the Lord.” And **Leviticus 20:7-8** You shall **consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy;** for I am the Lord your God. 8 You shall **keep My statutes** and do them. **I am the Lord who sanctifies you.** **Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a **High Priest** who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but **One who has been tempted** [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, **yet without** [committing any] **sin.**
- 73 Did Jesus say, love your enemies, and bless those that curse you? (Luke 6:27-28)
- a. **Luke 6:27-28** 27 “But I say to you who hear [Me and pay attention to My words]: **Love** [The key to understanding this and other statements about love is to know that this love (the Greek word agape) is not so much a matter of emotion as it is of doing things for the benefit of another person, that is, having an unselfish concern for another and a willingness to seek the higher good for another.] [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for] **your enemies,** [make it a practice to] **do good to those who hate you,** 28 **bless and show kindness to those who curse you,** pray for those who mistreat you.
- 74 Can you imagine how difficult it would have been for the early church to love the ones persecuting them and kicking them out of synagogues? (Matthew 5:44-45; Matthew 10:17; John 9:22, 34-35; Matthew 24:34-35)
- a. **Matthew 10:17** 17 Beware of men [whose nature is to act in opposition to God], for **they will hand you over to the courts and flog you in their synagogues;** **Matthew 5:44-45** 44 But I say to you, **love** [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for] **your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may [show yourselves to] be the children of your Father who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on those who are evil and on those who are good, and makes the rain fall on the righteous [those who are morally upright] and the unrighteous [the unrepentant, those who oppose Him]; **John 9:22, 34-35** 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of [the leaders of] the Jews; for **the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged Jesus to be the Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue** (excommunicated). 34 They answered him, “You were born [It was a commonly held belief that suffering was punishment for a specific, personal sin.] entirely in sins [from head to foot], and you [presume to] teach us?” Then **they threw him out [of the synagogue].** 35 Jesus heard that they had put [I.e. excommunicated him.] him out [of the synagogue], and finding him, He asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **Matthew 24:34-35** 34 “Therefore, take notice, I am sending you prophets and wise men [interpreters, teachers] and scribes [men educated in the Mosaic Law and the writings of the prophets]; some of them you will kill and even crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues, and pursue and persecute from city to city, 35 so that on you will come the guilt of all the blood of the righteous shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel [I.e. the first and last martyrs recorded in the Hebrew text.] to the blood of Zechariah [the priest], the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.
- 75 Would it be such a stretch to realize that ill-feelings began to develop and multiply into antagonism against anything “Jewish?” (2 Timothy 3:3; 2 Timothy 3:10-13; Hebrews 12:14-15)
- a. **2 Timothy 3:3** (NLT) **They will be unloving and unforgiving;** they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.; **2 Timothy 3:10-13** 10 Now you have diligently followed [my example, that is] my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, 11 persecutions, and sufferings—such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra; **what persecutions I endured,** but the Lord rescued me from them all! 12 Indeed, **all who delight in pursuing righteousness and are determined to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be hunted and persecuted** [because of their faith]. 13 **But evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.;** **Hebrews 12:14-15** 14 Continually **pursue peace with everyone, and the sanctification without which no one will [ever] see the Lord.** 15 **See to it that no one falls short of God’s grace; that no root of resentment springs up and causes trouble, and by it many be defiled**
- 76 Is it okay to be antisemitic? (Genesis 12:3)
- a. **Genesis 12:3** 3 And I will bless (do good for, benefit) those who bless you, And **I will curse** [that is, subject to My wrath and judgment] **the one who curses (despises, dishonors, has contempt for) you.** And in you all the families (nations) of the earth will be blessed.”
- 77 Multiple Choice, in question form: Are we unwilling to question Sunday because we’re unwilling to give up “our” Saturdays, when they’re really not “our” Saturdays (as they are the Lord’s (seventh, Sabbath) Day)? Or are we afraid we might have to make other changes in our lives, like maybe even give up bacon? Or, deep down, have we not forgiven the Jews for being “Christ Killers”, and we ourselves are antisemitic and we don’t realize it? Or are we not happy with the rejection of the Jewish people, that so many of them have not yet accepted Yashuah as their Messiah? Or are we not willing to do the hard work it would take to actually make that type of significant change? Or do we really think – have we convinced ourselves – or has the enemy convinced us – that keeping the Sabbath really isn’t a big deal, that it’s really not something that we should be stoned for? Even though Christ took our penalty so we don’t have to be stoned for the sins we do, might our actions and inactions have other consequences, if not on the earth then maybe later in Heaven or in eternity?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 78 One of the most anti-antisemitic [double-negative] = pro-Israeli things we can do as a non-Jewish person is to set aside the seventh day as a Sabbath, a day to cease from regular labors. Why? PARTLY because we acknowledge our commonality with them regarding the roots of our faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Can we do so after several hundreds of years of Roman culture and religion sought to remove Christianity from their Jewish Messiah? Does it NOT shock you to learn that **Constantine said “We ought not therefore to have any thing in common with the Jews. . . . we desire, dearest brethren, to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews. . . . It is our duty not to have anything in common with the murderers of our Lord.”?** Or that Nazi officers (and others) used the accusation of “murderers of our Lord” to justify their much persecution and killing of the Jewish people? (Genesis 12:1-3; Ezekiel 20:18-21; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8)
- a. **Genesis 12:1-3** Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 **I will bless those who bless you,** And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”; **Ezekiel 20:18-21** 18 “But I said to their children in the wilderness, ‘**Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers nor observe their ordinances nor defile yourselves with their idols.**’ 19 I am the Lord your God; walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and observe them. 20 **Sanctify My Sabbaths and keep them holy; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that you may know [without any doubt] that I am the Lord your God.**’ 21 Yet the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, nor were they careful to observe My ordinances, which, if a man keeps, he will live; they profaned My Sabbaths.; **Nehemiah 13:15-22** 15 In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them about the day on which they were selling provisions. 16 **Men of Tyre dwell there also, who brought in fish and all kinds of goods, and sold them on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.** 17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, “**What evil thing is this that you do, by which you profane the Sabbath day?**” 18 Did not your fathers do thus, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet **you bring added wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.**” 19 So it was, at the gates of Jerusalem, as it began to be dark before the Sabbath, that I commanded the gates to be shut, and charged that they must not be opened till after the Sabbath. Then I posted some of my servants at the gates, so that no burdens would be brought in on the Sabbath day. 20 Now **the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares [merchandise] lodged [spent the night] outside Jerusalem once or twice.** 21 **Then I warned them,** and said to them, “Why do you spend the night around [Lit. before] the wall? **If you do so again, I will lay hands on you!**” **From that time on they came no more on the Sabbath.** 22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should go and **guard the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day.** Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy!; **Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8** 1 This is what the Lord says, “Maintain justice and do righteousness, For My salvation is soon to come, And My righteousness and justice is soon to be revealed. 2 “**Blessed (happy, fortunate) is the man who does this, And the son of man who takes hold of it, Who keeps the Sabbath without profaning it,** And keeps his hand from doing any evil.” 3 **Do not let the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, “The Lord will most certainly separate me from His people.”** And do not let the eunuch say, “Look, I am a dry tree.” . . . 6 “**Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord, To be His servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath without profaning it** And holds fast to My covenant [by conscientious obedience]; 7 All these **I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer.** Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted [Or win favor.] on My altar; **For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.**” 8 The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares: “I will gather yet others to them (Israel), to those [already] gathered.”

- 79 Is it really okay to continue to endorse what the Catholic Church has admitted is not only a tradition of the church to be obeyed above Scripture [which happened to be the same type of things Jesus criticized the Pharisees for doing], but also openly violates Scripture by cursing the Jewish people with antisemitic sentiments?
- Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 80 Can we purge out the leaven of anti-semitism from our faith? (Romans 12:14; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7)
- Romans 12:14** **14 Bless those who persecute you** [who cause you harm or hardship]; **bless and do not curse** [them].; **1 Corinthians 5:6-7** **6** Your boasting [over the supposed spirituality of your church] is not good [indeed, it is vulgar and inappropriate]. Do ^[Paul repeats "Do you not know" nine more times, each time followed by an important truth (cf 5:6; 6:2, 3, 9, 15, 16, 19; 9:13, 24).] you not know that [just] **a little leaven ferments the whole batch** [of dough, just as a little sin corrupts a person or an entire church]? **7 Clean** ^[Paul is using the Passover celebration as an analogy. Leading up to the Passover meal was the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Ex 12:17-20), during which the Israelites were to remove all leaven from their homes to symbolize the removal of sin from their lives. Leaven (yeast) was often used as a symbol of spiritual corruption.] **out the old leaven so that you may be a new batch, just as you are, still unleavened.** For Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.
- 81 And is not one of the most loving things we can do as a believer is, while setting aside the seventh day as a Sabbath, as written about in the ten commandments of YHWH, is to show them the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus Christ (Yahshua HaMashiach)? (Isaiah 56:6-7; Matthew 12:8)
- Isaiah 56:6-7** **6** "Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord. To be His servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath without profaning it And holds fast to My covenant [by conscientious obedience]; **7** All these I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted [Or win favor.] on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."; **Matthew 12:8** For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.;
- 82 In Jesus' fulfillment of the law, did He make us anarchists? Is (at least part of) the issue not so much one of WHETHER the law is kept, but rather WHY the law is kept? When righteous laws are not kept, people are harmed, are they not? When righteous laws are kept merely out of fear of punishment, are the hearts of the people benefitted [that is, is that an expression of love]? When righteous laws are kept to try to prove our righteousness or earn our salvation, do we not negate the sacrifice of Messiah? (Isaiah 64:6-7; Romans 3:10-12; Isaiah 55:8-9; Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13; Deuteronomy 5:29; Hebrews 8:10-11)
- Isaiah 64:6-7** **6** But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. **7** And there is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirred up himself to take hold of Thee: for Thou hast hid Thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.; **Romans 3:10-12** **10** As it is written and forever remains written, "There is none righteous [none that meets God's standard], not even one. **11** "There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God. **12** "All have turned aside, together they have become useless; **There is none who does good, no, not one.**"; **Isaiah 55:8-9** **8** "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. **9** "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.; **Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13** **2** Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments [4687 mitswot] of YHWH your Elohekem which I command you. . . . **6** Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes [2706 ha-huq-qim], and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. **7** For what nation is there so great, who hath Elohim so nigh unto them, as YHWH our Eloheinu is in all things that we call upon Him for? **8** And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes [2706 huq-qim] and judgments [4941 u-mis-pa-tim] so righteous as all this law [8451 hat-to-w-rah], which I set before you this day? . . . **13** And He declared unto you His covenant [1285 ba-ri-tow,] which He commanded [6680 shw-wah] you to perform, even ten commandments [1697 had-da-ba-rim]; and He wrote them upon two tables of stone.; **Deuteronomy 5:29** **O** that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments [4687 mis-wa-jay] always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!; **Hebrews 8:10-11** **10** "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will imprint My laws upon their minds [even upon their innermost thoughts and understanding], And engrave them upon their hearts [effecting their regeneration]. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people. **11** "And it will not be [necessary] for each one to teach his fellow citizen, Or each one his brother, saying, 'Know [by experience, have knowledge of] the Lord,' For all will know [Me by experience and have knowledge of] Me, From the least to the greatest of them.
- 83 Why should we immediately assume every discussion about keeping the law is legalism or Judaizing? Don't many of us keep laws anyway ... like not murdering, not committing adultery, etc.? So, is not lawkeeping good, and NOT bad, in that respect? (1 Timothy 1:5-11, 1 John 3:4)
- 1 Timothy 1: 5-11** **5** Now the end [aim, goal, purpose] of the commandment is charity [agape] out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: **6** From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; **7** Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. **8** Now we know [without any doubt] that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully and appropriately, **9** understanding the fact that law is not enacted for the righteous person [the one in right standing with God], ^[The terrible enumeration of sins and sinners in these 9th and 10th verses, while following the order of the ancient Tables of Sinai, seems to allude pointedly to the vices especially prevalent in that day in the great centres of the Roman empire.] but for lawless [459- anomos: lawless, without law; "no-law," i.e. lawless disregard for proper authority] and rebellious [506 anapotaktos: not subject to rule; not submissive; disobedient (unruly), unwilling to come under Christ's Lordship; refusing to "fall in line with" (fit in with) God's plan; uncooperative, with a defiant attitude towards duly-appointed authority; uncontrollable, refractory (unsubjected); anti-authoritarian (rebellious).] people, for the ungodly [765 asebes: ungodly, impious; destitute of reverential awe toward God, contemning God, impious; lack of reverence ("without due respect"), i.e. failing to honor what is sacred – especially in the outward (ceremonial) sense.] and sinful [unite irreligion and contempt for all sacred things] , for the unholy [462. anosios- irreverent; utter disregard of what is sacred, i.e. willful (arrogant) disrespect of the things of God; "impious; wicked" (J. Thayer).] and profane [952 bebélos: permitted to be trodden, by impl. unhallowed; accessible; ("profane because of improper entrance") refers to people unfit to access (know) God, because they approach Him apart from faith], [includes the prohibitions of the first four Commandments (the First Table, as it is termed), where sins against God are especially dwelt upon. The sins against man, which form the subject of the prohibitions of the Second Table (Commandments Five to Ten), are included in the following enumeration of wrong-doers.] for those who kill [smitters or ill-users of] their fathers or mothers [the Fifth Commandment], for murderers [the Sixth Commandment], **10** for sexually immoral persons [the Seventh Commandment], for homosexuals, for kidnappers [the Eighth Commandment], and slave traders [i.e. those who exploit other people for evil or selfish reasons.], for liars [the Ninth Commandment], for perjurers—and for whatever else [the Tenth Commandment] is contrary to sound doctrine, **11** according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.; **1 John 3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
- 84 Doesn't every society, every civilization need laws? Isn't the question not whether to have laws, but which? So when it comes to the day of rest, are we going to abide [that's an interesting word] abide by God's law, the Sabbath rest? Or are we going to adhere to or cling to the religious traditions of men to use Sunday for rest? God or man? (Exodus 31:15; Isaiah 55:7-9; Ezekiel 20:30-32; Deuteronomy 12:29-32; 2 Kings 17:24-28; Acts 5:1-11; 2 Samuel 6:6-7; Leviticus 10:1-3)
- Exodus 31:15** For six days work may be done, but the seventh is the Sabbath of complete rest, sacred to the Lord; whoever does work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.; **Isaiah 55:7-9** **7** Let the wicked [Lit. man of iniquity] forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. **8** "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. **9** "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.; **Ezekiel 20:30-32** **30** Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations? **31** For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live," says the Lord God, "I will not be inquired of by you. **32** What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, 'We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.'; **Deuteronomy 12:29-32** **29** "When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, **30** take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' **31** You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination [detestable action] to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. **32** "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.; **Leviticus 10:1-3** Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. **2** So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. **3** And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " [AMP 'I will be treated as holy by those who approach Me, And before all the people I will be honored.'"] So Aaron held his peace.; **2 Samuel 6:6-7** **6** And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took [held it] hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. **7** Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error [Or irreverence]; and he died there by the ark of God.; **Acts 5:1-11** But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. **2** And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? **4** While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." **5** Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. **6** And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. **7** Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." **9** Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?

Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” 10 Then **immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last**. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. 11 So **great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things**; 2 Kings 17:24-28 24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities. 25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that **they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them**. 26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “**The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know** the rituals of the God of the land.” 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, “Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land.” 28 Then **one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord**.

85 Are we going to choose God’s ways, which are higher ... so high that we oftentimes don’t even understand? Or are we going to continue to choose man’s ways and do our own thing, and approach unto God in unholy ways, in ways He flatly just doesn’t approve? Is it not only by His mercy and grace that we have not been struck down like the people killed by the lions who were brought in, and they had to send the Levites to train them on how to worship the Lord, like Ananias and Sapphira, like Uzzah, and like Nadab and Abihu? (Exodus 31:15; Isaiah 55:7-9; Ezekiel 20:30-32; Deuteronomy 12:29-32; 2 Kings 17:24-28; Acts 5:1-11; 2 Samuel 6:6-7; Leviticus 10:1-3)

a. **Exodus 31:15** For six days work may be done, but the seventh is the Sabbath of complete rest, sacred to the Lord; whoever does work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.; **Isaiah 55:7-9** 7 Let the wicked [Lit. man of iniquity] forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 “For **My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways**,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are **My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts**.; **Ezekiel 20:30-32** 30 Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “**Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations**.” 31 For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live,” says the Lord God, “**I will not be inquired of by you**. 32 What you have in your mind shall never be, **when you say, ‘We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone**.’; **Deuteronomy 12:29-32** 29 “When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, 30 take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you **do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise**.’ 31 **You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way**; for every abomination [detestable action] to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. 32 “**Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it**.; **Leviticus 10:1-3** Then **Nadab and Abihu**, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and **offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them**. 2 **So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord**. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘**By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified**.’” [AMP ‘I will be treated as holy by those who approach Me, And before all the people I will be honored.’] So Aaron held his peace.; **2 Samuel 6:6-7** 6 And when they came to Nachon’s threshing floor, **Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took [held it] hold of it**, for the oxen stumbled. 7 Then **the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error** [Or irreverence]; **and he died there by the ark of God**.; **Acts 5:1-11** But a certain man named **Ananias, with Sapphira his wife**, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. 3 But Peter said, “**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?** 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God**.” 5 Then **Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last**. So **great fear came upon all those who heard these things**. 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. 7 Now it was about **three hours later when his wife came in**, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter answered her, “**Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?**” She said, “**Yes, for so much**.” 9 Then Peter said to her, “**How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?** Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” 10 Then **immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last**. 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86 Since Jesus said the scripture cannot be broken and that He did not come to destroy the law, are we not at risk of disobeying Him when we follow religious (synagogue, parish, church, etc.) teachings that contradict the most important Biblical instructions (commandments) that He, Himself did not explicitly change? (John 10:34-35; Matthew 5:17-20; Matthew 15:3, 6b; Matthew 23:13, 23, 28)

a. **John 10:34-35** 34 Jesus answered them, “**Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods”?’** 35 If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken [AMP (and the Scripture cannot be undone or annulled or broken)]); **Matthew 5:17-20** 17 “**Do not think that I came to do away with or undo the Law** [i.e. the Pentateuch.] [of Moses] or the [writings of the] Prophets; **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill**. 18 For I assure you and most solemnly say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke [of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things [which it foreshadows] are accomplished**. 19 So whoever breaks one of the least [important] of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least [important] in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever practices and teaches them, he will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness (uprightness, moral essence) is more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.; **Matthew 15:3, 6b** 3 He replied to them, “**Why also do you violate the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition** [handed down by the elders]? ... So by this **you have invalidated the word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect] for the sake of your tradition** [handed down by the elders].; **Matthew 23:13, 23, 28** 13 “But woe (judgment is coming) to you, [self-righteous] scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because **you shut off the kingdom of heaven in front of people**; for you **do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow those who are** [in the process of] **entering to do so**. ... 23 “Woe to you, [self-righteous] scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you give a tenth (tithing) of your mint and dill and cumin [focusing on minor matters], and have neglected the weightier [more important moral and spiritual] provisions of the Law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the [primary] things you ought to have done** without neglecting the others. ... 28 **So you, also, outwardly seem to be just and upright to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness**.

87 When it is **not** considered legalism (or Judaizing) pertaining to Thou shalt not murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, then why is it all of a sudden legalism (or Judaizing) when it comes to Remember the Sabbath Day and REST?

a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.

88 If breaking the other nine commandments is a bad thing, how can breaking that one commandment, the fourth one, suddenly be a good thing?

a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions

89 Is Galatians really advocating the abandonment of the law when Romans denounces lawlessness as sinfulness? Or is Galatians hammering the powerlessness of the law to SAVE (or the vanity of outward signs like circumcision, or the keeping of the traditions of men) while living by the Spirit does not contradict the law? (Galatians 5:1-12 ; Romans 6:14-23; Galatians 5:13-24)

a. **Galatians 5:1-12** 1 It was for this freedom that Christ set us free [completely liberating us]; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery [which you once removed]. 2 Notice, it is I, Paul, who tells you that **if you receive circumcision [as a supposed requirement of salvation]**, Christ will be of no benefit to you [for you will lack the faith in Christ that is necessary for salvation]. 3 Once more I solemnly affirm to every man who receives circumcision [as a supposed requirement of salvation], that he is under obligation and required to keep the whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, **if you seek to be justified** [Being justified is a legal or judicial declaration of righteousness. Justification has two parts: (1) Being declared free of blame, acquitted of sin—not guilty. Believers are justified because Jesus Christ personally assumed the guilt for our sin on the cross; (2) God declares the person righteous, that is, placed in a position of right-standing with Him. A person may not be made righteous by his personal behavior, no matter how good, or by the declaration of any other human being.] [that is, declared free of the guilt of sin and its penalty, and placed in right standing with God] **through the Law; you have fallen from grace** [for you have lost your grasp on God’s unmerited favor and blessing]. 5 For **we** [not relying on the Law but] **through the** [strength and power of the Holy] **Spirit, by faith**, are waiting [confidently] for the hope of righteousness [the completion of our salvation]. 6 For [if we are] **in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but only faith activated and expressed and working through love**. 7 You were running [the race] well; who has interfered and prevented you from obeying the truth? 8 This [deceptive] persuasion is not from

Him who called you [to freedom in Christ]. 9 A little leaven ^[Leaven (yeasty dough) represents the man-made tradition and false teachings that obscure the truth regarding salvation through personal belief and faith in Christ.] [a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers] leavens the whole batch [it perverts the concept of faith and misleads the church]. 10 I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view [contrary to mine on the matter]; but the one who is disturbing you, whoever he is, will have to bear the penalty. 11 But as for me, brothers [Lit brethren.], if I am still preaching circumcision [as I had done before I met Christ; and as some ^[Paul's opponents in Galatia were trying to support their own arguments for circumcision by claiming that Paul was actually in favor of it. They probably knew that he had circumcised Timothy (Acts 16:3) and were taking advantage of that fact.] accuse me of doing now, as necessary for salvation], why am I

still being persecuted [by Jews]? In that case the **stumbling block of the cross** [to unbelieving Jews] has been abolished. 12 I wish that those who are troubling you [by teaching that circumcision is necessary for salvation] would even [go all the way and] castrate themselves!; **Romans 6:14-23** 14 For sin will no longer be a master over you, since you are not under Law [as slaves], but under [unmerited] grace [as recipients of God's favor and mercy]. 15 What then [are we to conclude]? **Shall we sin because we are not under Law, but under [God's] grace? Certainly not!** 16 Do you not know that when you continually offer yourselves to someone to do His will, you are the slaves of the one whom you obey, either [slaves] of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness (right standing with God)? 17 But thank God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed. 18 And having been set free from sin, you have become the slaves of righteousness [of conformity to God's will and purpose]. 19 I am speaking in [familiar] human terms because of your natural limitations [your spiritual immaturity]. For just as you presented your bodily members as slaves to impurity and to [moral] lawlessness, leading to further

lawlessness, so now offer your members [your abilities, your talents] as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification ^[There are three basic kinds of sanctification in the NT: (1) Positional sanctification is based on the death of Christ. Every believer is a saint and is holy before God. The believer is "set apart for God" and in some instances "set apart for God's purpose" (Heb 10:10, 14, 29); (2) Practical sanctification is a progressive process and means "growing in righteous living" as the believer matures spiritually (Rom 6:13; 1 Thess 5:23; 1 Pet 1:16); (3) Ultimate sanctification is that which is to come when the believer stands before God (Eph 5:26, 27).] [that is, being set apart for God's purpose]. 20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness [you had no desire to conform to God's will]. 21 So what benefit did you get at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? [None!] For the outcome of those things is death! 22 But now since you have been set free from sin and have become [willing] slaves to God, you have your benefit, resulting in sanctification [being made holy and set apart for God's purpose], and the outcome [of this] is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God [that is, His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.; **Galatians 5:13-24** 13 For you, my brothers, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom become an opportunity for the sinful ^[Lit flesh.] nature (worldliness, selfishness), but through love ^[The key to understanding this and other statements about love is to know that this love (the Greek word agape) is not so much a matter of emotion as it is of doing things for the benefit of another person, that is, having an unselfish concern for another and a willingness to seek the best for another.]

serve and seek the best for one another. 14 **For the whole Law** [concerning human relationships] **is fulfilled in one precept, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself** [that is, you shall have an unselfish concern for others and do things for their benefit]." 15 But if you bite and devour one another [in bickering and strife], watch out that you [along with your entire fellowship] are not consumed by one another. 16 But I say, walk habitually in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful ^[Lit flesh.] nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts]. 17 For the sinful nature has its desire which is opposed to the Spirit, and the [desire of the] Spirit opposes the sinful ^[Lit flesh.] nature; for these [two, the sinful nature and the Spirit] are in direct opposition to each other [continually in conflict], so that you [as believers] do not [always] do whatever [good things] you want to do. 18 But if you are guided and led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. 19 Now the practices of the sinful [Lit flesh.] nature are clearly evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), 20 idolatry [Including prostitution, which was often part of pagan ritual.], sorcery [Including such things as occult practices, witchcraft, worship of evil powers, drug-induced trances.], hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], 21 envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and other things like these. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. **Against such things there is no law.** 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful ^[Lit flesh.] nature together with its passions and appetites.

90 Are there not both, to some degree or another, physical aspects and spiritual aspects of keeping the law? For example, if you physically did not kill the physical body of another person, or if you did not physically commit the physical act of adultery with another person, or if you caused your physical body to rest and not do work on the Sabbath, would not some say you are keeping those commandments? But Jesus took at least those three and gave the spiritual application of them and what it looks like for us to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees by keeping these laws. Might the difference be summarized in that – after the Spirit of God writes them on our hearts – they are kept from a heart of love? (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28; Matthew 12:7-13; Matthew 5:20; Matthew 22:37-40; Matthew 5:20; Matthew 22:37-40)

a. **Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28** 21 "You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not murder,' and 'Whoever murders shall be guilty [Or liable to.] before the court.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who continues to be angry with his brother or harbors malice against him shall be guilty before the court; and whoever speaks [contemptuously and insultingly] to his brother, 'Raca' ^[A severe Aramaic insult.] (You empty-headed idiot!)" shall be guilty before the supreme court (Sanhedrin); and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of the fiery ^[Gr Gehenna, a Greek version of the Hebrew for Valley of Hinnom, a ravine where garbage was burned continuously, located just south of Jerusalem. Often regarded in ancient times as symbolic of hell (the lake of fire), a realm reserved for the wicked. Mentioned in Matt 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5; James 3:6.] hell. ... 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; 28 but I say to you that everyone who [so much as] looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.; **Matthew 12:7-13** 7 And if you had only known what this statement means, 'I desire compassion [for those in distress], and [I.e. more than.] not [animal] sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." 9 Leaving there, He went into their synagogue. 10 A man was there whose hand was withered. And they asked Jesus, "Is it lawful and permissible to heal on the Sabbath?"—they asked this so that they might accuse Him and bring charges into court. 11 But He said to them, "What man is there among you who, if he has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful and permissible to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then He said to the man, "Reach out your hand!" The man reached out and it was restored, as normal and healthy as the other.; **Matthew 5:20** 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.; **Matthew 22:37-40** 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

91 If we say we do not have lust for another person, but we go out and commit adultery with them, have we not broken the commandment against adultery? Or if we say that we do not hate another person, but we go ahead and kill them anyway, have we not broken the commandment against murder? How can it be that we say that we honor the Lord of the Sabbath, when we refuse to rest on the day that He gave us to rest? Have we not likewise broken the commandment to rest and allow others to rest?

a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions

92 In setting His examples, did Jesus break the law? Could He have been the sinless sacrifice for us if He had broken the law? Jesus was a sinless keeper of God's laws, but did that obligate him to keep the traditions of the pharisees? Rather, did He not show us how to keep the laws in the Spirit with a heart of love?

a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions

93 When's the last time you physically committed adultery? When's the last time you spiritually committed adultery? Now, if you did not physically commit adultery, would you not be seen in the eyes of the law [in the eyes of the pharisees] as righteous [provided you also didn't violate however many other rules they had, traditions they had]? But if you live by the Spirit – if the Spirit of love has written that law against adultery on your heart – and you are obeying that (Spirit of love), then might your righteousness exceed that of the scribes and pharisees? If those lust impulses are circumcised from your heart and removed from your heart, will it not be easier to fulfill the law against adultery?

a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions

94 Can you say, Oh, I don't have lust for this other person in my heart, I'm not lusting for them, but still commit the physical act of adultery with that person – can you still say, well I followed the spirit of the law because I didn't have lust for that person, without obeying the physical aspect of that law and still be considered righteous? [Is that not the lawlessness that John the beloved and Paul the pharisee and James the relative preached against?] Are there Biblical reasons why these principles would not also apply to murder or to Sabbath-keeping?

a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions

95 When Moses physically broke the tables on which God first wrote the ten commandments, did God repent of writing them? Or did God have Moses make two more tablets so that He could rewrite the ten commandments on them? Did God not have Moses place those tablets in a safe place, in a box, in the most restricted part (the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle) of the camp?

a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions

96 What if the breaking of the physical commandments and their subsequent rewriting and storage in the sacred place was a demonstration – a foreshadowing – of God's laws, which Israel broke, being rewritten on our hearts?

a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions

- 97 Are we to believe that the God of the Old Testament is a heartless tyrant demanding of His people that they bear an unbearably heavy yoke? Or that God delivered the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt only to enslave them under an unbearable yoke of His law? (Acts 15:10; Matthew 23:4; Galatians 5:1; Deuteronomy 30:6-13; 1 John 5:2-4)
- a. **Acts 15:10** “Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke ^[2218 ζυγὸν zygon] which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?; **Matthew 23:4** They [the Pharisees] tie up heavy ^[926 βαρέα barea], burdensome ^[5413 φορτία phortia] loads ^[1419 ὀνείματα dysbastakta] and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.; **Galatians 5:1** ^[4:31-So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free. Some authorities prefer to join this sentence with 4:31 and render but with the freedom of the free woman Christ set us free.] It was for freedom that Christ set us free. Therefore, stand firm and do not be subject again to a yoke ^[2218 ζυγὸν zygo] of slavery ^[1397 δουλεία douleia]; **Deuteronomy 30:6-13** 6 “And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants [that is, He will remove the desire to sin from your heart], so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, so that you may live [as a recipient of His blessing]. 7 The Lord your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who have persecuted you. 8 And you shall again listen to and obey the voice of the Lord, and do all His commandments which I command you today. 9 Then the Lord your God shall make you abundantly prosperous in everything [offspring] that you do, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your land; for the Lord will again delight over you for good, just as He delighted over your fathers, 10 if you listen to and obey the voice of the Lord your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul (your entire being). 11 “For this commandment which I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out [not hidden from] of reach. 12 It is not [a secret hidden] in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it to us, so that we may hear it and obey it?’ 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross the sea for us and bring it to us, so that we may hear it and obey it?’ 14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may obey it.; **1 John 5:2-4** 2 By this we know [without any doubt] that we love the children of God: [expressing that love] when we love God and obey His commandments. 3 For the ^[true] love of God is this: that we habitually keep His commandments and remain focused on His precepts. And His commandments and His precepts are not difficult ^[to obey]. 4 For everyone ^[M your] born of God is victorious and overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world—our ^[continuing, persistent] faith ^[in Jesus the Son of God].
- 98 Did God change His mind regarding the commandments between when He spoke them in Exodus 20, when He wrote them the first time in Exodus 32, and when He rewrote them in Exodus 34? Or did He confirm them in the repetition? (Exodus 20:1-17; Exodus 24:12; Exodus 31:18; Exodus 32:15-16; Exodus 34:1, 28; Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:11)
- a. **Exodus 20:1-17** 1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage [slaves]. 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve [worship] them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting [punishing] the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. 8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. 12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. 13 “You shall not murder. 14 “You shall not commit adultery. 15 “You shall not steal. 16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”; **Exodus 24:12** 12 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.”; **Exodus 31:18** 18 And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.; **Exodus 32:15-16** 15 And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. 16 Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.; **Exodus 34:1, 28** 1 And the Lord said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. . . . 28 So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments [Lit. Ten Words].; **Matthew 18:16** But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two others, so that EVERY WORD MAY BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.; **2 Corinthians 13:11** This is the third time that I am visiting you. EVERY FACT SHALL BE SUSTAINED and CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.
- 99 Knowing that testimony is confirmed by two or three, would Jesus really deny even just one thing of what God repeated three times and directed Moses to secure in the most sacred location of all? (Exodus 25:8-10, 16, 22; Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:11)
- a. **Exodus 25:8-10, 16, 22** 8 Have them build a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them. 9 You shall construct it in accordance with everything that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture. 10 “They shall make an ark of acacia wood two and a half cubits long, one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high. . . . 16 You shall put into the ark the Testimony (Ten Commandments) which I will give you. . . . 22 There I will meet with you; from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, I will speak [intimately] with you regarding every commandment that I will give you for the Israelites.; **Matthew 18:16** But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two others, so that EVERY WORD MAY BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.; **2 Corinthians 13:11** This is the third time that I am visiting you. EVERY FACT SHALL BE SUSTAINED and CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.
- 100 Since the ark of His covenant appears in His temple in Heaven; and since Moses was commanded to make the tabernacle after the pattern shown to him, and since Moses was commanded to place the 10 Commandments within the ark of the covenant, is it a stretch to suppose that all 10 Commandments may be written within the ark of His covenant in Heaven? (Revelation 11:19a; Exodus 25:8-9, 40; Exodus 26:30; Deuteronomy 10:1-2; Acts 7:44; Hebrews 8:5)
- a. **Revelation 11:19a** And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, . . .; **Exodus 25:8-9, 40** 8 Have them build a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them. 9 You shall construct it in accordance with everything that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture. . . . 40 See that you make them [exactly] after their pattern which was shown to you on the mountain.; **Exodus 26:30** 30 You shall erect the tabernacle according to its plan [the direction corresponding to its meaning and purpose] which has been shown to you on the mountain.; **Deuteronomy 10:1-2** 1 “At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Cut out for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make an ark (chest) of wood for yourself. 2 I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you shattered, and you shall put them in the ark.’; **Acts 7:44** 44 “Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, just as God directed Moses to make it according to the pattern which he had seen.; **Hebrews 8:5** 5 They serve as a pattern and foreshadowing of [what has its true existence and reality in] the heavenly things (sanctuary). For when Moses was about to erect the tabernacle, he was warned by God, saying, “See that you make it all [exactly] according to the pattern which was shown to you on the mountain.”
- 101 When we forsake the keeping of the seventh day as the Sabbath, have we forsaken the pattern that God has given us? Or are we diminishing His commandments by only honoring 9 of them? (Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13)
- a. **Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13** 2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments ^[4687 mitswot] of YHWH your Elohekem which I command you. . . . 6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes ^[2706 ha-huq-qim], and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. 7 For what nation is there so great, who hath Elohim so nigh unto them, as YHWH our Elohekem is in all things that we call upon him for? 8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes ^[2706 huq-qim] and judgments ^[4941 u-mis-pa-tim] so righteous as all this law ^[8451 hat-tō-w-rāh], which I set before you this day? . . . 13 And He declared unto you His covenant ^[1285 ba-ti-igw.] which He commanded ^[6680 siw-wāh] you to perform, even ten commandments ^[1697 had-da-bā-rim.], and He wrote them upon two tables of stone.
- 102 If sacrifices to the LORD were NOT to have blemishes, and if those who worship the sun were to be stoned to death, would sacrificing our "Sabbath" time to the LORD on Sunday instead of the seventh day be an abomination? (Deuteronomy 17:1-6)
- a. **Deuteronomy 17:1-6** 1 Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the Lord thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the Lord thy God. 2 If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the Lord thy God, in transgressing his covenant, 3 And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; 4 And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing

certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: 5 Then shalt thou **bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing**, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, **and shalt stone them with stones, till they die**. 6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but **at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death**.

103 If obeying God was so important in the "Old Testament," why would we think it is not that important in the "New"? (Deuteronomy 27:9-10; Exodus 34:11-16; John 14:21-24; Romans 6:14-23)

a. **Deuteronomy 27:9-10** 9 Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, "Be silent and listen, O Israel! **This day you have become a people for the Lord your God**. 10 **So you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and do His commandments and statutes** which I am commanding you today."; **Exodus 34:11-16** 11 "Be sure to observe what I am commanding you this day: behold, I am going to drive out the Amorite before you, and the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. 12 Watch yourself so that you do not make a covenant (solemn agreement, treaty) with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a [dangerous] trap among you. 13 **But you shall tear down and destroy their [pagan] altars, smash in pieces their [sacred] pillars (obelisks, images) and cut down their Asherim** [Symbols of the mother-goddess Asherah, usually a tree or pole dedicated to her and placed near her many shrines.] 14 **—for you shall not worship any other god; for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous (impassioned) God [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]**— 15 **otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the prostitute with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to** [Lit and you would eat. It was commonplace in ancient cultures to invite friends to a sacrifice to a pagan deity. Aside from its religious implications, at the end of the ceremony the sacrifice became a meal for all present and served as a social occasion.] eat his sacrifice (meal), 16 and you might take some of his daughters for your

sons, and his daughters would play the prostitute with their gods and cause your sons also to play the prostitute (commit apostasy) with their gods [that is, abandon the true God for man-made idols].; **John 14:21-24** 21 **The person who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him** [I will make Myself real to him]. 22 Judas (not Iscariot) asked Him, "Lord, what has happened that You are going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered, "**If anyone [really] loves Me, he will keep My word** (teaching); and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling place with him. 24 **One who does not [really] love Me does not keep My words**. And the word (teaching) which you hear is not Mine, but is the Father's who sent Me.; **Romans 6:14-23** 14 For sin will no longer be a master over you, since **you are not under Law** [as slaves], but under [unmerited] grace [as recipients of God's favor and mercy]. 15 What then [are we to conclude]? **Shall we sin because we are not under Law, but under [God's] grace? Certainly not!** 16 Do you not know that when you continually offer yourselves to someone to do his will, **you are the slaves of the one whom you obey, either [slaves] of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness (right standing with God)?** 17 But thank God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed.

18 And having been set free from sin, you have become the slaves of righteousness [of conformity to God's will and purpose]. 19 I am speaking in [familiar] human terms because of your natural limitations [your spiritual immaturity]. For **just as you presented your bodily members as slaves to impurity and to [moral] lawlessness, leading to further lawlessness, so now offer your members [your abilities, your talents] as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification** [There are three basic kinds of sanctification in the NT: (1) Positional sanctification is based on the death of Christ. Every believer is a saint and is holy before God. The believer is "set apart for God" and in some instances "set apart for God's purpose" (Heb 10:10, 14, 29); (2) Practical sanctification is a progressive process and means "growing in righteous living" as the believer matures spiritually (Rom 6:13; 1 Thess 5:23; 1 Pet 1:16); (3) Ultimate sanctification is that which is to come when the believer stands before God (Eph 5:26, 27).] [that is, being set apart for God's purpose]. 20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness [you had no desire to conform to God's will]. 21 So what benefit did you get at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? [None!] For the outcome of those things is death! 22 But now since you have been set free from sin and have become [willing] slaves to God, you have your benefit, **resulting in sanctification [being made holy and set apart for God's purpose], and the outcome [of this] is eternal life**. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God [that is, His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers] is **eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**.

104 Quote from an older NCIS: "When did an order turn into a debate?" Should we not live as if the LORD is our God? (Malachi 1:6-11; Luke 6:46-49; John 14:15)

a. **Malachi 1:6-11** 6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is the [reverent] fear and respect due Me?" says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise My name. But you say, 'How and in what way have we despised Your name?' 7 You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, '**How have we defiled You?**' By **thinking that the table of the Lord is contemptible and may be despised**. 8 When you [priests] present the blind [Only animals without defects or discernable flaws were to be offered as sacrifices.] [animals] for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and the sick, is it not evil? **Offer such a thing [as a blind or lame or sick animal] to your governor [as a gift or as payment for your taxes]. Would he be pleased with you?** Or would he receive you graciously?" says the Lord of hosts. 9 "But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering from your hand [as an imperfect animal for sacrifice], will He show favor to any of you?" says the Lord of hosts. 10 "**Oh, that there were even one among you [whose duty it is to minister to Me] who would shut the gates, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar uselessly [with an empty, worthless pretense]! I am not pleased with you,**" says the Lord of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from your hand. 11 For from [i.e., around the world.] **the rising of the sun, even to its setting**, My name shall be great among the nations. In every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; and **for My name shall be great among the nations,**" says the Lord of hosts.; **Luke 6:46-49** 46 "**Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not practice what I tell you?** 47 **Everyone who comes to Me and listens to My words and obeys them, I will show you whom he is like:** 48 he is like a [far-sighted, practical, and sensible] **man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and yet could not shake it, because it had been securely built and founded on the rock**. 49 But the one who has [merely] heard and has not practiced [what I say], is like a [foolish] man who built a house on the ground without any foundation, and the torrent burst against it; and it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."; **John 14:15** 15 "**If you [really] love Me, you will keep and obey My commandments**.

105 What did David, the man after God's own heart, who danced before Him with all his might, and regularly sought the Lord for battle advice, think about the law? (Psalms 119:35, 40, 44, 45, 47, 48, 70, 77, 89, 92, 97, 113, 127, 136, 139, 143, 163, 165, 172, 174, Psalms 1:1-3, and other places)

a. **Psalms 119:35, 40, 44, 45, 47, 48, 70, 77, 89, 92, 97, 113, 127, 136, 139, 143, 163, 165, 172, 174** 35 Make me walk in the path of **Your commandments, For I delight in it**. ... 40 **I long for Your precepts; Renew me through Your righteousness**. ... 44 **I will keep Your law continually**, Forever and ever [writing Your precepts on my heart]. 45 **And I will walk at liberty**, For I seek and deeply long for **Your precepts**. ... 47 For **I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love**. 48 And I shall lift up my hands to **Your commandments, Which I love**; ... 70 Their heart is insensitive like fat [their minds are dull and brutal], But **I delight in Your law**. ... 77 Let Your compassion come to me that I may live, For **Your law is my delight**. ... 89 Forever, **O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven** [standing firm and unchangeable]. ... 92 If **Your law had not been my delight**, Then I would have perished in my time of trouble. ... 97 Oh, **how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day**. ... 113 I hate those who are double-minded, But **I love and treasure Your law**. ... 127 Therefore **I love Your commandments more than gold**, Yes, more than refined gold. ... 136 **My eyes weep streams of water Because people do not keep Your law**. ... 139 **My zeal has [completely] consumed me**, Because **my enemies have forgotten Your words**. ... 143 Trouble and anguish have found me, Yet **Your commandments are my delight and my joy**. ... 163 I hate and detest falsehood, But **I love Your law**. ... 165 **Those who love Your law have great peace**; Nothing makes them stumble. ... 172 Let my tongue sing [praise for the fulfillment] of Your word, For **all Your commandments are righteous**. ... 174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord, And **Your law is my delight**. ... **Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed** [This has been called "The Preface Psalm" because in some respects it introduces the complete book of Psalms as a godly message. It opens with a benediction, "Blessed," as does the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:3).] [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] **is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of scoffers [i.e. shallow thinkers who are quick to mock or disdain.] (ridiculers)**. 2 But **his delight is in the law** [8451 תורה torah] **of the Lord, And on His law** [8451 תורה torah] [His precepts and teachings] he [habitually] **meditates day and night**. 3 And he will be like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season; Its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].

106 In being the Son of God and the Son of David, should Jesus then be considered the Son of the Lawgiver and the Son of the Law-lover (one who delights in the Law)? (Luke 22:70; Luke 18:37-38; Isaiah 33:20-24; Psalms 119:35, 44, 45, 47, 48, 70, 77, 92, 97, 113, 127, 143, 163, 165, 174)

a. **Luke 22:70** 70 And they all said, "**Are You the Son of God, then?**" He replied, "**It** [Lit You say that I am.] **is just as you say**."; **Luke 18:37-38** 37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." 38 **So he shouted out, saying, "Jesus, Son** [A common Messianic title recognizing the Messiah as a descendant of David.] **of David (Messiah), have mercy on me!**"; **Isaiah 33:20-24** 20 Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. 21 But there the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. 22 **For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king**; he will save us. 23 Thy tacklings are loosed; they could not well strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail: then is the prey of a great spoil divided; the lame take the prey. 24 And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.; **Psalms 119:35, 44, 45, 47, 48, 70, 77, 92, 97, 113, 127, 143, 163, 165, 174** 35 Make me walk in the path of **Your commandments, For I delight in it**. ... 44 **I will keep Your law continually**, Forever and ever [writing Your precepts on my heart]. 45 **And I will walk at liberty, For I seek and deeply long for Your precepts**. ... 47 **For I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love**. 48 **And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, Which I love**; ... 70 Their heart is insensitive like fat [their minds are dull and brutal], But **I delight in Your law**. ...

- 77 Let Your compassion come to me that I may live, For Your law is my delight. ... 92 If Your law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my time of trouble. ... 97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ... 113 I hate those who are double-minded, But I love and treasure Your law. ... 127 Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, Yes, more than refined gold. ... 143 Trouble and anguish have found me, Yet Your commandments are my delight and my joy. ... 163 I hate and detest falsehood, But I love Your law. ... 165 Those who love Your law have great peace; Nothing makes them stumble. ... 174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord, And Your law is my delight. ...
- 107 Since the man who delights in the Torah law of YHWH is blessed, who of us is to curse him or to revoke the blessing? (Psalms 1:1-2; Genesis 12:3; Numbers 23:20)
- a. **Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed** [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] **is the man who** does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of scoffers [i.e. shallow thinkers who are quick to mock or disdain. (ridiculers)]. 2 But his **delight is in the law** ^[8451 torah] **of the Lord, And on His law** ^[8451 torah] [His precepts and teachings] **he [habitually] meditates day and night; Numbers 23:20** 20 “Behold, I have received His command to bless. He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it. Behold, to bless I have received [a command], and **He has blessed, and cannot I reverse it.; Genesis 12:3** 3 **And I will bless (do good for, benefit) those who bless you.** And I will curse [that is, subject to My wrath and judgment] the one who curses (despises, dishonors, has contempt for) you. And in you all the families (nations) of the earth will be blessed.”
- 108 Do you really want to be the one to tell God that you think His laws [one or more of His Ten Commandments, which He personally wrote] are NOT righteous? Are we unknowingly saying that through our actions? (Isaiah 64:6-7; Romans 3:10-12; Isaiah 55:8-9; Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13; Deuteronomy 5:29; Hebrews 8:10-11)
- a. **Isaiah 64:6-7** 6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;** and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7 And there is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirred up himself to take hold of Thee: for Thou hast hid Thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.; **Romans 3:10-12** 10 As it is written and forever remains written, “**There is none righteous [none that meets God’s standard], not even one.** 11 “There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God. 12 “All have turned aside, together they have become useless; **There is none who does good, no, not one.**”; **Isaiah 55:8-9** 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.; **Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13** 2 **Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it,** that ye may **keep the commandments** ^[4687 mitzwot] **of YHWH your Elohêkem** which I command you. . . . 6 **Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes ^[2706 huq-qim], and say, Surely this **great nation is a wise and understanding people.** 7 For **what nation is there so great, who hath Elohim so nigh unto them,** as YHWH our Elohênu is in all things that we call upon Him for? 8 **And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes** ^[2706 huq-qim] **and judgments** ^[4941 ū-miš-pā-tim] **so righteous as all this law** ^[8451 hat-tō-w-rāh], which I set before you this day? . . . 13 **And He declared unto you His covenant** ^[1285 ba-ni-tōw] which He commanded ^[6680 siw-wāh] you to perform, even **ten commandments** ^{[1697 had-da-bā-rim];} and **He wrote them upon two tables of stone.**; **Deuteronomy 5:29** O that there were such an **heart in them,** that they would fear Me, and **keep all My commandments** ^[4687 mis-wō-tay] **always, that it might be well with them,** and with their children for ever!; **Hebrews 8:10-11** 10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: **I will imprint My laws upon their minds [even upon their innermost thoughts and understanding], And engrave them upon their hearts [effecting their regeneration]. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.** 11 “And it will not be [necessary] for each one to teach his fellow citizen, Or each one his brother, saying, ‘Know [by experience, have knowledge of] the Lord,’ **For all will know [Me by experience and have knowledge of] Me,** From the least to the greatest of them.
- 109 Shall we sin because we are not under Law, but under [God’s] grace? (Romans 6:1-15, emphasis on verse 15)
- a. **Romans 6:1-15** 1 What shall we say [to all this]? **Should we continue in sin and practice sin as a habit so that [God’s gift of] grace** ^[Grace justifies believers, making them free of the guilt of sin, blameless, so that they may have eternal life.] **may increase and overflow? 2 Certainly not!** How can we, the very ones who died to sin, continue to live in it any longer? 3 Or are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized ^[“Baptize” is a transliteration of the Greek word baptizo, which means to submerge an object into liquid. In this passage Christ becomes the liquid, metaphorically, and those who are baptized into Him remain in Him forever and benefit from His experiences, including His death. The best news is that Jesus was resurrected, so believers will also experience resurrection (those who are alive when Christ returns will experience a physical transformation). But even now believers experience a kind of resurrection in that they live new lives (as Paul says, “walk in newness of life”) in a wonderful new relationship with God and their fellow believers.] into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 We have therefore been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory and power of the Father, we too might walk habitually in newness of life [abandoning our old ways]. 5 For if we have become one with Him [permanently united] in the likeness of His death, we will also certainly be [one with Him and share fully] in the likeness of His resurrection. 6 We know that our old self ^[Gr anthropos, i.e. man, person.] [our human nature without the Holy Spirit] was nailed to the cross with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that **we would no longer be slaves to sin.** 7 For the person who has died [with Christ] has been freed from [the power of] sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live [together] with Him, 9 because we know [the self-evident truth] that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin [ending its power and paying the sinner’s debt] once and for all; and the life that He lives, **He lives to [glorify] God [in unbroken fellowship with Him].** 11 Even so, **consider yourselves to be dead to sin** [and your relationship to it broken], but alive to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body** so that you obey its lusts and passions. 13 Do not go on offering members of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness. **But offer yourselves to God** [in a decisive act] as those alive [raised] from the dead [to a new life], **and your members [all of your abilities—sanctified, set apart] as instruments of righteousness** [yielded] to God. 14 For sin will no longer be a master over you, since you are not under Law [as slaves], but under [unmerited] grace [as recipients of God’s favor and mercy]. 15 What then [are we to conclude]? **Shall we sin because we are not under Law, but under [God’s] grace? Certainly not! Romans 6:15 (KJV)** 15 What then? **shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.**
- 110 If sin is lawlessness, is not the one practicing lawlessness and/or disregarding/dismissing the law practicing sin? (1 John 3:2-7, especially verse 4)
- a. **1 John 3:4 (KJV)** 4 **Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.** **1 John 3:2-7** 2 Beloved, we are [even here and] now children of God, and it is not yet made clear what we will be [after His coming]. We know that when He comes and is revealed, **we will** [as His children] **be like Him,** because we will see Him just as He is [in all His glory]. 3 **And everyone who has this hope** [confidently placed] **in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure** (holy, undefiled, guiltless). 4 **Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness** [ignoring God’s law by action or neglect or by tolerating wrongdoing—being unrestrained by His commands and His will]. 5 You know that **He appeared** [in visible form as a man] **in order to take away sins; and in Him there is** [absolutely] **no sin** [for He has neither the sin nature nor has He committed sin or acts worthy of blame]. 6 **No one who abides in Him** [who remains united in fellowship with Him—deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] **practices sin.** No one who habitually sins has seen Him or known Him. 7 Little children (believers, dear ones), do not let anyone lead you astray. **The one who practices righteousness** [the one who strives to live a consistently honorable life—in private as well as in public—and to conform to God’s precepts] **is righteous, just as He is righteous.**
- 111 With 1 Timothy 1:9-10 alluding to the ten commandments, would not verse 5 imply that these commandments are on the hearts and in the conscience of the righteous ones who do not violate the commandments? In doing so, can it be truly said that he was referring to the traditions and doctrines of MEN (which later became known as Rabbinic Judaism)? Is not Paul emphasizing the importance of observing the law of God by briefly listing the bad things that are done when people do not obey the commandments? In proving that the law is good by listing that violators are dishonorable (against the fifth commandment), murderous (against the sixth commandment), whoremongering (against the seventh commandment), thieving (against the eighth commandment), lying (against the ninth commandment), and contrarians (against the tenth commandment), do you not suppose that the ones whom he calls “unholy” are violating the only commandment which (not only) uses the word “holy” (but also uses it twice), (which would be the fourth commandment regarding the Sabbath)? (1 Timothy 1:5-11; Exodus 20:2-17)
- a. **1 Timothy 1: 5-11** 5 Now the end ^[aim, goal, purpose] **of the commandment is charity** ^[agape] **out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:** 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; 7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. [8 Now we know [without any doubt] that **the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully and appropriately,** 9 understanding the fact that **law is not enacted for the righteous person** [the one in right standing with God], [The terrible enumeration of sins and sinners in these 9th and 10th verses, while following the order of the ancient Tables of Sinai, seems to allude pointedly to the vices especially prevalent in that day in the great centres of the Roman empire.] **but for lawless** ^[459- anomos: lawless, without law; “no-law,” i.e. lawless disregard for proper authority] **and rebellious** ^[506 anupotaktos: not subject to rule; not submissive; disobedient (unruly), unwilling to come under Christ’s Lordship; refusing to “fall in line with” (fit in with) God’s plan; uncooperative, with a defiant attitude towards duly-appointed authority; uncontrollable, refractory (unsubdued); anti-authoritarian (rebellious).] **people, for the ungodly** ^[765 asebeis: ungodly, impious; destitute of reverential awe toward God, contemning God, impious; lack of reverence (“without due respect”), i.e. failing to honor what is sacred – especially in the outward (ceremonial) sense.] **and sinful** ^[unite irreligion and contempt for all sacred things], **for the unholy** ^[462. anosios- irreverent; utter disregard of what is sacred, i.e. willful (arrogant) disrespect of the things of God; “impious; wicked” (J. Thayer).] **and profane** ^[952 bebēlos: permitted to be trodden, by impl. unallowed; accessible; (“profane because of improper entrance”) refers to people unfit to access (know) God, because they approach Him apart from faith], [includes the prohibitions of the first four Commandments (the First Table, as it is termed), where sins against God are especially dwelt upon. The sins against man, which form the subject of the prohibitions of the Second Table (Commandments Five to Ten), are included in the following enumeration of wrong-doers.] **for those who kill** ^[smiters or ill-users of] **their fathers or mothers** ^[the Fifth Commandment], **for murderers** ^[the Sixth Commandment], **10 for sexually**

immoral persons ^[the Seventh Commandment], **for homosexuals, for kidnappers** ^[the Eighth Commandment], **and slave traders** ^[i.e. those who exploit other people for evil or selfish reasons.], **for liars** ^[the Ninth Commandment], **for perjurers—and for whatever else** ^[the Tenth Commandment] **is contrary to sound doctrine,**

11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted. **Exodus 20:2-17 2 “I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself any idol, or any likeness (form, manifestation) of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth [as an object to worship]. 5 You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous (impassioned) God** ^[God does not tolerate the transfer of the honor and worship that is due Him to any other being or object.] **[demanding what is rightfully and uniquely mine],** visiting (avenging) the iniquity (sin, guilt) of the fathers on the children [that is, calling the children to account for the sins of their fathers], to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing graciousness and steadfast lovingkindness to thousands [of generations] of those who love Me and keep My commandments. 7 **“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain** [that is, irreverently, in false affirmations or in ways that impugn the character of God]; for the Lord will not hold guiltless nor leave unpunished the one who takes ^[Using the name of God in a casual, frivolous way establishes a mindset that diminishes and dishonors the omnipotent God. Using the name of God to abuse, manipulate, or deceive invites judgment.] His name in vain [disregarding its reverence and its power]. 8 **“Remember the Sabbath (seventh) day to keep it holy** (set apart, dedicated to God). 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath [a day of rest dedicated] to the Lord your God; on that day you shall not do any work, you or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock or the temporary resident (foreigner) who stays within your [city] gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day. That is why **the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy** [that is, set it apart for His purposes].

12 **“Honor** (respect, obey, care for) **your father and your mother**, so that your days may be prolonged in the land the Lord your God gives you. 13 **“You shall not commit murder** (unjustified, deliberate homicide). 14 **“You shall not commit adultery** ^[Jesus amplified this commandment in Matt 5:27, 28. Not only is adultery forbidden, but also any act of sexual impurity or unchastity, and any form of pornography or other obscenity.] 15 **“You shall not steal** [secretly, openly, fraudulently, or through carelessness]. 16 **“You shall not testify falsely** [that is, lie, withhold, or manipulate the truth] against your neighbor (any person). 17 **“You shall not covet** [that is, selfishly desire and attempt to acquire] your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

112 Would Jesus have called Himself the Lord of the Sabbath if He intended on replacing Sabbath with Sunday? Why would Jesus call Himself Lord of the Sabbath if He intended on doing away with it? (Luke 6:5; Matthew 12:8)

a. **Luke 6:5** Jesus was saying to them, **“The Son of Man (the Messiah) is Lord [even] of the Sabbath.”; Matthew 12:8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”**

113 Why would Jesus warn people to pray that their flight would not be on the Sabbath day, like about 40 years before the Temple was destroyed, if His fulfillment meant the ending of Sabbath observance? And, if Matthew 24 refers to our times, is this an indication that Sabbath observance even more critical? (Matthew 24:20; Matthew 5:17-20)

a. **Matthew 24:20 20 Pray that your flight** [from persecution and suffering] **will not be in winter, or on a Sabbath** ^[when Jewish laws prohibit travel].

Matthew 5:17-20 17 “Do not think that I came to do away with or undo the Law ^[i.e. the Pentateuch.] **[of Moses] or the [writings of the] Prophets; I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** 18 For I assure you and most solemnly say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke [of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things [which it foreshadows] are accomplished. 19 So whoever breaks one of the least [important] of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least [important] in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever practices and teaches them, he will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness (uprightness, moral essence) is more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

114 Did Jesus need to create a new religion in order to bring the Gentiles into the fold of God? (John 10:16; John 17:11, 20-23; Numbers 15:15-16)

a. **John 10:16 16 I have other** ^[i.e. the Gentiles.] **sheep** [beside these] that are not of this fold. I must bring those also, and they will listen to My voice and pay attention to My call, and they will become one ^[Jews and Gentiles will be joined through their personal belief in Jesus. The revelation that God intended to unite the Jews and Gentiles into one body of believers was a difficult concept to accept for many in the early church.] **flock with one Shepherd.** **John 17:11, 20-23 11 I am no longer in the world;**

yet they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, so that they may be one just as We are. 20 “I do not pray for these alone [it is not for their sake only that I make this request], but also for [all] those who [will ever] believe and trust in Me through their message, 21 that they all may be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe [without any doubt] that You sent Me. 22 I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected and completed into one, so that the world may know [without any doubt] that You sent Me, and [that You] have loved them, just as You have loved Me. Numbers 15:15-16 15 “The community will have the same rule for you as well as for the resident outsider. It will be a lasting statute throughout your generations. As for you, so for the outsider will it be before Adonai. 16 The same Torah and the same regulations will apply to both you and the outsider residing among you.”

115 If Communion - which is linked to the Passover - is to replace the recognition of the resurrection, how then is the Feast of Firstfruits to be acknowledged? (Leviticus 23:1-11, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

a. **Leviticus 23:1-11 1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. 3 ‘Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. 4 ‘These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. 5 On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover. 6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. 7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary [occupational] work on it. 8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.’ ” 9 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen [Died] asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.**

116 Does attempting to replace the Sabbath with the first (or eighth, as some may call it) day, downplay or negate the recognition of the power of the Resurrection and Messiah as the Firstfruits of the Resurrection? (Leviticus 23:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

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117 Since the Passover, foreshadowing Messiah's death, is an annual Feast, why would not the Feast of Firstfruits, foreshadowing Messiah's resurrection and the promise of the resurrection of the Saints, also be an annual Feast? Did Messiah die and rise from the dead once and for all (foreshadowed in an annual feast) or multiple times (foreshadowed in weekly feasts)? (Leviticus 23:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

a. **Leviticus 23:1-11 1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. 3 ‘Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. 4 ‘These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. 5 On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover. 6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. 7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary [occupational] work on it. 8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.’ ” 9 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen [Died] asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also**

- came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits**, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.
- 118 Is it not better to live in the light of an inconvenient truth than to continue to walk in the darkness of a lie? (John 8:31-32; John 12:44-50; John 3:17-22; John 8:12)
- a. **John 8:31-32** 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**; **John 12:44-50** 44 Then Jesus cried out and said, **"He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. 46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe [NU keep them], I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."**; **John 3:17-21** 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 **"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."** **John 8:12** 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."**
- 119 Jesus Himself said to keep the commandments. When asked, Jesus rattles off several, but not the Sabbath. Does that mean we are NOT supposed to keep the Sabbath in the New Testament? Well, let's look a little closer. Jesus lists (in order) the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and fifth commandments. So, does that mean, on top of the fourth commandment to remember the Sabbath, we are also free to dismiss, ignore, or not keep the tenth commandment to not covet, the first commandment that the Lord [YHWH] is our God [Eloheka] before Whom we are to have no other gods, the second commandment to not make idols, and the third commandment to not take His name in vain nor bring to nothing? (Matthew 19:16-19)
- a. **Matthew 19:16-19** 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, **"Good [NU omits Good] Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"** 17 So He said to him, [NU Why do you ask Me about what is good?] **"Why do you call Me good? [NU There is One who is good. But] No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."** 18 He said to Him, **"Which ones?"** Jesus said, **"You shall not murder," "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," 19 "Honor your father and your mother,"** and, **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**
- 120 Can it not be said that God demonstrated the first week and recorded it? Can it not be said that God, through Jesus, demonstrated how to keep the Sabbath? Can it not further be said that God emphasized the Sabbath through Jesus' saying that the Son of man (Jesus Himself) is Lord of the Sabbath?
- a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions
- 121 As the seventh day of Creation, is not the Sabbath day just as much a part of the Creation story as the rest of Creation itself? Is it not foundational to scripture and to our existence? We could have had 5 weeks of 6 days every month, and an extra week at the end. [6 days * 5 weeks = 30 days. 30 days * 12 months = 360 days. Then add 5 or 6 days each year, or something similar.] BUT the Lord made the 7th day for us. Yet, has not the Sabbath been just as much under attack as the creation of Adam and Eve and the family unit of one man and one woman united in marriage has been under attack? Is it not another attack of our foundation? Has some 1700-odd years of religious tradition, legalized and enforced by a particular group, hindered our ability to see the attack on Sabbath as an attack on a foundation established at Creation? (Psalm 118:22-24; Isaiah 28:16)
- a. **Psalm 118:22-24** 22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. 23 This was the Lord's doing [Lit. This is from the Lord]; It is marvelous in our eyes. 24 **This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it;** **Isaiah 28:16** 16 Therefore thus said the Adon YHWH, **"See, I am laying in Tsiyon Zion a Stone for a foundation, a tried Stone, a precious Corner-stone, a settled secure foundation, firmly placed. He who trusts [believes in, relies on, and adheres to that Stone, Yahushua Mashiah] shall not hasten away be disturbed or give way [in sudden panic]."**
- 122 Where in Scripture, where in the Word of God, does it say that God blessed any other day of the week, that God made holy any other day of the week, to be recurring week-in, week-out? Even though holy things may have happened on other days, please show me where in scripture – other than the seventh day Sabbath – that God instructs His people to hallow (keep holy, sanctify) any other day of the week on a weekly basis? Can anyone say that God specifically said – recorded – that a specific day, week in and week out, (other than the Sabbath) is blessed? Why resist God in this? What is the enemy trying to keep us from? What blessings is the enemy trying to keep us from experiencing, besides the blessings that come with full obedience? (Genesis 2:1-3; Isaiah 58:13-14)
- a. **Genesis 2:1-3** So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and **He rested (ceased)** [sabbath] on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified** [qadesh] it [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it **He rested** [sabbath] from all His work which He had created and done.; **Isaiah 58:13-14** 13 **"If you turn back your foot from [unnecessary travel on] {turn back your foot from the Sabbath can be interpreted as an idiom referring to keeping oneself from violating the Sabbath in other ways} the Sabbath, From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a [spiritual] delight, and the holy day of the Lord honorable, And honor it, not going your own way Or engaging in [lit. finding] your own pleasure Or speaking your own [idle] words, 14 Then you will take pleasure in the Lord, And I will make you ride on the high places of the earth, And I will feed you with the [promised] heritage of Jacob your father; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."**
- 123 Was not Sabbath part of Creation - that is, did it not originate during the 7 days of Creation? (Genesis 1:31-2:3; Exodus 20:11)
- a. **Genesis 1:31-2:3** 31 **God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good** and He validated it completely. **And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.** 1 So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And by the seventh day **God** completed His work which He had done, and **He rested (ceased)** [sabbath] **on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.** 3 So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified** [qadesh] it [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it He rested [sabbath] from all His work which He had created and done.; **Exodus 20:11** 11 **For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy** [that is, set it apart for His purposes].
- 124 Is it not just as foundational, in the order of things as humanity being created male and female and marriage being between man and woman? (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:21-24)
- a. **Genesis 1:26-28** 26 Then God said, **"Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness** [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness], and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps and crawls on the earth." 27 So **God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.** 28 And God blessed them [granting them certain authority] and said to them, **"Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subjugate it [putting it under your power]; and rule over (dominate) the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living thing that moves upon the earth."** **Genesis 2:21-24** 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 And the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man **He made (fashioned, formed) into a woman, and He brought her and presented her to the man.** 23 Then Adam said, **"This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."** 24 **For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**
- 125 To Women: How many married women received engagement rings before you got married? So after you got married, and you put on your wedding ring, after that ... What did you do with your engagement ring? Do you wear it, or did you throw it away, or what happened to it? [The assumption is that women wear their jewelry. These questions may not make sense for women who do not wear jewelry or rings.]
- a. Example - personal - no verses
- 126 To Men: How many married men gave their women engagement rings before you got married? After you got married, and your bride put on her wedding ring, what did she do with the engagement ring? Does she wear it, or did she throw it away, or what happened to it? [The assumption is that women wear their jewelry. These questions may not make sense for women who do not wear jewelry or rings.]
- a. Example - personal - no verses
- 127 To Women: Wasn't the engagement ring just a mere **symbol** of a promise (of marriage) that you already received? So why keep wearing it? The wedding ring's the one that matters, right? – or are both just symbols?
- a. Example - personal - no verses
- 128 To Men: Wasn't the engagement ring just a mere **symbol** of a promise (of marriage) that you already performed? So why should she keep wearing it? The wedding ring's the one that matters, right? – or are both just symbols?
- a. Example - personal - no verses
- 129 Without the marital relationship, the symbol's just a shiny hollow object, right? But married women who have both usually wear both, don't they?
- a. Example - personal - no verses

- 130 Why would you want to wear a reminder of your bondage to another person? You're not free! You're bound to that person, so aren't those wedding rings just reminders of your bondage?
- Example - personal - no verses [Asked in mock tone ...]
- 131 If the symbol of the wedding ring is for others to see that you're married, is it bad for others to see that you keep the Sabbath? Are you concerned about being asked if you are Jewish or an Adventist? Can you see Shabbat is like a symbol for a future relationship with YHWH? Can you not rather proudly (yet, humbly) show the Sabbath-keeping off as a prize of beauty and declare it to be a weekly date with your Maker Who espoused you to Himself and a reminder of a future eternal rest? Why would we want to risk forgetting His precious promises just to blend in with others?
- Example - personal - no verses
- 132 Why then is it considered a good thing to throw out the symbol of the weekly Sabbath that was included in the very Ark of the Covenant kept in the Holy of Holies? (Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 25:8-10, 16-17, 21-22, 40; Hebrews 4:9-10; Hebrews 10:16)
- Exodus 20:8-11** 8 **“Remember the Sabbath (seventh) day to keep it holy (set apart, dedicated to God). 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath [a day of rest dedicated] to the Lord your God; on that day you shall not do any work, you or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock or the temporary resident (foreigner) who stays within your [city] gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy [that is, set it apart for His purposes].; Exodus 25:8-10, 16-17, 21-22, 40** 8 Have them **build a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them. 9 You shall construct it in accordance with everything that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture.** 10 **“They shall make an ark of acacia wood two and a half cubits** [Ancient measurements like the cubit were intended to be practical in that they usually were equivalent to something that was handy and readily available. The cubit was the distance from the elbow to the outstretched fingers, and the hand width (v 25)—as its name implies—was the width of the four fingers.] long, one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high. ... 16 **You shall put into the ark the Testimony (Ten Commandments) which I will give you.** 17 **“You shall make a mercy** [This was a special cover serving as the place of atonement for sin, where the high priest would sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice to reconcile the Israelites to God.] seat (cover) of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. ... 21 **You shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony which I will give you. 22 There I will meet with you; from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, I will speak [intimately] with you regarding every commandment that I will give you for the Israelites. ... 40 See that you make them [exactly] after their pattern which was shown to you on the mountain.; Hebrews 4:9-10** 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.; **Hebrews 10:16** 16 **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.”**
- 133 God explicitly blessed the Levites to serve Him. Later, God repented of applying that blessing to Eli's descendants. God explicitly blessed the seed of Abraham through Isaac. Isaac had the twins, Esau and Jacob. Later, God renounced the blessings to Esau and kept them from applying to Esau. God went through the trouble of explicitly renouncing blessings on what (i.e., whom) He had previously blessed. Because God explicitly blessed and made holy the Sabbath day, would He not have to explicitly curse the Sabbath day, profane it, or, at a minimum, explicitly bless the first day if we were to [if He expected us to] regard the first day as holy on the same level as the Sabbath? Where is it in scripture that He explicitly renounced the blessing over the seventh day sabbath? Where? Where? (Exodus 28:1; Exodus 29:9; Numbers 25:10-13; 1 Samuel 2:27-30; Genesis 17:19; Genesis 25:23; Malachi 1:2-4; Romans 9:12-15)
- Exodus 28:1** **“Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.; Exodus 29:9** 9 And you shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and put the hats on them. **The priesthood shall be theirs for a perpetual statute.** So you shall consecrate Aaron and his sons.; **Numbers 25:10-13** 10 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 11 **“Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. 12 Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; 13 and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement** [Lit. covering; i.e. reconciled the Israelites to God] for the children of Israel.”; 1 **Samuel 2:27-30** 27 Then a man of God (prophet) came to Eli and said to him, **“Thus says the Lord: ‘Did I not plainly reveal Myself to the house of your father (ancestor) when they were in Egypt in bondage to Pharaoh's house? 28 Moreover, I selected him** [From the tribe of Levi God designated Aaron and his descendants to serve as priests.] **out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to go up to My altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before Me. And [from then on] I gave to the house of your father all the fire offerings of the sons of Israel. 29 Why then do you kick at (despise) My sacrifice and My offering which I commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, by fattening yourselves with the choicest part of every offering of My people Israel?’ 30 Therefore the Lord God of Israel declares, ‘I did indeed say that your house and that of [Aaron] your father would walk [in priestly service] before Me forever.’ But now the Lord declares, ‘Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be insignificant and contemptible.** [NKJV ‘Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.]; **Genesis 17:19** 19 But God said, **“No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed, and you shall name him Isaac (laughter); and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his descendants [seed] after him; Genesis 25:23** 23 And the Lord said to her: **“Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”; Malachi 1:2-4** 2 **“I have loved you,” says the Lord.** [The first in a series of sarcastic questions spread throughout this book beginning with “But you say.”] you say, “How and in what way have You loved us?” “Was not Esau Jacob's brother?” declares the Lord. **“Yet I loved Jacob (Israel); 3 but** [in comparison with My love for Jacob] **I have hated Esau (Edom), and I have made his mountains a wasteland, and have given his inheritance to the jackals of the wilderness.” 4 Though [impoverished] Edom says, “We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins.” Thus says the Lord of hosts, “They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the Wicked Territory, the people against whom the Lord is indignant forever.”; Romans 9:12-15** 12 It was said to her [Rebekah], **“The older shall serve the younger.”** 13 As it is written, **“Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”** 14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! 15 For He says to Moses, **“I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”**
- 134 Where is the verse which explicitly states that, after about four thousand years, God repented of blessing the [seventh day] Sabbath and calling it holy and decided to curse it, call it evil, and command us to keep Sunday as blessed and holy? While the passage in Isaiah 1:10-15 might at first seem to indicate that God is cursing the Sabbath, doesn't a closer look at both the context (that the complaint is on HOW these activities are observed) and subsequent passages in this verse appear to reveal that God wanted people to keep His Sabbaths according to His instructions instead of according to man's traditions? (Isaiah 1:10-15; Isaiah 56:1-8; Isaiah 58:13-14; Isaiah 66:23)
- Isaiah 1:10-15** 10 Hear the word of the Lord [rulers of Jerusalem], You rulers of [another] Sodom, Listen to the law and instruction of our God, You people of [another] Gomorrah. 11 **“What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me [without your repentance]?”** Says the Lord. **“I have had enough of [your] burnt offerings of rams And the fat of well-fed cattle [without your obedience]; And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls or lambs or goats [offered without repentance]. 12 “When you come to appear before Me, Who requires this of you, this trampling of My [temple] courts [by your sinful feet]? 13 **“Do not bring worthless offerings again, [Your] incense is repulsive to Me; [Your] New Moon and Sabbath [observances], the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure wickedness [your sin, your injustice, your wrongdoing] and [the squalor of] the festive assembly. 14 “I hate [the hypocrisy of] your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts. They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 “So when you spread out your hands [in prayer, pleading for My help], I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you offer many prayers, I will not be listening. Your hands are full of blood!; Isaiah 56:1-8** This is what the Lord says, **“Maintain justice and do righteousness, For My salvation is soon to come, And My righteousness and justice is soon to be revealed. 2 **“Blessed (happy, fortunate) is the man who does this, And the son of man who takes hold of it, Who keeps the Sabbath without profaning it, And keeps his hand from doing any evil.”** 3 Do not let the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, “The Lord will most certainly separate me from His people.” And do not let the eunuch say, “Look, I am a dry tree.” 4 This is what the Lord says, **“To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths And choose what pleases Me, And hold firmly to My covenant, 5 To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off. 6 “Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord, To be His servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath without profaning it And holds fast to My covenant [by conscientious obedience]; 7 All these I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted** [Or win favor.] on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.” 8 The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares: **“I will gather yet others to them (Israel), to those [already] gathered.”; Isaiah 58:13-14** 13 **“If you turn back your foot from** [The ancient rabbis established strict limits for travel on the Sabbath, excepting unintentional violations and religious errands. This verse became a rabbinic proof text to rule on whether a person who had put one foot beyond the Sabbath limit for his city could reenter the city. But the Hebrew text may not refer to travel at all; turn back your foot from the Sabbath can be interpreted as an idiom referring to keeping oneself from violating the Sabbath in other ways.] [unnecessary travel on] the Sabbath, From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a **[spiritual] delight, and the holy day of the Lord honorable, And honor it, not going your own way Or engaging [Lit finding.] in your own pleasure Or speaking your own [idle] words, 14 Then you will take pleasure in the Lord, And I will make you ride on the high places of the earth, And I will feed you with the [promised] heritage of Jacob your father; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”; Isaiah 66:23******

- 23 “And it shall be that from New Moon to New Moon And **from Sabbath to Sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down and worship before Me,**” says the Lord.
- 135 Is it not important for God to explicitly repent of, renounce, remove, etc. His blessing over something that He previously blessed if He no longer wishes to bless it and/or announce, declare, decree, proclaim, etc. His blessing over something previously unblessed? Otherwise, are not His people in danger of inadvertently blessing something He no longer blesses (or that He has cursed) or in danger of cursing something He has decided to bless? (Proverbs 18:20-21; Numbers 23:7-8, 19-20; Numbers 22:6; Genesis 27:33; Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 5:20)
- a. **Proverbs 18:20-21** 20 A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. 21 **Death and life are in the power of the tongue.** And those who love it will eat its fruit.; **Numbers 23:7-8, 19-20** 7 And he took up his oracle ^[prophetic discourse] and said: “Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the east. ‘Come, curse Jacob for me, And come, denounce Israel!’ 8 “**How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?** ... 19 “**God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent.** Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? 20 Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.; **Numbers 22:6** 6 Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for **I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.**”; **Genesis 27:33** 33 Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and **I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.**”; **Genesis 12:1-3** Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; **I will bless you** And make your name great; **And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;** And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”; **Isaiah 5:20** 20 **Woe (judgment is coming) to those who call evil good, and good evil;** Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
- 136 Are we not insulting the intelligence of the Jewish people when we Westernize and paganize their Messiah? How can we expect to win the Jewish people to Yahshua (our Jesus) when we live like Messiah (our Christ) taught us to violate the Word of God?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 137 What if, in returning to Sabbath day observance, we can show more clearly and demonstrate to the lost Jewish people that Christianity is not something to be abhorred and shunned by the Jews, but that Christianity is the fullness of Judaism in its purest form from YHWH Himself?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 138 What if in that way we can demonstrate Messiah to them and cause many more of them that have yet to convert, or that had not converted to convert – to accept Messiah as their salvation?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 139 What if it’s just that simple? What if we can help reap a harvest of Jewish people first, then Gentiles, simply by keeping the Sabbath holy, as given in the commandments that Yahshua came—not to destroy, but—to fulfill?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 140 If one sign of unbelief is disobedience, then are we not in danger of **not** entering into His rest because of disobedience? And in what way are we to practice on earth walking in His rest but to observe **HIS** rest? (Hebrews 3:7-19; Hebrews 4:4-11)
- a. **Hebrews 3:7-19** 7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will **hear His voice,** 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘**They always go astray in their heart,** And they have not known My ways.’ 11 So I swore in My wrath, ‘**They shall not enter My rest.**’” 12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort ^[encourage] one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with **those who sinned,** whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 **And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?** 19 So we see that **they could not enter in because of unbelief.** **Hebrews 4:4-11** 4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “**And God rested on the seventh day from all His works**”; 5 and again in this place: “**They shall not enter My rest.**” 6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and **those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience,** 7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” 8 For if Joshua ^[Gr. Jesus, same as Heb. Joshua] had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 **There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.** 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. 11 Let us therefore **be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.**
- 141 Are we to truly believe that God would create a day of REST to be BURDENSOME? Or are we to be more like Mary (as opposed to Martha) on the day of rest? Are we not supposed to REST and enjoy sitting at His feet (recognizing His Lordship) and learning from Him (reading His Word, fellowshiping with others, etc.)? (Genesis 2:1-3; Deuteronomy 30:8-11; 1 John 5:2-4; Luke 10:38-42)
- a. **Genesis 2:1-3** So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And by the **seventh day** God completed His work which He had done, and **He rested (ceased)** ^[sabbath] on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified** ^[qadesh] it [as His own, that is, **set it apart as holy** from other days], because in it **He rested** ^[sabbath] from all His work which He had created and done.; **Deuteronomy 30:8-11** 8 And you shall again listen to and obey the voice of the Lord, and do all His commandments which I command you today. 9 Then the Lord your God shall make you abundantly prosperous in everything [Lit all the work of your hand.] that you do, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your land; for the Lord will again delight over you for good, just as He delighted over your fathers, 10 if you listen to and obey the voice of the Lord your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul (your entire being). 11 “For this **commandment which I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you,** nor is it out [Lit far off.] of reach.; **1 John 5:2-4** 2 By this we know [without any doubt] that we love the children of God: [expressing that love] **when we love God and obey His commandments.** 3 For the [true] love of God is this: **that we habitually keep His commandments** and remain focused on His precepts. **And His commandments and His precepts are not difficult [to obey].** 4 For everyone [M your] born of God is victorious and overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world—our [continuing, persistent] faith [in Jesus the Son of God].; **Luke 10:38-42** 38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called **Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.** 40 But **Martha was distracted with much serving,** and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 **But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.**”
- 142 Are the Lord of the Harvest or lord of the vineyard passages referring to Jesus, the Father, or someone else? (Matthew 9:38; Matthew 20:8; 21:40; Mark 12:9; Luke 10:2; Luke 20:13, 15; John 15:1)
- a. **Matthew 9:38** ³⁸ Therefore pray the **Lord of the harvest** to send out laborers into His harvest.”; Matthew 20:8 ⁸ “When evening came, the **owner of the vineyard** said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last [to be hired] and ending with the first [to be hired].’; **Matthew 21:40** ⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the **owner of the vineyard** comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”; **Mark 12:9** ⁹ “Therefore what will the **owner of the vineyard** do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others.; **Luke 10:2** ² He was saying to them, “The harvest is abundant [for there are many who need to hear the good news about salvation], but the workers [those available to proclaim the message of salvation] are few. Therefore, [prayerfully] ask the **Lord of the harvest** to send out workers into His harvest.; **Luke 20:13, 15** ¹⁵ Then the **owner of the vineyard** said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will have respect for him.’ ... ¹⁵ So they threw the son out of the vineyard and killed him. What, then, will the **owner of the vineyard** do to them?; **John 15:1** “I am the true vine, and **My Father is the vinedresser.**
- 143 When Jesus mentions the “Son of man” or the “Son of God” in the Gospels, is He not usually referring to Himself? When three of the Gospels show Jesus saying that the Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath, isn’t Jesus referring to Himself? Is there any other commandment that Jesus expressly calls Himself Lord of? What other things does Jesus Himself expressly call Himself Lord of, besides the Sabbath? Is there any other day of the week that Jesus calls Himself Lord of? (Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5)
- a. **Matthew 12:8** For the **Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.**; **Mark 2:28** Therefore the **Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**; **Luke 6:5** And he said unto them, That **the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**
- 144 How can one attack the Sabbath without (at least, indirectly) attacking the Lord of the Sabbath? (Isaiah 56:2-7; Leviticus 19:1-3; Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5; Ezekiel 20:12-24; Ezekiel 23:36-39)
- a. **Isaiah 56:2-7** 2 “**Blessed (happy, fortunate) is the man who does this, And the son of man who takes hold of it, Who keeps the Sabbath without profaning it, And keeps his hand from doing any evil.**” 3 Do not let the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, “The Lord will most certainly separate me from His people.” And do not let the eunuch say, “Look, I am a dry tree.” 4 This is what the Lord says, “**To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths And choose what pleases Me, And hold firmly to My covenant,** 5 To them **I will give in My**

house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off. 6 “Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord, To be His servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath without profaning it And holds fast to My covenant [by conscientious obedience]; 7 All these I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted ^[Or win favor.] on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”; **Leviticus 19:1-3** 1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. 3 Each of you shall respect [Lit fear; the Hebrew can refer to respect or reverence as essentially healthy forms of fear.] his mother and his father, and you shall keep My Sabbaths; I am the Lord your God.; **Matthew 12:8** For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.; **Mark 2:28** Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.; **Luke 6:5** And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.; **Ezekiel 20:12-24** 12 Also I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know [without any doubt] that I am the Lord who sanctifies them (separates and sets them apart). 13 But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness. They did not walk in My statutes and they despised and rejected My ordinances, which, if a man keeps, he will live; and they greatly profaned My Sabbaths. Then I decided to pour out My wrath on them in the wilderness, to annihilate them. 14 But I acted for My Name’s sake, that it would not be profaned in the sight of the [pagan] nations in whose sight I had brought them out [of slavery]. 15 I also swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, [a land of plenty] flowing with milk and honey, which is the ornament and glory of all lands, 16 because they rejected My ordinances, and as for My statutes, they did not walk in them; they even profaned My Sabbaths, for their heart continually went after their [worthless] idols. 17 Yet My eye [looked on them with compassion and] spared them instead of destroying them, and I did not annihilate them in the wilderness. 18 “But I said to their children in the wilderness, ‘Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers nor observe their ordinances nor defile yourselves with their idols. 19 I am the Lord your God; walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and observe them. 20 Sanctify My Sabbaths and keep them holy; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that you may know [without any doubt] that I am the Lord your God.’ 21 Yet the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, nor were they careful to observe My ordinances, which, if a man keeps, he will live; they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I decided to pour out My wrath on them and finish My anger against them in the wilderness. 22 Yet I withdrew My hand and acted for My Name’s sake, that it would not be profaned in the sight of the [pagan] nations in whose sight I had brought them out [of slavery]. 23 Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the [Gentile] nations and disperse them among the countries, 24 because they had not observed My ordinances, but had [dishonored and] rejected My statutes and had profaned My Sabbaths, and set their eyes on the [man-made] idols of their fathers.; **Ezekiel 23:36-39** 36 Moreover, the Lord said to me, “Son of man, will you judge **Oholah (Samaria, capital of Israel)** and **Oholibah (Jerusalem, capital of Judah)**? Then inform them of their atrocities [the detestable and vile things they do]. 37 For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery ^[commandment # 7] [against Me] with their idols ^[commandment # 2] and have even forced their sons, whom they bore to Me, to pass through the fire as [an offering of] food to them (idols). 38 Moreover, they have done this to Me: they have defiled My sanctuary on the same day [of their idolatries] and have profaned My Sabbaths ^[commandment # 4]. 39 For when they had killed their children ^[commandment # 6] [as offerings] to their idols, then they came the same day to My sanctuary to profane it [by daring to offer a sacrifice there also]. And behold, this they did within My house.

- 145 When we call the command that God made for us and wants us to delight in a burden, are we calling good evil? (Mark 2:27, Isaiah 58:13; Isaiah 5:20)
- a. **Mark 2:27** 27 Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.; **Isaiah 58:13-14** 13 “If you turn back your foot from [unnecessary travel on] ^{turn back your foot from the Sabbath can be interpreted as an idiom referring to keeping oneself from violating the Sabbath in other ways} the Sabbath, From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a [spiritual] delight, and the holy day of the Lord honorable, And honor it, not going your own way Or engaging in [lit. finding] your own pleasure Or speaking your own [idle] words, 14 Then you will take pleasure in the Lord, And I will make you ride on the high places of the earth, And I will feed you with the [promised] heritage of Jacob your father; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”; **Isaiah 5:20** 20 Woe (judgment is coming) to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
- 146 When we refuse to delight in the Sabbath, are we unknowingly refusing to delight in the Lord of the Sabbath? Are we hindering ourselves from being granted the desires of our heart by not delighting in the Lord of the Sabbath? (Isaiah 58:13; Luke 6:5; Matthew 12:8; Psalm 37:4)
- a. **Isaiah 58:13-14** 13 “If you turn back your foot from [unnecessary travel on] ^{turn back your foot from the Sabbath can be interpreted as an idiom referring to keeping oneself from violating the Sabbath in other ways} the Sabbath, From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a [spiritual] delight, and the holy day of the Lord honorable, And honor it, not going your own way Or engaging in ^[lit. finding] your own pleasure Or speaking your own [idle] words, 14 Then you will take pleasure in the Lord, And I will make you ride on the high places of the earth, And I will feed you with the [promised] heritage of Jacob your father; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”; **Luke 6:5** 5 “The Son of Man (the Messiah) is Lord [even] of the Sabbath.”; **Matthew 12:8** 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”; **Psalm 37:4** 4 Delight yourself in the Lord, And He will give you the desires and petitions of your heart.
- 147 Why would we NOT honor the commandment put in the Holy of Holies of resting? Resting! On the seventh day? To be holy? To cause the Holy One to want to return to us? (Deuteronomy 4:2, 13; Deuteronomy 28:1-2; Deuteronomy 30:6-8; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Zechariah 1:3-4; James 4:6-10)
- a. **Deuteronomy 4:2, 13** 2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments ^[4687 mitswot] of YHWH your Elohêkem which I command you. ... 13 And He declared unto you His covenant ^[1285 ba-ri-tôw.] which He commanded ^[6680 siw-wâh] you to perform, even ten commandments ^[1697 had-da-bâ-rim:]; and He wrote them upon two tables of stone.; **Deuteronomy 28:1-2** 1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. **Deuteronomy 30:6, 8** 6 And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. ... 8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the Lord, and do all His commandments which I command thee this day.; **2 Chronicles 7:14** 14 and My people, who are called by My Name, humble themselves, and pray and seek (crave, require as a necessity) My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear [them] from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.; **Zechariah 1:3-4** 3 Therefore say to the Jews, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts (armies), “Return to Me,” declares the Lord of hosts, “and I shall return to you. 4 Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Repent [that is, change your way of thinking] and return now from your evil way [of life] and from your evil deeds.”’ But they did not listen or pay attention to Me,” declares the Lord. **James 4:6-10** 6 But He gives us more and more grace [through the power of the Holy Spirit to defy sin and live an obedient life that reflects both our faith and our gratitude for our salvation]. Therefore, it says, “God is opposed to the proud and haughty, but [continually] gives [the gift of] grace to the humble [who turn away from self-righteousness].” 7 So submit to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you. 8 Come close to God [with a contrite heart] and He will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; and purify your [unfaithful] hearts, you double-minded [people]. 9 Be miserable and grieve and weep [over your sin]. Let your [foolish] laughter be turned to mourning and your [reckless] joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves [with an attitude of repentance and insignificance] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [He will lift you up, He will give you purpose].
- 148 When righteous laws are transformed into a worshipful act of service inspired by love for (and from) the Lawgiver in such a way that they exceed the commandments by demonstrating their obedience through a love for YHWH Elohim with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, are not the spirit and truth of the law exemplified? (Isaiah 64:6-7; Romans 3:10-12; Isaiah 55:8-9; Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13; Deuteronomy 5:29; Hebrews 8:10-11)
- a. **Isaiah 64:6-7** 6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7 And there is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirred up himself to take hold of Thee: for Thou hast hid Thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.; **Romans 3:10-12** 10 As it is written and forever remains written, “There is none righteous [none that meets God’s standard], not even one. 11 “There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God. 12 “All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, no, not one.”; **Isaiah 55:8-9** 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.; **Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13** 2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments ^[4687 mitswot] of YHWH your Elohêkem which I command you. ... 6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes ^[2706 ha-huq-qim], and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. 7 For what nation is there so great, who hath Elohim so nigh unto them, as YHWH our Elohênu is in all things that we call upon Him for? 8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes ^[2706 huq-qim] and judgments ^[4941 ū-miš-pâ-tim] so righteous as all this law ^[8451 hat-tô-w-râh], which I set before you this day? ... 13 And He declared unto you His covenant ^[1285 ba-ri-tôw.] which He commanded ^[6680 siw-wâh] you to perform, even ten commandments ^[1697 had-da-bâ-rim:]; and He wrote them upon two tables of stone.; **Deuteronomy 5:29** O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments ^[4687 mis-wô-tay] always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!; **Hebrews 8:10-11** 10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will imprint My laws upon their minds [even upon their innermost thoughts and understanding], And engrave them upon their hearts [effecting their regeneration]. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people. 11 “And it will not be [necessary] for each one to

teach his fellow citizen, Or each one his brother, saying, 'Know [by experience, have knowledge of] the Lord,' For **all will know [Me by experience and have knowledge of] Me**, From the least to the greatest of them.

- 149 By being a disciple of Jesus out of a heart of love for God, can the love of God become completed in us through our obedient lifestyle of righteousness? (1 John 2:3-6; 1 John 3:4-8; 1 Timothy 1:5; Romans 6:17)
- a. **1 John 2:3-6** 3 And this is how we know [daily, by experience] that we have come to know Him [to understand Him and be more deeply acquainted with Him]: **if we habitually keep [focused on His precepts and obey] His commandments (teachings)**. 4 Whoever says, "I have come to know Him," but does not habitually keep [focused on His precepts and obey] His commandments (teachings), is a liar, and the truth [of the divine word] is not in him. 5 But **whoever habitually keeps His word and obeys His precepts** [and treasures His message in its entirety], **in him the love of God has truly been perfected** [it is completed and has reached maturity]. By this we know [for certain] that **we are in Him**: 6 **whoever says he lives in Christ** [that is, whoever says he has accepted Him as God and Savior] **ought** [as a moral obligation] **to walk and conduct himself just as He walked and conducted Himself.**; **1 John 3:4-8** 4 Everyone who **practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness** [ignoring God's law by action or neglect or by tolerating wrongdoing—being **unrestrained by His commands and His will**]. 5 You know that He appeared [in visible form as a man] in order to take away sins; and in Him there is [absolutely] no sin [for He has neither the sin nature nor has He committed sin or acts worthy of blame]. 6 No one who abides in Him [who remains united in fellowship with Him—deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin. No one who habitually sins has seen Him or known Him. 7 Little children (believers, dear ones), do not let anyone lead you astray. **The one who practices righteousness** [the one who strives to live a consistently honorable life—in private as well as in public—and to conform to God's precepts] **is righteous, just as He is righteous**. 8 **The one who practices sin** [separating himself from God, and **offending Him by acts of disobedience, indifference, or rebellion**] is of the devil [and takes his inner character and moral values from him, not God]; for the devil **has sinned and violated God's law from the beginning**. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.; **1 Timothy 1:5** 5 Now **the end** [fulfillment, goal, purpose, completion, perfection] **of the commandment is charity** [agape] **out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.**; **Romans 6:17** 17 But thank God that though you were slaves of sin, you **became obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed**.
- 150 And why would Jesus have been obligated to repeat every single commandment to reaffirm it? How many parents want to have to repeat the instructions they tell their kids? And when they say to their child, Clean up your room, they don't want to have to say it ten times... they don't want to have to keep reminding them. They want their children to remember, and they want their children to obey, don't they?
- a. Example ~ personal - no verses
- 151 Is it not more painful for a parent to have to repeatedly tell their child, Remember to visit me and hug me and tell me you love me, than to have that child eagerly anticipating the chance to do so frequently?
- a. Example ~ personal - no verses
- 152 By placing something (rote religious practices) and/or someone (an earthly priest or religious leader) – other than Jesus Christ – as a mediator between us and the Lord, are we not at greater risk of not growing spiritually? If all we are doing spiritually is being spoon-fed [read this passage, pray this prayer, believe this way], will not our growth be limited? (John 6:45; Isaiah 2:3; Isaiah 54:13)
- a. **John 6:45** It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.; **Isaiah 2:3** Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; **He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.**" For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.; **Isaiah 54:13** All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the **peace** of your children.
- 153 If you invited me to your Thanksgiving Day meal, but I showed up the day after, do I have a reasonable right to expect that you would make another fresh meal? Or might I have missed out on some of the tastiest dishes that everyone that showed up on Thanksgiving finished off and be at the mercy of the available leftovers?
- a. Example ~ personal - no verses
- 154 Would you rather be a dog begging for table scraps? Or would you rather be a child properly seated at the banquet table of our Father, Who invites us to come and dine with Him on His day of rest? (Matthew 15:26-27)
- a. **Matthew 15:26-27** 26 And He replied, "It is not good (appropriate, fair) to take the children's [A reference to the Jewish people.] bread and throw it to the pet [Jews used kuon (dog) as a derogatory term referring to Gentiles. This dog (kuon) was a despised, filthy, homeless street scavenger. When speaking with this woman, Jesus uses a word for "dog" (kumario) that refers to a household pet. The use of the word kumariois by both Jesus and the woman reflects the tenderness and spiritual depth of this exchange. More importantly, it foreshadows the fact that Gentile believers would not be spiritually homeless, but would also be welcomed into God's household as His children. The gracious response of the woman recorded in v 27 confirms that on some level she understands this.] dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord; but even **the pet dogs eat the crumbs** that fall from their [young] masters' table."
- 155 Is not the law written on our hearts by the Spirit of the Lord so that we might not sin against the Lawgiver? Does not His Spirit teach us more and more of His law of love as we draw closer to Him?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 156 So, knowing that, what if we seek the real? What if we seek the genuine? What if we plug ourselves back into the vine – the vine of Yahshua HaMashiach (Jesus Christ), Who is the Lord of the Sabbath? (John 14:6; John 15:5-8; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Luke 6:5)
- a. **John 14:6** 6 Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**; **John 15:5-8** 5 "**I am the vine, you are the branches.** He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 **If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will** [NU omits you will] ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.**; **2 Corinthians 13:5** NLT- Examine yourselves to **see if your faith is genuine**. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.; **AMP-Test and evaluate yourselves to see whether you are in the faith** and living your lives as [committed] believers. Examine yourselves [not me]! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves [by an ongoing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test and are rejected as counterfeit?; **Luke 6:5** Jesus was saying to them, "The Son of Man (**the Messiah**) is Lord [even] of the Sabbath."
- 157 Are we not to seek the Lord for ourselves in a personal, relational way as individuals? On top of regularly gathering together, are we not to submit our conscience over to the Lord for Him to instruct us on an ongoing basis? (Jeremiah 31:33-34; John 6:45; Isaiah 2:3; Isaiah 54:13; John 14:21-26)
- a. **Jeremiah 31:33-34** 33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says the Lord, "**I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.** 34 **And each man will no longer teach his neighbor and his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me** [through personal experience], from the least of them to the greatest," says the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness, and I will no longer remember their sin.;" **John 6:45** It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.; **Isaiah 2:3** Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; **He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.**" For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.; **Isaiah 54:13** All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the **peace** of your children.; **John 14:21-26** 21 The person who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him [I will make Myself real to him]. 22 Judas (not Iscariot) asked Him, "Lord, what has happened that You are going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered, "**If anyone [really] loves Me, he will keep My word (teaching); and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling place with him.** 24 One who does not [really] love Me does not keep My words. And the word (teaching) which you hear is not Mine, but is the Father's who sent Me. 25 "I have told you these things while I am still with you. 26 **But the Helper** [Gr Paracletos, one called alongside to help.] (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), **the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name** [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], **He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.**
- 158 Does it not take at least a certain level of humility to not just go with what we think is best, but to actually take the time out to seek the Lord and to ask for His direction and His advice and His Way? (2 Chronicles 7:14; Proverbs 3:5-8)
- a. **2 Chronicles 7:14** 14 if My people who are called by My name will **humble themselves**, and pray and seek **My face**, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.; **Proverbs 3:5-8** 5 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;** 6 **In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct** [Or make smooth or straight] **your paths.** 7 **Do not be wise in your own eyes;** Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh [Body, lit. navel], And strength [Lit. drink] to your bones.
- 159 If we want full blessings, perhaps we should walk in full obedience? (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 13-14, 15, 47)
- a. **Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 13-14** 1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt **hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments** which I command thee this day, that **the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:** 2 **And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee,** if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. ... 13 **And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath;** if that thou **hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:** 14 **And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.; Deuteronomy**

- 28:15, 47** 15 But it shall come to pass, **if thou wilt not** hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to **observe to do all his commandments** and his statutes which I command thee this day; that **all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:** . . . **47 Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;**
- 160 What happened to the signs, wonders, and miracles--NOT limited to the apostles--so prevalent in the Early Church? (Acts 6:3, 5, 8, 10, 15; Acts 8:5-8, 32-35, 39-40; Mark 16:15-20; Mark 6:5)
- a. **Acts 6:3, 5, 8, 10, 15** 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven **men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business. . . . 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and **they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost**, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: . . . 8 **And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.** . . . 10 **And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.** . . . 15 **And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.** **Acts 8:5-8, 32-35, 39-40** 5 Then **Philip** went down to the city of Samaria, and **preached Christ unto them.** 6 **And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.** 7 **For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.** 8 **And there was great joy in that city.** . . . 32 The place of the **scripture which he read** was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, **I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this?** of himself, or of some other man? 35 **Then Philip** opened his mouth, and **began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.** . . . 39 And when they were come up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.** 40 **But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.** **Mark 16:15-20** 15 And He said to them, **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel** to all creation. 16 **He who has believed [in Me] and has been baptized will be saved** [from the penalty of God’s wrath and judgment]; but he who has not believed will be condemned. 17 **These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name** they will cast out demons, they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well.**” 19 So then, when the Lord **Jesus** had spoken to them, **He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.** 20 **And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord was working with them and confirming the word by the signs** that followed. **Mark 6:5** And **He could not do a miracle there at all [because of their unbelief]** except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.
- 161 What if calling the Sabbath time a delight, and actually wanting to keep it, and keeping it out of a devout love for YHWH, helps usher in the greatest move of God in miracles and signs and wonders and healings? (Isaiah 58:13-14; Psalm 37:4)
- a. **Isaiah 58:13-14** “If you turn back your foot from [unnecessary travel on] ^{turn back your foot from the Sabbath can be interpreted as an idiom referring to keeping oneself from violating the Sabbath in other ways} the Sabbath, From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, **And call the Sabbath a [spiritual] delight, and the holy day of the Lord honorable,** And honor it, not going your own way Or engaging in [lit. finding] your own pleasure Or speaking your own [idle] words, **14 Then you will take pleasure in the Lord,** And I will make you ride on the high places of the earth, And I will feed you with the [promised] heritage of Jacob your father; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”; **Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord, And He will give you the desires and petitions of your heart.**
- 162 If the Lord is our God, and we are to love Him first, and we are to love our neighbor as ourselves, and on these hang **all the law** and the prophets, does loving God and others do away with the law or fulfill the law? Since God wants us to love Him, **do we have the authority to remove the instruction to remember to spend time with our Beloved** on His date, on the date He chooses, **at the time He chooses to date us?** (Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-33)
- a. **Matthew 22:36-40** 36 “Teacher, which is **the great commandment in the law?**” 37 Jesus said to him, “You shall **love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**” 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 **And the second** is like it: “You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**” 40 **On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”;** **Mark 12:28-33** 28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving ^[NU seeing] that He had answered them well, asked Him, “**Which is the first [foremost] commandment of all?**” 29 Jesus answered him, “The first ^[foremost] of all the commandments is: ‘**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.**’ 30 **And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**’ This ^[NU omits the rest of v. 30.] is the first commandment. 31 **And the second**, like it, is this: ‘You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” 32 So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for **there is one God, and there is no other but He.** 33 **And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with [NU omits with all the soul] all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”**
- 163 Has not the enemy, the thief, stolen God’s gift to us? Is not the Sabbath a – Hey, I’m glad you’re here – gift to us? As in: “Hey, I made you. Look what I made for you. Rest. **Rest in Me. Get to know Me. Draw closer to Me. Walk with Me. Fellowship with Me.** Walk with Me. **I want a relationship with you.**”
- a. Reflective ~ personal - pleading - no verses
- 164 Perhaps honoring the Sabbath of the Lord established is only for the tribe of Issachar? Perhaps honoring the Sabbath is for all of His sons and daughters?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 165 Can we take this question before the throne of YHWH and ask Him, Are we fighting against the ten commandments revealed in the Scriptures out of **fear** of the **possibility** of being told not to eat pork, even though the ten commandments says nothing about foods? Are we allowing our appetites, our bellies, to influence our views on Scriptures?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - But consider: **Genesis 25:28** ²⁸ Now **Isaac loved Esau, because he ate his venison.** Rebekah loved Jacob.; **Genesis 27:1, 4, 33, 37** When **Isaac** was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he **called Esau** his elder son, and **said** to him, “My son?” He said to him, “Here I am.” . . . ⁴ **Make me savory venison, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat, and that my soul may bless you before I die.”** . . . ³³ Isaac trembled violently, and said, “Who, then, is he who has taken venison, and brought it to me, and **I have eaten of all before you came, and have blessed him?** Yes, **he will be blessed.”** . . . ³⁷ **Isaac answered Esau,** “Behold, **I have made him your lord,** and all his brothers I have given to him for servants. I have sustained him with grain and new wine. **What then will I do for you, my son?”;** **Hebrews 12:14-17** ¹⁴ **Follow** peace with all men, and **holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵ **Looking** diligently lest any man fail of the **grace of God**; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶ **Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.** ¹⁷ For ye know how that afterward, **when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected:** for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.; **Philippians 3:18-19** ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, as the **enemies of the cross of Christ,** ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, **whose god is the belly,** and whose glory is in their shame, who think about earthly things.
- 166 Do Christians feel that we **must refuse** to keep the Sabbath **to prove** that we are no longer under the law?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses
- 167 We all have choices in life. People still choose to murder, rape, etc. even after being advised against such. These questions are not so much meant to impose a view (any more than pointing out that violating the other 9 commandments is also not good), as much as to expose our choices to Scripture, context, and history. If we are going to choose to persist in downplaying the seventh-day Sabbath in favor of the Sunday, should we not at least do so with our eyes wide open?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 168 If I find out that my husband really dislikes me locking the inside doors of the house, should I not attempt to – unless I have some other compelling reason otherwise – should I not attempt to change my habit of locking the inside doors to please him? So, if I learn that God (YHWH) was pleased with Israel when they kept the Sabbaths, and He was displeased when they did not keep them, should I not learn from the example of the Israelites and seek to do what pleases God (YHWH)?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses referenced.
- 169 Is the God Who calls Himself a jealous God pleased when we participate in something that has its roots in honoring Sol-Invictus or honoring the anti-Jewish “venerable day of the Sun”? (Exodus 34:14; Exodus 20:5-6; Deuteronomy 4:24; 2 Corinthians 11:2)
- a. **Exodus 34:14** —for you shall not worship any other god; for **the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous** (impassioned) **God** [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]— **Exodus 20:5-6** 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For **I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,** visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. **Deuteronomy 4:24** For **the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.** **2 Corinthians 11:2** **I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy** because I have promised you to one husband, **to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.**
- 170 Is it possible that God may question whether we really love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, IF we are still clinging to practices that are contradict His word, are rooted in anti-Jewish sentiments, or whatever?

- a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions
- 171 The system of religions has promoted antisemitism (and, daresay, anti-Lord of the Sabbathism) in separating themselves from seventh-day (saturday) Sabbath observance. At what point might followers of Jesus Christ repent of systemic ongoing antisemitism?
- a. Reflective ~ personal - no verses
- 172 While the instructions to the Gentiles in Acts 15 did not include remembering the Sabbath, it also did not include to abstain from murder, bearing false witness, covetousness, etc. If one were to argue against Sabbath-keeping on just this passage, might they also be fine with believing that the Gentiles were still permitted to murder, or to lie, or to covet? Could a mitigating factor be that the Pentateuch, the books of the Law, were read and proclaimed from every Sabbath? Could it be that the apostles wanted to address the most pressing sins of the pagan practices that the new Gentile believers needed to begin changing right away, before the portions of Scripture dealing with those things could be read and proclaimed in their hearing? (Acts 15:5, 10-11, 19-21, 24, 28-29)
- a. **Acts 15:5, 10-11, 19-21, 24, 28-29** 5 But some from the sect of the Pharisees who had believed [in Jesus as the Messiah] stood up and said, “It is **necessary to circumcise the Gentile converts** and to direct them to **observe the Law of Moses.**” ... 10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a **yoke on the neck** of the disciples which **neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?** 11 But we believe that **through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved** in the same manner as they.” ... 19 Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble and make it difficult for those who are turning to God among the Gentiles [by putting obstacles in their way], 20 but that we write to them that they are to abstain from anything that has been contaminated by [being offered to] idols and from sexual impurity and from [eating the meat of] what has been strangled and from [the consumption of] blood. 21 For from ancient generations [**the writing of**] **Moses** has been preached in every city, since he is **read aloud** in the synagogues **every Sabbath.**” ... 24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “**You must be circumcised and keep the law**”—to whom we gave no such commandment— ... 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us **not to place on you any greater burden than these essentials:** 29 that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, and from [consuming] blood, and from [eating the meat of] things that have been strangled, and from sexual impurity. If you keep yourselves from these things, you will do well. Farewell.”
- 173 Since the Sabbath was first mentioned and made holy on day 7 - well before Abraham's time of the circumcision, and well before the law was given to Moses - is there any solid scriptural indication to believe that the Apostles in Acts 15 would not have assumed the Sabbath would continue to be kept? Especially when they referred to a weekly reading of Scripture on the Sabbath, where all can receive guidance in the way? (Genesis 2:1-3; Genesis 17:9-14; Exodus 20:8-11; Acts 15:21)
- a. **Genesis 2:1-3** 1 So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And **by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day** from all His work which He had done. 3 So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it** [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it He rested from all His work which He had created and done.; **Genesis 17:9-14** 9 And God said to **Abraham**: “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. 10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: **Every male child among you shall be circumcised;** 11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. 12 He who is **eight days old** among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is **born in your house or bought with money** from any foreigner who is not your descendant. 13 He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money **must be circumcised**, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 And **the uncircumcised male child**, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he **has broken My covenant.**”; **Exodus 20:8-11** 8 “**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but **the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.** In it you shall **do no work:** you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 **For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested (ceased) on the seventh day.** That is why **the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy** [that is, set it apart for His purposes].; **Acts 15:21** 21 For from ancient generations [**the writing of**] **Moses** has been preached in every city, since he is **read aloud** in the synagogues **every Sabbath.**”
- 174 There have been several ways the Gentile church has become separated from its Hebrew roots, one of which is the Sabbath. Is it not interesting that the first recorded split did not specify the Sabbath? Is it a coincidence that, at the end of the chapter discussing that first council in Jerusalem which resulted in a split between Jewish believers and Gentile believers **over circumcision (and keeping the oral traditions of Judaism)**, there was a split between Paul and Barnabas? (Acts 15:5, 10-11, 19-21, 24, 28-30; Acts 15:35-40)
- a. **Acts 15:5, 10-11, 19-21, 24, 28-30** 5 But some from the sect of the Pharisees who had believed [in Jesus as the Messiah] stood up and said, “It is **necessary to circumcise the Gentile converts** and to direct them to **observe the Law of Moses.**” ... 10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a **yoke on the neck** of the disciples which **neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?** 11 But we believe that **through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved** in the same manner as they.” ... 19 Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble and make it difficult for those who are turning to God among the Gentiles [by putting obstacles in their way], 20 but that we write to them that they are to abstain from anything that has been contaminated by [being offered to] idols and from sexual impurity and from [eating the meat of] what has been strangled and from [the consumption of] blood. 21 For from ancient generations [**the writing of**] **Moses** has been preached in every city, since he is **read aloud** in the synagogues **every Sabbath.**” ... 24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “**You must be circumcised and keep the law**”—to whom we gave no such commandment— ... 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us **not to place on you any greater burden than these essentials:** 29 that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, and from [consuming] blood, and from [eating the meat of] things that have been strangled, and from sexual impurity. If you keep yourselves from these things, you will do well. Farewell.” 30 So when they were sent off, they went down to **Antioch**; and after assembling the congregation, they delivered the letter. **Acts 15:35-40** 35 **Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch**, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. 36 Then after some days **Paul said to Barnabas**, “**Let us now go back** and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” 37 Now **Barnabas was determined to take** with them John called **Mark**. 38 But **Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed** from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. 39 Then the **contention became so sharp that they parted from one another.** And **so Barnabas took Mark** and sailed to Cyprus; 40 but **Paul chose Silas and departed**, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.
- 175 Even though there was a split between Jewish believers and Gentile believers over circumcision as necessary for salvation, God was able to bring good from it. This produced a scattering of the gospel throughout the world. But does our good Shepherd desire for us to remain scattered? Or to be brought under His fold as One? And, while mankind has added to and taken from His law in the forming of the various religions, denominations, sects, cults, etc., what law has God revealed to us? (John 10:16; John 17:11, 20-23; Ephesians 1:7-10; Deuteronomy 12:32; Numbers 15:15-16; Ephesians 2:11-18)
- a. **John 10:16** 16 I have **other sheep** ... that are not of this fold. I must bring those also, and they will listen to My voice and pay attention to My call, and they will **become one flock** with one Shepherd. **John 17:11, 20-23** 11 I am no longer in the world; yet they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, **so that they may be one just as We are.** 20 “I do not pray for these alone ... but also for [**all**] **those who [will ever] believe and trust in Me** through their message, 21 **that they all may be one;** just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, **that they also may be one in Us**, so that the world may believe ... that You sent Me. 22 I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, **that they may be one, just as We are one;** 23 I in them and You in Me, **that they may be perfected and completed into one**, so that the world may know ... that You sent Me, and [that You] have loved them, just as You have loved Me. **Ephesians 1:7-10** 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and [understanding] prudence, 9 having **made known to us the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 **that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. **Deuteronomy 12:32** 32 “**Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.**; **Numbers 15:15-16** 15 “The community will **have the same rule for you as well as for the resident outsider.** It will be a lasting statute throughout your generations. As for you, so for the outsider will it be before Adonai. 16 **The same Torah and the same regulations will apply to both you and the outsider residing among you.**” **Ephesians 2:11-18** 11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are **called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh** by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** 14 **For He Himself** is our peace, who **has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation**, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as **to create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, 16 and **that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**
- 176 Even though there was a split between Paul and Barnabas, God was able to bring good from it. Barnabas took Mark. Paul took Silas. And because Barnabas was able to spend more time mentoring Mark, in later years, Paul found Mark to be useful and beneficial to the ministry. Perhaps, by that point, Barnabas had already died? Regardless, does this not indicate a reconciliation - a returning - of what had been separated? Does not God want us

to be reconciled and walk in unity? (Acts 15:37-41; 2 Timothy 4:11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; John 17:11, 20-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 20; Ephesians 4:1-6)

- a. **Acts 15:37-40** 37 Now **Barnabas was determined to take** with them John called **Mark**. 38 **But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed** from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. 39 **Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another.** And so **Barnabas took Mark** and sailed to Cyprus; 40 **but Paul chose Silas and departed**, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.; 2 **Timothy 4:11** Only Luke is with me. **Get Mark** and bring him with you, **for he is very helpful to me** for the ministry. 2 **Corinthians 5:18-21** 18 Now all things are of **God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, 19 that is, that God was in Christ **reconciling the world {not only the Jews} to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him**. **John 17:11, 20-23** 11 I am no longer in the world; yet they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, **so that they may be one just as We are**. 20 "I do not pray for these alone ..., but also for **[all] those who [will ever] believe and trust in Me** through their message, 21 that they all may be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, **that they also may be one in Us**, so that the world may believe ... that You sent Me. 22 I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, **that they may be one, just as We are one**; 23 I in them and You in Me, **that they may be perfected and completed into one**, so that the world may know ... that You sent Me, and [that You] have loved them, just as You have loved Me. 1 **Corinthians 12:12-14, 20** 12 For just as **the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body**, so it is with Christ. 13 **For by one [Holy] Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, [spiritually transformed—united together] **whether Jews or Greeks** (Gentiles), slaves or free, **and we were all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit** [since the same Holy Spirit fills each life]. 14 **For the [human] body does not consist of one part, but of many [limbs and organs]**. ... 20 But now [as things really are] **there are many parts** [different limbs and organs], **but a single body**. **Ephesians 4:1-6** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech [encourage] you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 **endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**. 4 **There is one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 **one Lord, one faith, one baptism**; 6 **one God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- 177 Might the split in the early church have been foreshadowed in the split of the nation of Israel into the northern 10 tribes comprising the kingdom of Israel and the southern 2 tribes comprising the kingdom of Judah? After the kingdom was divided, did not the northern tribes form their own religious practices with their own feast times? Some time after the Gentiles were split from the rabbinic laws of Judaism, did not leaders come in and establish other religious practices and other "holy" days? (1 Kings 11:29-33, 38-39; 1 Kings 12:26-33)
- a. **1 Kings 11:29-33, 38-39** 29 Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. 30 Then **Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces**. 31 And he said to Jeroboam, "**Take for yourself ten pieces**, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you 32 (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), 33 because they have forsaken Me, ... and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David. ... 38 Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 39 And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever.'" 1 **Kings 12:26-33** 26 Jeroboam [doubted God's promise to him and] said in his heart, "**Now the kingdom will return to the house of David**. 27 **If these people go up to the house of the LORD in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices**, then their heart will turn to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." 28 **So the king took counsel [and followed bad advice] and made two calves of gold**. And he said to the people, "It is too much for you to go [all the way] up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." 29 He set the one [golden calf] in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now **this thing became a sin [for Israel]; because the people went to worship before the one [or the other of them] as far as Dan**. 31 And Jeroboam also made houses on high places, and he made priests from all people who were not of the sons (descendants) of Levi. 32 **Jeroboam held a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast which is kept in Judah**, and he went up to the altar; he did this in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 So he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart [in defiance of God's commandments]; and he held a feast for the Israelites and he went up to the altar to burn incense [in defiance of God's law.]
- 178 While these splits may have resulted in the dissemination of both the physical seed of Israel to the ends of the earth and the spiritual seed of the gospel into all the world, does God intend for us to remain divided? (Matthew 12:25, 30; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Luke 9:49-50; John 17:11, 20-23)
- a. **Matthew 12:25, 30** 25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "**Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation**, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ... 30 **He who is not with Me is against Me**, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. 1 **Corinthians 1:10-13** 10 But I urge you, believers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you **be in full agreement in what you say, and that there be no divisions or factions among you**, but that you **be perfectly united in your way of thinking and in your judgment** [about matters of the faith]. 11 For I have been informed about you, my brothers and sisters, by those of Chloe's household, that there are quarrels and factions among you. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you says, "I am [a disciple] of Paul," or "I am [a disciple] of Apollos," or "I am [a disciple] of Cephas (Peter)," or "I am [a disciple] of Christ." 13 **Has Christ been divided** [into different parts]? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul? [**Certainly not!**] **Luke 9:49-50** 49 Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." 50 But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for **he who is not against us is on our side**." **John 17:11, 20-23** 11 I am no longer in the world; yet they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, **so that they may be one just as We are**. 20 "I do not pray for these alone ..., but also for **[all] those who [will ever] believe and trust in Me** through their message, 21 **that they all may be one**; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, **that they also may be one in Us**, so that the world may believe ... that You sent Me. 22 I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, **that they may be one, just as We are one**; 23 I in them and You in Me, **that they may be perfected and completed into one**, so that the world may know ... that You sent Me, and [that You] have loved them, just as You have loved Me.
- 179 Did not God join the believing, "righteous" Gentiles to the Jewish believers through Messiah? Why have we allowed religious men to separate us? (Ephesians 2:11-18; Matthew 12:30)
- a. **Ephesians 2:11-18** 11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called **Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh** by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now **in Christ Jesus you** who once were far off **have been brought near by the blood of Christ**. 14 For **He Himself** is our peace, who **has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation**, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to **create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, 16 and that **He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father**; **Matthew 12:30** 30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.
- 180 Different people will have different opinions. What is the difference between legalism and keeping the law? Can the law of God be kept (like keeping a baby) while tossing the bath water of legalism? Can any one person or any one religion make that determination for every single person? Is that something each person needs to work out for themselves? Can we (learn to) cheerfully give our own lives - our obedience - to God? (Mark 7:1, 7-8, 13; Jeremiah 15:19; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 12:1-4)
- a. **Mark 7:1, 7-8, 13** Now the **Pharisees** and some of the scribes came from Jerusalem and gathered around Him, ... 7 'THEY WORSHIP ME IN VAIN [their worship is meaningless and worthless, a pretense], **TEACHING THE PRECEPTS OF MEN AS DOCTRINES [giving their traditions equal weight with the Scriptures]**.' 8 You **disregard and neglect the commandment of God, and cling [faithfully] to the tradition of men**." 13 so you **nullify the [authority of the] word of God** [acting as if it did not apply] **because of your tradition** which you have handed down [through the elders]. And you do many things such as that." **Jeremiah 15:19** 19 Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, Then I will bring you back; You shall stand before Me; If you **take out the precious from the vile**, You shall be as My mouth. Let them return to you, But you must not return to them. **Philippians 2:12-13** 12 Therefore, my beloved, **as you have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**; 13 for **it is God who works in you both to will and to do** for His good pleasure. **Hebrews 12:1-4** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness], **stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us**, 2 [looking away from all that will distract us and] **focusing our eyes on Jesus**, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One

- who brings our faith to maturity], **who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured** the cross, disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work]. 3 Just consider and **meditate on Him who endured from sinners such bitter hostility against Himself** [consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.⁴ You have not yet struggled to the point of shedding blood **in your striving against sin**;
- 181 Who would argue against these: “You shall have no other gods before the LORD your God; You shall not make idols; You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; Honor your father and your mother; You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor; You shall not covet?” If it is important for the health of society and for our spiritual health to keep those 9 commandments, does it not stand to reason that we should also include “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” and actually keep all 10 commandments?
- a. Reflective ~ verses similar to other questions
- 182 When asked how one could have eternal life, Jesus said to keep the commandments. He listed some of the ten commandments. When asked about the greatest commandment, did He not encapsulate all of them (at least all 10) in His answer to love? In what way does dishonoring the fourth commandment (to keep the seventh day Sabbath holy) fulfill the commandment to love the LORD God with our whole heart, soul, and mind? In what way does dishonoring the Sabbath (for example, by causing others to work) fulfill the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves? Or, in what way does honoring that commandment violate the commandment to love the LORD and/or our neighbor? (Matthew 19:16-19; Matthew 22:35-40; Romans 13:8-10; John 15:9-10; John 14:15, 20-21)
- a. **Matthew 19:16-19** 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” 17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But **if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.**” 18 He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘**You shall not murder**,’ ‘**You shall not commit adultery**,’ ‘**You shall not steal**,’ ‘**You shall not bear false witness**,’ 19 ‘**Honor your father and your mother**,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” **Matthew 22:35-40** *Weymouth New Testament* 35 and one of them, an expounder of the Law, asked Him as a test question, 36 “Teacher, **which is the greatest Commandment in the Law?**” 37 “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God,” He answered, “**with thy whole heart, thy whole soul, thy whole mind.**” 38 This is the greatest and foremost Commandment. 39 **And the second is similar to it: ‘Thou shalt love thy fellow man as much as thyself.’** 40 **The whole of the Law and the Prophets is summed up in these two Commandments.**” **Romans 13:8-10** 8 Owe no one anything except to **love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** 9 **For the commandments,** “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, **are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** 10 **Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.** **John 15:9-10** 9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.** **John 14:15, 20-21** 15 “**If you love Me, keep My commandments.** ... 20 At that day you will know that **I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.** 21 **He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.**”
- 183 How can our spiritual growth be stunted, hindered, or damaged by keeping the seventh-day Sabbath with the same heart that we keep the other 9 commandments? Is it possible that the enemy seeks to keep us away from the Lord's weekly Sabbath because of the heightened potential for spiritual growth in honoring the Lord by aligning our time and activity with His time and activity? (2 Peter 3:17-18; Daniel 7:25; Ecclesiastes 3:1, 10-11)
- a. **2 Peter 3:17-18** 17 Therefore, [let me warn you] beloved, knowing these things beforehand, **be on your guard** so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men [who distort doctrine] and fall from your own steadfastness [of mind, knowledge, truth, and faith], 18 **but grow [spiritually mature] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him be glory (honor, majesty, splendor), both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. **Daniel 7:25** **He will speak words against the Most High [God] and wear down the saints of the Most High, and he will intend to change the times and the law;** and they will be given into his hand for a time, [two] times, and half a time [three and one-half years]. **Ecclesiastes 3:1, 10-11** 1 **There is a season (a time appointed) for everything and a time for every delight and event or purpose under heaven—** ... 10 I have seen the task which God has given to the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. 11 **He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity** [a sense of divine purpose] **in the human heart** [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]—yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end.
- 184 Where does wisdom and understanding come from? What is at least one way we might increase in wisdom and understanding? (Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13; Psalm 119:97-100; Daniel 1:17, 20; Isaiah 11:1-4)
- a. **Deuteronomy 4:2, 6-8, 13** 2 **Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it,** that ye may keep the commandments of YHWH your Elohekem which I command you. . . . 6 **Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations,** which shall hear all these statutes, and say, **Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.** 7 **For what nation is there so great, who hath Elohim so nigh unto them,** as YHWH our Eloheku is in all things that we call upon him for? 8 **And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law,** which I set before you this day? . . . 13 **And He declared unto you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and He wrote them upon two tables of stone.** **Psalm 119:97-100** Oh, how I love Your law ^[8451 torah]! It is my meditation all the day. 98 **Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For Your words are always with me.** 99 **I have better understanding and deeper insight than all my teachers** [because of Your word], For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 **I understand more than the aged** [who have not observed Your precepts], **Because I have observed and kept Your precepts.** **Daniel 1:17, 20** 17 As for these four young men, **God gave them knowledge and skill in all kinds of literature and wisdom;** Daniel also understood all kinds of visions and dreams. 20 In every matter of **wisdom and understanding** about which the king consulted them, **he found them ten times better** than all the [learned] magicians and enchanters (Magi) in his whole realm. **Isaiah 11:1-4** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The **Spirit of wisdom and understanding,** The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. 3 **His delight is in the fear of the Lord,** And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 **But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;** He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.
- 185 Are we taking the 4th commandment of keeping the Sabbath day seriously enough? Might God consider us unclean because we do not acknowledge what He calls holy as separate? Or because we have made a day that He wants us to reserve for Him and have made it common (unholy), like any other day? Might we be in a spiritual drought and in danger of His indignation because of this? Who will stand in the gap (and turn our hearts to our Heavenly Father) to help save the land? (Ezekiel 22:23-26; Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:11; Nahum 1:2, 6; Ezekiel 22:30; Malachi 4:5-6)
- a. **Ezekiel 22:23-26** 23 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 24 “Son of man, say to her: ‘**You are a land that is not cleansed** ^[showered upon] or rained on **in the day of indignation.**’ 25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. 26 **Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things;** they have **not distinguished between the holy and unholy,** nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and **they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned** among them. **Genesis 2:3** 3 So **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it He rested from all His work** which He had created and done.; **Exodus 20:11** 11 For **in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth,** the sea and everything that is in them, and **He rested (ceased) on the seventh day.** That is why **the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy** [that is, **set it apart for His purposes**]; **Nahum 1:2, 6** 2 **YHWH is a jealous and avenging God [protecting and demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His];** The LORD avenges and He is full of wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. . . . 6 **Who can stand before His indignation** [His great wrath]? And who can stand up and endure the fierceness of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire and the rocks are destroyed by Him. **Ezekiel 22:30** 30 So **I sought for a man** among them **who would** make a wall, and **stand in the gap before Me** on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. **Malachi 4:5-6** 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 **And he will turn** The hearts of the fathers to the children, And **the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth** with a curse.”

Review the scriptures prayerfully and objectively. Let the scriptures say what they say, without inputting your own biases or the biases you have been taught, and without trying to make it say what you want it to say, but what it says. The same with the context, and the greater context, and the cultural context, and the original Hebrew and Greek. . . . The same with the commentaries – separate opinion from fact. And be led by the Spirit of the Holy One.