

SABBATH EXCUSES EXAMINED AND ANSWERED – PART 8

Since the Apostle Paul commanded the church at Corinth to take up a collection for the saints and then mentioned the first day of the week (see 1 Corinthians 16:1-2), people then claim that this proves that Sunday must have been a day for public worship. They then further claim that this is evidence proving that the Apostles had substituted Sunday as being the Christian Sabbath in the place of Saturday.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 states: “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

You will notice that Paul did not say: “Place your alms in the church treasury on the first day of the week;” but simply said: “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store.” So the key to understanding where this money was to be laid aside and stored up until Paul came really centers upon the meaning of the phrase “by him”.

These two words “by him” are not translated in the Strong’s Concordance because they were considered too commonly used. But two Latin Bible versions, being the Vulgate and that of Castello, each render the phrase “by him” or “apud se” as meaning “with one's self, at home”. A similar rendering of this same phrase is also given in numerous other Bible versions.

This means that this text does not prove that the Corinthian church was assembled for public worship on Sunday under the Apostle’s direction. But, on the contrary, it does prove that each church member must themselves carefully examine their worldly affairs at home, and then set aside a certain amount of money for the Lord at the beginning of each week as God had prospered them. If each one would do this, when Paul should come to visit, their bounty for the Lord would be readily at hand and each would then be able to present to him what monies they had gathered. So Paul was simply telling each of the Corinthian church members that on Sunday – the first day or the beginning of each new week – they should set aside and lay up at home some portion of the money which they had earned the previous week, before they had a chance to spend it all up during that new week. In following Paul’s advice, they would be putting God and His cause first in all their financial affairs, instead of at the end of the week after most of their money had already been spent, and little then remained for God’s cause.

But where did support for this teaching and belief come from that the Apostles had substituted Sunday instead of Saturday as being the day to worship God in this New Covenant, and that Paul was endorsing church services being held on Sunday and not Saturday?

Pope Pius XII (1947)

“Let the public and private observance of the feasts of the Church, which are in a special way dedicated and consecrated to God, be kept inviolable; and especially the Lord’s day which the Apostles, under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, substituted for the sabbath.” Pope Pius XII, in *Mediator Dei*, Encyclical on the Sacred Liturgy Promulgated on November 20, 1947, Given at Castel Gandolfo, near Rome, on the 20th day of November in the year 1947, the 9th of Our Pontificate, at <http://www.newadvent.org/docs/pi12md.htm>, accessed 3-13-13.

Catholic Church Today

“Sunday was the first day of the week according to the Jewish method of reckoning, but for Christians it began to take the place of the Jewish Sabbath in Apostolic times as the day set apart for the public and solemn worship of God. The practice of meeting together on the first day of the week for the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice is indicated in Acts, xx 7; I Cor., xvi, 2; in Apoc., i, 10, it is called the Lord’s day.” *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Volume XIV, Section titled - Sunday, published by Robert Appleton Company, New York, 1912, Nihil Obstat. July 1, 1912. Remy Lafort, S.T.D., Censor. *Imprimatur*. +John Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York, at <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14335a.htm>, accessed 3-5-13.

So you can see, that the teaching and belief that the Apostles had substituted Sunday for Saturday as being the day to worship God in the New Testament, and that Paul was endorsing church services on Sunday and not Saturday is not found written in the Bible at all. Thus this belief is not a doctrine of God taught in the Scriptures, but is instead found to be a teaching and doctrine taught in the Roman Catholic Church.

This then means that when any Protestant or non-Catholic believer uses the argument that the Apostles had substituted Sunday for Saturday as being the day to worship God, and that Paul was endorsing church services on Sunday, in their efforts to try and prove that Sunday is God’s Sabbath day today, will find themselves in agreement with the teachings of Catholicism, but not in agreement with the truth of God’s holy Scriptures!

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