GOD COULDN'T! CHRIST WOULDN'T! DISCIPLES DIDN'T WHO DID?

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by telling you that tonight's message us not an attack on anyone. And I shall be preaching in love. God's original Sabbath, created the next day after Adam and Eve were created, is the only Sabbath we are morally bound to keep. It was not Jewish, for there were no Jews for almost 2,500 years after the creation of the Sabbath.

This truth raises a question in the minds of the people who are interested in God's way: “Who then changed God's Sabbath? If it didnt happen at the cross, if Christ didn't have one command to do it, how did it happen?” This is the question we're going to answer in the message. Ladies and gentlemen, everything God tells people to do the Devil seeks to turn them away from it, and he creates counterfeits. Whenever God goves something as a blessing, the Devil comes up with an opposing thing.

In the very beginning God gave marriage, because it wasn't good that man should be alone. But the Devil came alone with his counterfeits of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, “common law” and shacking up.

Then Christ gave the Sabbath, but Satan has come up with not one substitute, but with many. There are “holy days” which are celebrated around the world in addition to the celebration of the first day of the week.

Now according to the Bible, and the Bible only, the Sabbath is the first day of the week. And Jesus said in Mark 2:27, that “the Sabbath was made for man.” So it's not Jewish! In fact, the New Testament tells us in Matthew, Mark and Luke, in three gospels, that Jesus died on “preparation day”, the day before the Sabbath – that's Good Friday.

Ladies and gentlemen, all of the New Testament was written years after Christ had risen from the dead and gone back to heaven. If they had had ordered to change anything, they would have known by the time they got ready to write it down. And everybody knows Jesus died, was buried, rested the Sabbath according to the commandments, and rose on Sunday. Everybody knows that!

Who changed God's Law then? God couldn't!

In Psalms 89:34 God says, “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.”

in Malachi 3:6 the Lord says, “I am the Lord, I change not...”

Ecclesiastes 3:14,15 says: “… whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it, and God doeth it that men should fear before Him.” 15. “That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.”

Ladies and gentlemen, on the strength of these three texts, and I could give you more, it must be concluded that God couldn't! Because if God had changed His Law, He'd be a liar, and I don't worship

a liar.

Christ wouldn't!

In John 4:34, Jesus said, “My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work.”

Christ didn't come to change His Father's will, but to do it. And Romans 2:18 says, “… His will … (is) being instructed out of the Law.”

Psalms 40:8 says, “I delight to do thy will… thy Law is within my heart.”

In John 15:10, Jesus says, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my father's commandments, and abide in His love.”

Jesus kept His Father's commandments.

Then in Hebrews 4:8, the Bible says, “For if Jesus had given them rest, then would He not afterward have spoken of another day.” Verse 9. “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.”

Ladies and gentlemen, on the strength of these nine texts, we must conclud that God couldn't! And Christ wouldn't!

Now, the disciples didn't! In Acts 20:27, the apostle Paul says, “I have declared unto you all the counsel of God.” If God wanted to change something, He certainly would have told His apostles, and Paul would have declared it.

Now I wanna pause and say this. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm not stuck on a day. I just wanna do what God says. If God says keep the 3rd day or Tuesday, do you know what day I'm gonna keep? If you don't believe it find me a text!

In Acts 17:2, the Bible says, “… Paul, as his manner was, went into the synagogue in the Sabbath.” Paul was on his way to Damascus; he was struck from his horse by a light from heaven – you know the story. The Bible says that after his conversion, Paul had a habit of going to church on the Sabbath.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have proved from the Bible, using eleven texts that God couldn't! Christ wouldn't! The Disciples Didn't!

Who did? I'm going to the book of Daniel, and I'm going to read a text of scripture in your hearing. Daniel 7:25, I want you to listen to it now:

25 “and he shall speak great words against the Most High, and he shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: ...”

Would you say amen! Now prophecy put the finger on a power that would do that! Verse 24 says:

“and the ten horns out of this kingdom are the ten kings that shall arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue thee kings.”

In Daniel 7:3, this vision begins with four great beasts coming up out of the sea. The first one was like a lion with eagle's wings. That represented Babylon. Remember that night we preached on Daniel 2. The four great kingdoms.

The second one was a bear. That's verse 5. The bear represents Medo-Persia. The third one was a leopard representing Greece. That's verse 6. And the fourth beast was a terrible beast which Bible scholars usually refer to as non-descript.

In verse 7 the Bible said he had iron teeth. And out of this beast came ten horns, and these ten horns represent ten kings. If you will remember Rome, the legs of iron of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and also the feet of iron and clay, Rome fell! And divided into the ten kingdoms represented by the ten toes of Daniel 2's image.

These are the ten divisions of Europe and they are still there. Well, in this vision, instead of seeing ten toes he sees ten horns. In Daniel 7:24, the Bible tells us that these ten horns are ten kings. And Daniel 7:17 says, “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.”

Four what? Daniel said they are four kings: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. And one of them would have ten kings come out of it. That's the ten divisions of the Roman Empire when it was torn up by the Barbarians in 476 A.D. That's the final fall of the Roman Empire. And since then no kingdom has ever ruled the whole world, or shall until Jesus sets up His kingdom.

The Bible says these ten kingdoms would arise, but after them, another kingdom which would be different, for he would do three things:

1. Speak great words against the Most High
2. Wear out the saints of the Most High
3. Think to change times and laws.

Now my precious friends, there is only one power that rose after the division of Rome, that had power over the entire world. Now he was different because he did not control the world like Babylon had. And he was different because he was not purely a political king, but a combination of church and state. A religious and secular power.

Now my dear friends, only one power on earth in the history of the world, meets these specifications, and that power is: the Church of Rome.

Now I don't like to say what I must say. I don't say it to be offensive. I don't say it to blame all people of the Church of Rome for what happened back yonder.

You remember Pope John 23rd. Pope John 23rd came on international radio, and he mentioned the dark history of the church, and he almost apologized for it. So let's not hold all people responsible on what happened in the dark ages. Now let's look at history: and I assure you, you don't have to come here to hear this – just go to any public library, pick out any encyclopedia, and look up the words: Protestant, Spanish Inquisition, Huguenots.

You ought to be curious to know why Switzerland is the "time capital of the world." France made the most beautiful and delicate clocks and watches the world had ever seen. How did it transfer to Switzerland?

The answer is, when the Huguenots were persecuted by the church, many fled across the border, settled in Geneva. And Geneva, Switzerland, became the "watch capital of the world." Little things like that ought to have some meaning to you.

Now I'm going to read a statement to you: the first law designating Sunday as a holy day was not even passed by the church. It was passed by the Emperor of Rome, his name was Constantine. It was passed in the year 321 A.D. If I said that clearly, say Amen! Passed by a pagan emperor, and not by the church.

The church pressured him to do it, and he did it in 321 A.D. And two years later, in 323 A.D., he joined the Christian church. And when he joined, thousands of people cane in just because he did, and the great corruption began in the church because the people brought with them their pagan ideas and festivals and holy days. That's how Easter Bunnies got into the church. Amen!

Following that, at the Council of Laodecia, which lasted from 345-364, the Church of Rome, by human vote, voted the Sabbath out and the first day of the week in, as the Sabbath of the Christian church.

1. Speak great words against the Most High

In 1439, the Council of Florence decreed: "… the Roman Pontiff is succession of blessed Peter, prince of the apostles, and true vicar of Christ." Now that's from their own writings, the Most Holy Councils. And incidentally the word vicar means substitute. Now Jesus has a substitute. Jesus said, "If I go away, God will send the comforter." When Christ left, He sent the Holy Spirit.

Now ladies and gentlemen, Catholics don't mind me telling you this, because they believe this. And a man who believed something sincerely, has a right to do it. Amen.

The Catholic National, July, 1895, says, "The Pope is not only a representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ himself in the flesh."

The Bible says he would speak great things against the Most High. Then the second thing he would do would be to wear out the saints of the Most High. Did this happen? Ladies and gentlemen,

don't take my word. Go to the library. Read about the French Inquisition, the Spanish Inquisition, read about the protestants who died at stake. Read about the dark ages.

During the dark ages, more than fifty million people died, rather than throw away their faith in God. Did you hear what I said? Not fifty thousand, fifty million! They were chained in prisons, they were fed to animals. Lions and tigers ripped them apart. Many were burnt at stake.

Now the last thing it said he would do would be to think to change times and laws.

1. From the Doctrinal Catechism 3rd edition, p. 174. Reverend Father Steve Keynon says, “Q. Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to initiate festivals or precepts?

“A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religions 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 of the week, a change for which there is no scriptural authority.”

Now my beloved friends, I'm saying this kindly, and with love, God knows my heart: for all these people who made excuses, that was done away, we do it in honor of the resurrection, this is why you do it.

2. Father Enright, the President of Redemptories College, says, “It was the holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday, the seventh day, to Sunday, the first day of the week.”

3. The Catholic Mirror, September 1893, “The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, … changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.”

4. Father Enright said the Catholic Church compelled and forced the whole world to do it one thousand years before a protestant came about. And when the protestants came along, they held on to some Roman dogma.

5. Now, Luther's opponent, at the Diet of Worms, Dr. John Eck says, “The church has had power to change the Sabbath of the Bible into Sunday. If you turn from the church ti the scripture alone, then you must keep the Sabbath, which has been kept from the beginning of the world.” Let everybody say Amen tonight.

Now please keep in mind, Catholics are bragging. They don't mind me telling you that. They call all protestants their children, they expect all protestants to come back home. And they don't mind me telling you this. So if there are any Catholics here, don't be embarrassed. Your leaders are not.

6. From a Catholic newspaper, The Hartford Weekly Call. “The church changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and all the world bows down and worships on that day in silent obedience to the mandates of the Catholic Church.”

That's where it came from folks. No need to talk about Jesus rose and Jesus nailed.

7. Father Brady says, it is well to remind the Presbyterians, the Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them, anywhere, in their observance of Sunday.

8. Reverend R. W. Dale, a congregationalist minister wrote a book called the Ten Commandments, and on p. 106, this congregationalist minister said, “It is quite clear, that no matter how ridgedly or devoutly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath.”

Now ladies and gentlemen, I'm only reading this to make you think. Tomorrow night I'm not gonna even talk about the Sabbath – come on back.

And so ladies and gentlemen, it didn't happen when God created it. It didn't happen when Jesus was here on earth. It didn't happen under the disciples. Who did? The Roman Church did it in fulfillment of prophecy. And it happened in the fourth century A.D.

Now ladies and gentlemen, I want you to be honest. Do you believe the Bishop of Rome in those days was a man or was God? Alright now, if you believe that just remember it. He said Sunday. Jesus said, but in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Now Jesus said, the Sabbath was made for man. Then Jesus said, “If ye love me keep my commandments.”

In Revelation 18:4, the Bible says, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” This is God's call to keep His commandments.

But you say, “I see it, I see it!” But its so hard to do God's will. So it is. It was hard to save us too! It was hard to open up glory for men and women too! But Christ did not draw back because it was hard. He loved us enough to do it. And He says, if you love me keep my commandments. And He says, if you don't love me, then forget it! If you love me obey me.

If you will love me more than you love man, obey me. But if you love man the most, obey him. And in Acts 5:32, God promises to give His Holy Spirit to all who obey Him. And God has let you live long enough to hear His truth and He says, “My sheep hear My voice.”

Somebody is gonna do God's will. Somebody loves Jesus enough to put Him ahead of the Pope. Somebody loves Jesus enough to do what Jesus says.

Think of what He had to go through for us: Do you think it was easy carrying that cross? Do you think it was easy to have a crown of thorns pressed down until the spikes drove along the cranium of his skull? Do you think it was easy to take the spit in the face?

If you love me, keep my commandments. Somebody wants to do God's will. Somebody wants the strength to do it. Somebody wants to keep on hearing the word of God. If that somebody is you, stand up now and let us pray together.

(Change of the Sabbath) Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the truth! It's clear now, Lord. We are without excuse. Bless everybody here. And bless those who, as you said when You were here, are offended by the word. One day You spoke to a great crowd, and the Bible says, they walked no more with you. And Lord, through the years men have been able to listen to any kind of propaganda, but they are offended at the truth. I'm praying for them, Lord. Forgive them, they know not what to do.

But in the sanctuary are men and women, who are glad for the light. Men and women who are anxious to know what you want them to do. Men and women who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Lord, fill them.

Lord, this hasn't been an easy message, but Lord, I have to tell the truth. And this is the truth as it is in Jesus. Lord, if the word offended someone I pray for them, but if I did then forgive me. And I'm telling you folks that if my own personality did it, forgive me. I'm not trying to hurt anybody.

Lord, you didn't send this truth to embarrass but to save. Lord, a lot of people have been keeping mine, but bless God, you've shown them the whole truth now. Give them grace to walk in the light and give us grace to be ready when Jesus comes. And save us by thy grace.

There is hope for you, while you can understand.

There is hope for you, but God will never change His plan.

There is hope, I say, the change was that of man.

There is hope for you, His blessed truth obey.

There is hope for you, there is no other way.

There is hope for you, before the judgment day.

There is hope in Christ for you.