

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

RLJ-1545

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APRIL 24, 2016

PART 6: SABBATH 101

THE SABBATH DAY

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. **Exodus 20:8-11**

The word "Sabbath" in Hebrew comes from the Chaldean word "Sabattu," which means "a day of rest for the soul." This shows us that the divine institution of a 7th day was known by the ancestors of Abraham, beginning with Adam and continuing through the lineage of Seth.

CALENDAR CONTROVERSY

Which day of the week is the true Sabbath day? Do we know the original days going back to the Garden of Eden? No, and even the current Jewish calendar is a development of the Babylonian calendar, dating back to the Sumerians around 5000 B.C. King Solomon developed a calendar for Israel around 930 B.C. called the "Gezer calendar." With the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C., the Jewish leadership adopted the Babylonian calendar, including the names of the months.

When the people of Israel lived in Egypt at the time of Moses, they were subjected to the Egyptian calendar. Each calendar used by different nations contained errors and days had to be added at certain intervals in order to keep pace with the turning of the sun from the south to the north (summer and winter).

After Rome conquered all the nations in the Middle East around 50 B.C., Julius Caesar reformed the Roman calendar and abandoned the lunar calendar completely, going to a tropical solar year with a length of 365.25 days in a year. In order to get in step with the sun, two corrections were made in 46 B.C. Twenty-three days were inserted on February 23rd and another 67 days were added at the end of November for a total of 445 days that year.

The vernal equinox had moved 10 days from its proper date by 1545 but it was not until 1572 that Pope Gregory XIII issued a bull (decree) for a new calendar. Ten days were omitted that year in order to bring the calendar back in alignment with the sun and restore the vernal equinox to March 21st. Leap years were introduced in order to make the calendar accurate, when an extra day would be added.

The Chinese and Jews still retain their own respective calendars but most nations in the world have adopted the Gregorian calendar. The proposed *International Fixed Calendar* does not properly divide into quarters for the business community and so there is a *World Calendar* with quarters divided into 91 days, with an additional day at the end of the year.

Muslims observe the Sabbath on Friday, Jews observe the Sabbath on Saturday, and Christians observe the Sabbath on Sunday.



God wants you to work six days and rest on the seventh. That is the basic principle. Since God did not specify a particular day of the week for the Sabbath day, this standard works for all people regardless of which calendar they follow.

God used the Apostle Paul to settle this issue once and for all. **Romans 14:1-23**

Jesus said the Sabbath was made for man. **Mark 2:23-28**

Jesus ministered on the Sabbath. **Matthew 12:1-15**

The early church wanted to move away from Judaism, and because Jesus was resurrected on the first day (Sunday) of the week, this became their day of rest and worship. **Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

The Sabbath day is a day of rest, worship, fellowship with the believers and a time to reach out to the lost!

The Sabbath day is not a day to conduct business, paint your house, wash your car, go shopping, etc. God has given you six days to do all your work!

God doesn't want us to argue over which day is the true Sabbath; instead, we should unite in love, respect one another, and live out our Christian life in love. **1 Corinthians 13:1-8**

Do you plan to start and finish your classes?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!