

# Q & A #3

**Question:** I've heard the fourth commandment explained by Bible teachers and friends that one day out of seven is what is meant. Most Christians meet together on the first day—doesn't that meet the specification of the commandment? Isn't it most important that God is being worshiped?

**Answer:** Truly, that our lives are devoted to God is paramount. Many regard a life that is being lived for Jesus—practicing His presence—is a gift of worship each moment of every day. Do you not agree that the Bible believer who is devoted to God is also seeking to know the expressed will of God for his or her life?

With this in mind, the question regarding the fourth commandment must be answered. In all of the Bible, where can the idea be found that God's holy day is left for mortal humans to decide? All Bible believers agree that the first day of the week is when Jesus triumphantly rose from the grave; they also know that Jesus was crucified on Friday, the sixth day of the week. Jesus rested in the tomb over the Sabbath of the fourth commandment on the seventh day of the week—Saturday. No Jew or Gentile Christian in the first century would think to view as holy time any other day of the week.

A precedent had been established thousands of years before. At Mt. Sinai, the Creator God spoke audibly to the two million freed slaves in the desert—“the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” In the fourth commandment, God Himself states the foundation upon which the seventh day is sacred time—“for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth . . . and rested the seventh day . . .”

(Exodus 20:10). Only one day of the week was blessed and “set apart” by God—the seventh day—what we call Saturday.

So the question persists—where in Scripture did the Creator alter the foundation of sacred time set at Creation and restated at Mt. Sinai? What mortal human is willing to assume such a divine task and claim that everyone is now free before the Creator God to pick and choose whatever day suits him or her?

Millions of Sabbath-observing Jews since the time of Christ still confirm the Saturday Sabbath. So have unnumbered Christian believers during the medieval centuries confirmed it in martyrdom for their faithfulness to God's holy day.

Who is willing to say that the passing of time over centuries is enough to change what is always truth—God's expressed will in Scripture? Do not Jesus' words still matter: “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's” (Mark 12:17)?

God has identified the Sabbath as “the holy day of the LORD honorable, . . .” (Isaiah 58:13). Jesus Christ's personal practice honored this as well (Luke 4:16). Should not this honor also be present in the life of one who professes to have “put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27)?