



BIBLE TALK

Mike King

Question: Is it wrong for a Christian to work on Sunday?

Answer: The law of the Sabbath was clearly revealed in the Bible (Ex. 20:8-10). Penalty for violation of this law was death (Ex. 31:14), an example of the sentence being carried out is also revealed (Num. 15:32-36). The law of the Sabbath also forbade kindling a fire (Ex. 35:3), buying or selling (Neh. 10:31), bearing any burden (Jer. 17:21), or traveling more than three-quarters of a mile (Acts 1:12). But notice two things: first, all this was under the Old Testament; second, it pertains to the seventh day of the week. They were two different days (Matt. 28:1).

Sunday is not the Sabbath, nor has it ever been. We live under the New Testament. The law of the Sabbath, with the rest of the law, was “nailed to the cross” (Col. 2:14-17) and was abolished when Christ died. There is nothing in the New Testament that forbids working on the seventh day, or the first day, or any other day. As long as other responsibilities are met, and there is nothing immoral about the work, and the work does not lead others into sin.

People can discern the difference between the Old and New Testaments when it comes to worship, salvation or dozens of other subjects, but suddenly run into all kinds of difficulties about “working on Sunday.” The only week day that has been called “a holy day” was the Sabbath, and that was under the Old Testament (the Law of Moses). If it is wrong, because of what the law taught about the Sabbath, then every other prohibition must apply; fire, travel, buying, etc. That means no cooking, no milking of cows, any lighting of a lamp (even a cigarette!), etc. But the truth is, we are not under the law of the Sabbath. Honorable work that does not prevent us keeping our other obligations to the Lord on the first day of the week is permitted. If we can set that day aside for God’s business with a determination to allow no interference, you’ve done well!

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