

Were The Sabbath and The Holy Days Nailed to The Cross by Jesus?

For many people in the churches of the world they will cite Colossians 2:14-17 and use these verses to suggest that the Sabbath and all of the other Holy days of which God gave in the Old Testament and those in the New Testament are made void and therefore Christians today do not have to keep them! But is this true? If it is, then we can sin against God and the Lord Jesus Christ and we then cannot be held accountable for our actions.

So let's look at this portion of Scripture to see what it says and to see what it does not say.

Colossians 2:14-17 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.

Verse 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Verse 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of a new moon, or of the Sabbath days

Verse 17 Which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is of Christ.

These are the scriptures that many will use to say that when the Lord Jesus died on that cross he then made the Sabbath and the other commands null and void.

Let us notice here what is written. In verse 16 notice that there are five things mentioned and they are these; Meat, drink, holyday, new moon, and Sabbath. Now it's worth remembering that Paul had only the Old Testament for his guidance. Notice what he says in Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Paul also believed "all things which were written in the law and in the prophets"(Acts 24:14) So, a question has to be asked, if Paul believed in the law and the prophets where does that leave the Christian today? And what about the quote of Jesus when he said "Think not that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to "fulfil"- Meaning, "Magnify" (Matthew 5:17-20)

Question: If the "Law of God and the prophets of God are done away then we would not have the prophets, we would not have the book of Revelation, we would not have any prophesies of God's kingdom, we would not have any judgement day because no one would have sinned and we certainly would not have had the prophesies of when our Saviour would come!!

Colossians 2 The Chapter

It is well worth noticing that this chapter is speaking of two elements that is often distorted by those who would have you believe that Colossians 2 does away with Gods law and His commandments and His holy days.

Element one is speaking about the traditions of men and element two is speaking about Gods Sabbaths and holy days. We must keep this in mind when we read and study the chapter.

It needs to be pointed out also that the church here is the Colossian church and as such they were Gentile converts entirely and so Paul was dealing with a people that had been steeped in pagan worship! They had many, many gods and rituals and worshipped demons and idols on a daily basis!

Notice that these converts had come to true Christianity after being taught by Paul "the mystery among the Gentiles" in Colossians 1:27

In Acts 19 we find that Gentiles gave up all of their pagan worship and they met with a great deal of ridicule when they had the gospel of Christ preached to them. And so when these new converts abandoned their old way of life they then observing the Sabbath which is the seventh day and to observe the holy days and all the festivals of God. The very fact that Colossian brethren were faithful to what had been taught to them by Paul caused those outside the church to judge them for not keeping their former way of life! And this is what Paul was dealing with in Colossians 2:16-17 When we realize this fact then it will become very clear of what these verses mean.

A True Understanding of Colossians 2:14-17

Colossians 2:14 Notice that the "hand writing of ordinances that was against us" means our sins are nailed to the cross and not the law of God!

Verse 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, He (meaning Jesus) made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. The "in it" means that the sacrifice of Jesus overcame all of these things which includes our sins!

Verse 16 Notice this important point, "Therefore let no man judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days."

These converted Christians who had changed their lives and were now keeping the commandments of God having put off keeping their old pagan ways were instructed by Paul to "not let anyone outside of the church judge them" because of their new way of life and let's not forget this, when they were

pagans they too were eating all meats, that is, unclean and clean as well. (See 1 Timothy 4:1-5 and also Deut 14:1 onwards) for a list of clean and unclean foods which God had instructed to be kept.

With regards to keeping the festivals and new moons or the Sabbaths. These former pagans had not kept any of Gods holydays before their conversion and so Paul was telling them that they did not have fear any judgement from those without the body of Christ.

Now let's look at the words, "Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ". Notice the word "come" this should be read as "coming". So, then the verse would read like this; "which are a shadow of coming things--"