

WHICH WAY, AMERICA?

Night 14

The Mark of the Beast

“The church [Church of Rome] is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact” —***Catholic Record, September 1, 1923.***

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change [Sabbath to Sunday] was her act. And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters” —***C.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons.***

“I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says, remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. The Catholic Church says, No! By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day, and command you to keep holy the first day of the week. And, Lo! The entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church” —***Father Enright, President of Redemptorist College.***

“Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept? Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; —she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority”
—***A Doctrinal Catechism, p. 174.***

“Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles... From beginning to end of scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first” —***Catholic Press (Sydney, Australia, Aug. 1900).***

“Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible” —***The Catholic Mirror (Dec. 23, 1893).***

Where Did Sunday Observance Come From?

“In ancient Babylonia the sun was worshipped from immemorial antiquity.” —***The Worship of Nature, Vol. 1, p. 529.***

“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, A.D. 321.***

“Paganism must still have been an operative belief with the man... He was at best only half heathen, half Christian. Who could seek to combine the worship of Christ with the worship of Apollo (child of the sun-god), having the name of the one and figure of the other impressed upon his coins”

—*Encyclopedia Britannica: Article ‘Constantine.’*

“The sun was a foremost god with heathendom... Hence the church [Catholic Church]... would seem to have said, ‘Keep that old pagan name. It shall remain consecrated, sanctified,’ and thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder [sun-god], became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus” —*The Catholic World, (March, 1894), 809.*

“The church took the pagan philosophy and made it the buckler of faith against the heathen. She took the pagan Roman Pantheon, temple of all the gods, and made it sacred to all the martyrs: so it stands to this day. She took the pagan Sunday and made it the Christian Sunday. She took the pagan Easter and made it the feast we celebrate during the year” —*The Catholic World, p. 809.*

“The Church has always had a strong sense of its own authority... Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. ‘The Day of the Lord’ (dies Dominica) was chosen, not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church’s sense of its own power.... People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy” —*SENTINEL, St. Catherine Catholic Church, Algonac, MI (May 21, 1995).*

What Do Protestants Say About Sunday?

Episcopalian:

“The observance of the first day instead of the seventh day rests on the testimony of the Catholic church, and the [Catholic] church alone” —*Hobart Church News, July 2, 1894.*

Baptist:

“There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week....Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament—absolutely not.... Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers, and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun-god, when adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism!” —*Dr. Edward T. Hiscox (author of the Baptist Manual).*

Lutheran:

“They [the Catholics] allege the Sabbath changed into Sunday, the Lord’s Day, contrary to the decalogue, as it appears, neither is there any example more boasted of than the changing of the Sabbath day. Great, say they, is the power and authority of the church [church of Rome], since it dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments” —*Martin Luther, Augsburg Confession of Faith, Art. 28, Par. 9.*

Dwight L. Moody:

“The Sabbath was binding in Eden, and it has been in force ever since. This fourth commandment begins with the word ‘remember,’ showing that the Sabbath already existed when God wrote the law on the tables of stone at Sinai. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away with when they will admit that the other nine are still binding?” —**D. L. Moody, *Weighted and Wanting*, p. 47.**

Presbyterian:

“The Sabbath is a part of the decalogue—the Ten Commandments. This alone forever settles the question as to the perpetuity of the institution.... Until, therefore, it can be shown that the whole moral law has been repealed, the Sabbath will stand.... The teaching of Christ confirms the perpetuity of the Sabbath” —**T. C. Blake, D.D., *Theology Condensed*, pp. 474–475.**

Methodist:

“It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week. Many believe that Christ changed the Sabbath. But, from His own words, we see that He came for no such purpose. Those who believe that Jesus changed the Sabbath base it only on a supposition” —**Amos Binney, *Theological Compendium*, pp. 180–181.** [He authored a Methodist New Testament Commentary, and his Methodist “Compendium” was published for forty years.]



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