

DISCOVER PROPHECY



The Greatest Religious Cover-Up

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The Wrong Birthday

When I was born, my parents named me Timothy after the young evangelist Timothy in the Bible, in which there are two books of the Bible named after.

Unfortunately, my parents divorced shortly after my first birthday. Just over a year old, my mom left my father. For the most part, I never saw him again until shortly after my 18th birthday.

I didn't know my dad. He pretty much stayed out of our lives until much later. When I was 18, he showed up at my high school with the intent of reentering into my life again. It was then that I, as far as my memory goes, really met my father.

Being a Christian, I wanted to get to know him and allow him to reenter into my life. That next Thanksgiving, I went to his home for the holiday to share it with him and his new family.

After dinner, I began wandering around the living room, looking at the pictures on the wall. I then noticed a picture plate. This plate had several things inscribed on it. In the middle of the plate was a picture of a living room. It had a fire place and chair. In the living room was a stork leaving behind a small baby in a crib. Above the fireplace was a clock indicating the time of day, thus noting the time of day the baby was brought into the family. It read just a few minutes after midnight. On the top rim of the plate was my name, Timothy Earl Madding, on the bottom a date, April 2, 1970.

When I read the date, I thought it was an error. You see, my birthday was not April 2, but April 7. To see my dad, who really didn't know me, get the date of my birthday wrong added to any frustration there might have been between us. It represented how much he didn't know me. He didn't even know the day I was born!

So, being a young man who sought to take advantage of the error for personal gratification, I pointed out to my dad that the date engraved upon the plate was incorrect.

"Oh, no it's not," he sought to assure me, "the date is correct. You were born on the second of April."

"Wait a minute," I contested! "Surely I would know my own birthday."

"Maybe so," he continued, "but I know it because I was there." The thought of this strange man being

present at my birth was a thought I'd not yet entertained. But, knowing he was indeed my father, I couldn't argue it. So, not having any other proof, I didn't pursue the issue any further.

He however, thought to pursue it to prove his own accuracy. "Come with me," he urged. He took me into his bedroom. There on the far side of the wall lay an old cedar chest.

"Ah," I thought, "the old cedar chest my mother always spoke about." This old cedar chest was to contain all important documents and valuable family heirlooms.

Digging through the chest he pulled out a great deal of material. He proceeded to show me one piece of dated documentation after another; all pertaining to my birth. Baby foot-prints, hospital instructions, formula prescriptions and an original birth certificate. All proving my date of birth to actually be April 2 and not April 7.

Now you may feel this to be no big deal at all. "What's five days? So what! You're five days older than you thought." But to me, my birthday represented a part of me. In addition to 7 being my favorite number, I had grown up believing my date of birth to be a particular day. Once I discovered the truth of my birth, it made me question, in many ways, my own identity.

It took me little time to come to a point where I believed my date of birth to be the second of the month. But it took me a long time to actually begin celebrating it as such. When April came around, I wasn't sure if I should celebrate it on either the second or the seventh. So for a couple years, I did both. In time I came to accept the second and I now celebrate it on that day.

Truth or Tradition?

Just the same, you may very well be struggling with the ability to grasp the idea that all these years you believed the Sabbath of the Bible to be on Sunday. But now that you've taken the time to look it up and read the original documentation, you know the Bible Sabbath to actually be on Saturday. Some may feel quite all right with that, others may begin questioning their Christian walk. And like me, you'll be forced to go through the process.

You now know when the true Sabbath is, the question now is, what are you going to do about it?

Jesus taught that we should follow the truth of the Bible and His will for our lives instead of the traditions that mankind have introduced. “And He answered and said to them, 'And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?... In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the traditions of men'” Matthew 15:3,9. According to Jesus, we should follow the Bible and the commandments of God rather than traditions and values that mankind has brought up instead. If we truly love Jesus, we will keep His commandments. If we say we love Jesus and instead follow traditions of men instead of His commandments, our worship is in vain.

Instead of following tradition, we want to follow the truth. Because as we follow true biblical teaching, we will find the peace and freedom in the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ. “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” John 8:32. How do we know the truth? What is the truth? Jesus said of Himself, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” John 14:6. “Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth” John 17:17. So we ask ourselves, what does the Bible say? And what does Jesus want me to do? Where do we find truth? “Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth” Psalm 119:142. So we desire to follow the Bible and God’s law, because it is there that we find the truth.

As we study the Bible, the Holy Spirit will guide us into the truth that is in it. “But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth” John 16:13. So we trust in the Spirit as He speaks through the Word!

The First Day

There are several places in the Bible where the first day of the week (Sunday) is mentioned. There are essentially ten of them. Let’s look over each one of them and together ask ourselves the question, “In this verse, does it teach us that the sacredness of the Sabbath was transferred from Saturday to Sunday?”

1. Genesis 1:5 “And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.” Does this Bible verse in Genesis tell us that the sacredness of the Sabbath is on Sunday instead of Saturday? No, it doesn’t. What does it tell us? It tells us that the daily schedule is from sunset to sunset. The day actually begins at sunset instead of midnight. So, according to

the Bible, the next day of the week begins when the sun sets upon the horizon instead of at midnight.

2. Matthew 28:1 “Now after Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.” Speaking of the ladies who came to the tomb after Jesus’ resurrection, does this Bible verse say that the solemnity of the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh-day to the first? No, instead it tells us that at the death of Jesus, they still kept the seventh-day Sabbath.
3. Mark 16:1,2 “And when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.” This verse much like the second doesn’t change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.
4. Mark 16:9 “Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.” Another verse speaking of the day Jesus was resurrected, but still no indication of change.
5. Luke 24:1-3 “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.” Transfer of Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday? No, another text showing the resurrection of Jesus and them still keeping the Sabbath on Saturday.
6. Luke 23:52-56 “This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. And he took it down and wrapped it in linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. And it was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. Now the women who had come with him out of Galilee followed after, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.” This verse not only says that they kept the Sabbath but that the Sabbath was on Saturday, the day before Resurrection Sunday.
7. John 20:1 “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb.” That is the last of the texts that mention the first day in the context of the resurrection of Jesus. Notice again, no reference to the changing of the

sanctity of the day from the seventh day to the first.

8. John 20:19 “When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” Does the Bible say here that the Sabbath was changed from the seventh to the first day? No. Why was it that the disciples were gathered together on the first day? Because they were afraid of the Jews, not for worship. Since Jesus had been killed, not knowing He had risen from the dead, they were hiding, hoping that they too would not be crucified or killed. No indication of a change.

9. Acts 20:7-12 “And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. And there were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. And there was a certain young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor, and was picked up dead. But Paul went down and fell upon him and after embracing him, he said, ‘Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.’ And when he had gone back up, and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while, until day break, and so departed. And they took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.” I hope my preaching doesn't get that long or boring! I typically like to get people home long before midnight. At first glance this appears as if they had church on Sunday. However, keep in mind the use of time among the people in the Bible. The day begins and ends when? At midnight? No, according to Genesis, the days begin at sunset. Paul was preaching a sermon in the evening here (as clearly seen by the time of midnight). He was gathered with the people to preach on the first day and the evening, so when would that be? That would be our Saturday night! He was preaching to the people at a special vespers after the Sabbath and went on until late at night. The next morning (which would have been Sunday morning) he went on a long trip. Did Paul keep Sunday as the Sabbath or did he travel on a long journey the day after the Sabbath? He met with the people Saturday night and left early Sunday morning, wishing to do his travels on the first day rather than the seventh. Once again this doesn't show us that the Sabbath was changed from Saturday to Sunday but rather again shows us the value of the

Sabbath to Paul. He waited to travel until after the Sabbath.

10. I Corinthians 16:1,2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collection be made when I come.” Does this verse say that the Sabbath was changed from one day to another? No. It does say that they were to put aside money every first day of the week so that when Paul came passing through town, they wouldn't have to take up a special offering. There was a special fund for those Christians being persecuted in other areas. As Christians help each other out, Paul wanted the people to put aside money every week, on the first day, on a regular, systematic basis. So when Paul came, they would have funds already set aside and no special collection would need to be taken. This verse says nothing about meeting together on Sunday or of church offerings, but rather of systematic, regular giving of offerings.

A Personal Opinion?

Some of my friends use a text in Romans to show that we no longer have to keep the Sabbath and that you can keep any day as you wish. Keep in mind before we look at this text, the vast number of texts we've looked at together so far. All of which are pointing to the seventh day Sabbath as Saturday. Even if this one text did provide some hint of a change, we would have to forget all of the others. And we all know that one text over all the others is no way to develop biblical theology. We want to look at all the texts on a given subject. Including this one.

“One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind” Romans 14:5. Does this mean then that the Sabbath is left up to one's own personal opinion? Choose any day you wish and don't bother other people about it? Let me recommend, as always, that you read the whole chapter first. The subject matter here is not a change in the Sabbath day, but rather that of judging one another; that no one shall act as another's judge. Verse one says that we should “accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.” Some people have their own opinions about truth, and they are free to make them. These people who have their own opinion rather than God's truth, are weak in the faith. Do we then cast the weak out because they are weak? Absolutely not! Casting judgment on

another because he or she is weak is unbiblical, but we do wish to strengthen their faith. And that happens as we come to Jesus and follow Him and His will!

In this case, the issue is not over the seventh day Sabbath, which was part of the moral law, but over the yearly feast days of the ceremonial law. Jewish Christians were judging Gentile Christians for not observing them. Paul is simply saying, "Don't judge each other. That ceremonial law is no longer binding."

Why Sunday?

O.K. If the Bible teaches that we should keep the seventh day Sabbath and the Bible says that Saturday is the Sabbath, how did so many people, essentially all of Christianity, come around to keeping Sunday instead? This is a very important question. And as we together dig into this topic, we will discover together that people rather than the Bible changed the worship of the seventh day Sabbath to the sacredness of Sunday.

Cardinal Gibbon, a Catholic priest, in His book entitled, *The Faith of Our Fathers* says on page 89, "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The scripture enforces the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." Here, Cardinal Gibbon says what we have already discovered. That the Bible does not sanctify Sunday observance. We looked from Genesis to Revelation and it's not there. When then did it enter into the Christian church and how?

"In the interval between the days of the apostles and the conversion of Constantine.... Rites and ceremonies, of which neither Paul nor Peter ever heard, crept silently into use, and then claimed the ranks of divine institutions." *Ancient Church*, page 6,7. According to history, there were teachings that the Bible never endorsed that were later introduced into the church. In time, these became known as practices of the church. The sacredness of Sunday has no biblical support and it was one of those teachings or practices that crept into the church. Now everyone follows, not knowing how they reached that practice.

The Catholics are the oldest Christian church around today and have much to say on the topic of the Sabbath. Being strong in their history, they come out and freely tell us how Sunday replaced Saturday. "The Church...after changing the day of rest from the Jewish sabbath, or seventh day of the week, to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's day." *Catholic Encyclopedia*,

Vol. 4 p. 153. There you have it. The change was made by the Church, not by God! People changed the commandments of God, not the Lord! Why do so many people keep Sunday instead of the Bible practice of Saturday? Because of tradition, not biblical value!

The Catholic Catechism, a collection of the teachings of the Catholic Church, again tells us how it was changed. Written in question and answer format, it shares with us what the true Bible Sabbath is. "Q: Which is the Sabbath Day? A: Saturday is the Sabbath Day. Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? A: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." Peter Glereman, 1948, p. 50. So then, if we keep Sunday, it is because we follow tradition and not the Bible.

A newspaper article in Toronto spoke on the subject of the Sabbath and its change. "Reverend Philip Carrington, Anglican Archbishop of Quebec, sent local clergymen into a huddle today by saying outright that there was nothing to support Sunday being kept holy. Carrington definitely told a church meeting in this city of straight laced protestantism that tradition, not the Bible had made Sunday the day of worship." *Toronto Daily Star*, October 26, 1949.

Friends, let me be very clear and honest with you. My intent is not to point fingers, to blame or cast judgment upon other people or churches. I believe in the power of choice and people are free to live however they wish. I won't attempt to take that choice away. I only intend to uplift the Bible as God's word and the source of truth for teaching and practice. If you have made the decision to follow tradition over the Bible (which is your free choice to make), then worship on Sunday. But if you desire to make the Bible your rule of practice, if you love Jesus to the point where you are willing to follow His will in all areas of your life, then you would want to keep the Bible Sabbath.

Ancient Sun Worship

How did the church come around to adopting the observance of Sunday anyway? Why did they change it? After the fall of Jerusalem, Christians began experiencing a great deal of persecution. They were not an official religion and Rome sought to punish men greatly along with the Jews. These people began to disassociate themselves with Jews. All other religions worshipped on Sunday after the pagan sun gods. "Sabbath... A Hebrew word for rest... Sunday was a name given by the heathens to the first day of the week, because it

was the day on which they worshipped the sun.” John Eachie, *A Bible Cyclopedia*, p. 561. Christians, in an attempt to be unlike the Jews, and as they were winning the pagans over to their religion, began to worship on both Saturday and Sunday. This went on for some time until Constantine made an official decree not to keep Saturday like the Jews but to keep Sunday; a decree from the state. “On the venerable day of the sun let the magistrates and people residing in the cities rest, and let all workshops be closed.” Edict of Constantine, AD 321.

Essentially, Sunday worship replaced the Bible Sabbath for two reasons. The first was to disassociate themselves from the Jews, who were under great persecution and the second was because the Christians found it easier to evangelize if people could just keep going to church on Sunday as they had. In time however, Christians were forced to choose Sunday instead of Saturday. “Christians shall not Judaize [keep Sabbath] and be idle on Saturday [original Sabbath] but shall work on that day, but the Lord’s day they shall especially honor.” Council of Laodicea, Canon 29.

A Sign of Church’s Authority

Where the Bible says that the Sabbath is a sign of our loyalty to God (Ezekiel 20:12), the church says that Sunday sacredness, an institution she has set up, is a sign of our loyalty to the church. “Sunday is founded, not on Scripture, but on tradition, and is distinctly a Catholic Institution” *Catholic Record*, September 17, 1893. Who do you wish to show your loyalty towards? “The authority of the church could therefore not be bound to the authority of the scriptures, because the Church had changed...the Sabbath into Sunday, not by the command of Christ, but by its own authority.” Canon and Tradition, p. 263.

The Catholic Church has changed the day, not by the authority of the Bible but by her own power. Again, my question is which do you value most: The Bible or tradition? Which are you going to follow?

Our Loyalty to Jesus

Jesus wants us to follow Him, not the values and traditions of mankind. The Bible is very clear as to what day the sabbath is. History has validated biblical accuracy once again. Are you going to follow the traditions of the world and church or the Bible and Jesus? If you love Jesus, you’ll follow his commandments instead of others. “If you love Me, keep My commandments” John 14:13.

It took me some time to change from celebrating my birthday on a different day. But once I came around to accepting the truth, I had to celebrate my birthday on the right day! Not the wrong day. As a result, I have grown from the experience. I know it may be difficult for some to change from something they have grown up with. I know. I went through the same thing. Remember, we will always be stronger, safer and happier when we follow Jesus! But don’t take my word for it, look it up yourself!