



Text: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Mark 2:23-28; Colossians 2:13-17 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ:

- **Regarding Salvation:** The OT is **promise**, while the NT is **fulfillment**.
- **Regarding the Sabbath:** The OT kept pointing to the Christ who would come, while the NT focuses on the Christ who has come!

1. **Deuteronomy 5:12-15:** Moses spoke to the people shortly before they entered the Promised Land (1406 BC):
 - a. The Third Commandment: ¹² **“Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy...”** or we could say: *Obey the rest day to set it apart.* // Then Moses explained...
 - b. The Explanation: ¹³ **“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work... ¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you**

out of there by a mighty hand..." // In Egypt they most likely were forced to work seven days a week.

However, *having been freed by the LORD*, they were commanded to ✦rest each Saturday, ✦remember their rescue from physical slavery, and ✦trust in the coming Messiah for rescue from spiritual slavery.

2. **Mark 2:23-28**: A sabbath-related event during Jesus' ministry, *which was technically during the OT era (AD 29)*:
- a. Breaking a Man-Made Law: ²³ **...it happened that [Jesus] was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of grain.** ²⁴ **The Pharisees were saying to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"** // The Pharisees – *looking to trap Jesus* – accused Him of permitting His disciples to break the law. Was that true? **No!** They were breaking a *man-made law of the Pharisees*, **but NOT the divine Law of God.**
 - b. An Exception to God's Law: ²⁵ **And [Jesus] said to [the Pharisees], "Have you never read what David did [as recorded in 1 Sam. 21:1-6] when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry;** ²⁶ **how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?"** // When looking at **1 Samuel 21**, we discover that *only the priests were permitted to eat the consecrated bread.* **However**, considering all the circumstances (✦*the men being right with God*, ✦*the bread having already been removed*

from the tabernacle, and †the men's intense hunger), David and his hungry men were permitted to eat.

c. The Benefits of the Sabbath: ²⁷ **Jesus said to [the Pharisees], "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."** // Think about these OT and NT sabbath day benefits:

- i. OT: Keeping the OT sabbath did not save anyone, *but it did give them rest and pointed them to Jesus.*
- ii. NT: Attending divine service in the NT era does not save us, *but it does provide a great opportunity for us to †confess our sins, †focus on Jesus, †learn God's word, and †be assured of God's forgiveness.*

3. **Colossians 2:13-17**: *We are saved through Jesus (AD 60)!*

- a. Made Alive In Christ: ¹³ **When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, [God] made you alive together with [Christ], having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us... [a debt none of us could pay]; and He has... nailed [our debt] to the cross. // God, through the Christ and His cross, fully canceled each of our debts!**
- b. Public Display of Victory: ¹⁵ **When [God] had disarmed the rulers and authorities [the forces of evil], [God] made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through [Christ].** // Jesus' resurrection *visibly declared His victory* over sin, death, and the devil!
- c. Shadow Has Become Reality: ¹⁶ **Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day--**

¹⁷ things which are a *mere shadow of what is to come*; but the substance [*lit., the body*] belongs to Christ. // In the OT God set many things in place – *like sacrifices, sabbath days, and festivals* – which were shadows which pointed to the Christ. **But now that He has come, WE FOCUS ON HIM!**

4. **The NT Sabbath Day**: Some people think the sabbath day switched from **Saturday in the OT** to **Sunday in the NT** but consider this quote from the Augsburg Confession (AD 1530): “...those who think that the sabbath had to be replaced by Sunday are very much mistaken. For Holy Scripture did away with the sabbath, and it teaches that after the revelation of the gospel [*the good news of Jesus’ finished work*] all ceremonies of the old law may be given up. Nevertheless, the Christian church instituted Sunday because it became necessary to set apart a specific day so that the people might know when to assemble; ...and so that everyone would know that neither the keeping of the sabbath nor any other day is necessary” (Kolb, Art. 28, 58-60). // In other words, **WE ARE SAVED THROUGH JESUS, not through our keeping of the sabbath**. **However**, let us:
- Understand the benefits of divine service!
 - Gladly gather to ➔ honor our Great God and ➔ receive His precious gifts!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, TY for fully keeping the Law as our sinless substitute! Now, *help us to focus on YOU!*

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