

each Sabbath shall call Him to mind as the One who created us, whose grace and sanctifying power are working in us to prepare us for His eternal kingdom.

6. As a result of what we have just studied, what choice of allegiance faces each person today? Romans 6:16 (NT 139).

The Bible says: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness."

Answer: Between the _____ of God and the _____ of the beast.

Note: The issue raised here is far too important to cast aside lightly. The decision between the *seal* and the *mark* has its basis in *love*. Man's reasoning power tells him that it is wrong to steal, kill, commit adultery, lie, etc.—for each of the Ten Commandments except the fourth, "Remember the sabbath day." *The only reason a person observes the Sabbath commandment is that he loves God supremely and wishes to obey Him above all else.*

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In today's age of the sellout, when pressures on every side urge us to "cool it," God says, "Obey My will, receive My seal, and live." Rome says, "Thou shalt not surely die. Tradition and my laws are just as good as God's Word. Obey my law, receive my mark, and don't worry." The choice is yours to make. But you may ask, "Isn't Sunday the Lord's day? Wasn't the Sabbath just for the Jews and therefore doesn't apply to Christians?"

The Bible will answer these questions in the next lesson, The Lord's Day.

I want to know the truth about the Sabbath. ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Lesson 8

The Lord's Day

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SIGNS PRINT



the mark of the beast

As we discovered in Lesson 4, the seal of God appears in His law. Recall the similarity of symbols describing the mark of the beast and the seal of God. One of the strongest evidences that the beast of Revelation 13 is Roman Catholicism is that the Roman Catholic Church is the only organization, religious or secular, ever to make a deliberate attempt to change God's law.

THE LAW OF GOD

As Given by God

I will not "alter the thing that is gone out of my lips." Psalm 89:34.

I

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy

As Changed by the Papacy

"He shall think himself able to change times and laws." Daniel 7:25, Douay.

I

I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before me.

II

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

The record of history reveals that as the Papacy continued to rise in power and strength, its influence prevailed to make Sunday observance an integral part of Christian worship along with other non-Scriptural practices, such as the worship of Mary, the veneration of saints and angels, the use of images, and prayers for the dead. However, it could only accomplish the exaltation of Sunday sacredness through an attempt to alter the Ten Commandments, the expressed, written will of God.

Answer: Yes _____ No _____

4. What does the Catholic Church claim as a result of her ability to lead people in observing the first day rather than the seventh day as Sabbath?

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical and religious without her. *And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.*"—From a letter written for Cardinal Gibbons by his chancellor, H. F. Thomas, November 11, 1895. (Italics supplied.)

Answer: "And the act is a _____ of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters."

Note: The Roman Catholic Church claims that her supposed ability to change God's law is the *mark* of her power.

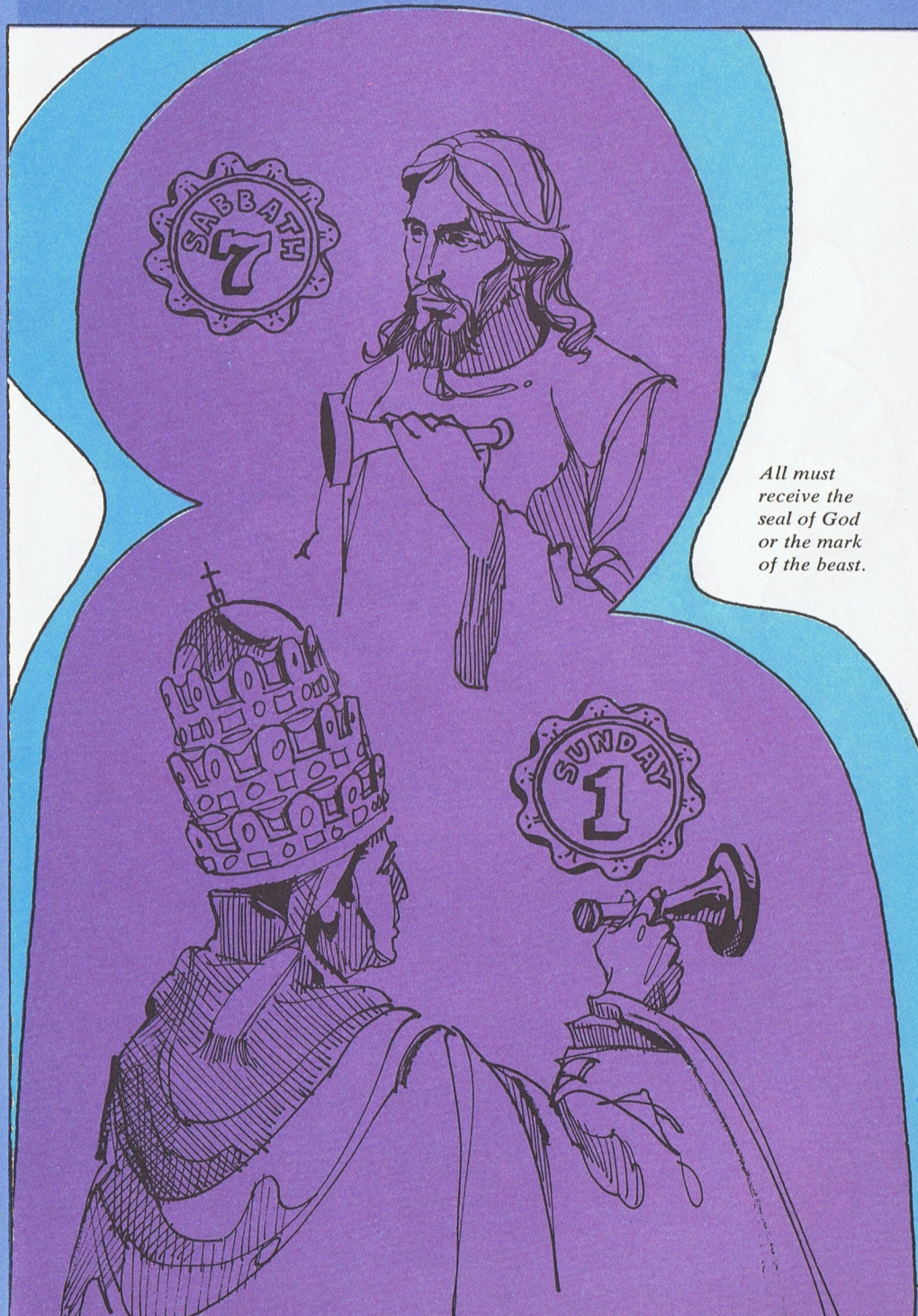
5. Which of the Ten Commandments does God point out as His seal, and in what three areas does it show God's authority? (Recall that Scripture uses the words *sign* and *seal* interchangeably. Romans 4:11.) The Bible says:

A. Ezekiel 20:20 (OT 665): "And hallow my sabbaths: and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know _____."

B. Exodus 31:17 (OT 84): "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord _____."

C. Exodus 31:13 (OT 83): "Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that _____."

Note: The Sabbath is the sign of God's creative power, whether manifested in creation or redemption. Redemption is creation—re-creation. It requires the same power *to redeem as it does to create*. "Create in me a clean heart." Psalm 51:10 (OT 484). "We are . . . created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Ephesians 2:10 (NT 171). God designs that



*All must
receive the
seal of God
or the mark
of the beast.*

unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger

III

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

IV

Honor thy father and thy mother.



that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI

Thou shalt not kill.

VII

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII

Thou shalt not steal.

IX

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Exodus 20:3-17.

Note carefully the following points:

1. The catechism quoted above—typical of many—does not record the second commandment.
2. To adjust for the missing commandment, the 10th commandment has been divided into two, an artificial and arbitrary arrangement.
3. Now look at the fourth commandment, the third in the catechism. The portion that explains which day is the Sabbath is missing. Why?

THE BIBLE SAYS

1. Which day is the Bible Sabbath? Exodus 20:8-11 (OT 72).

The Bible says: -----

The seventh day of the week, of course, is Saturday. A review of

V

Thou shalt not kill.

VI

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VII

Thou shalt not steal.

VIII

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

IX

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

X

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

—Peter Geiermann, *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, p. 37.

history reveals that no change has ever occurred in the seven-day cycle of our week. Our seventh day now is the same seventh day of Christ's day, and even of Moses' day. The Jewish people have kept a strict record of the Sabbath for thousands of years. Check with them. Scholars studying the history of calendars also confirm the unbroken nature of the weekly unit.

2. Who is responsible for so many observing the first day of the week rather than the seventh day for the Sabbath?

The following quotation is the greatest challenge ever given Protestants:

"Practically everything that Protestants regard as essential or important they have received from the Catholic Church. They accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship *after the Catholic Church made the change*. . . . But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in accepting the Bible, in observing the Sunday, in keeping Christmas and Easter, *they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the Church, the Pope*."—*Our Sunday Visitor*, February 5, 1950. (Italics supplied.)

Answer: -----

3. Does history uphold the claim that the Roman Catholic Church actually transferred Christian worship from Saturday to Sunday?

Note: The first historical references to the observance of Sunday by professed Christians occur in the so-called *Epistle of Barnabas* (chapter 15) and in Justin Martyr's *First Apology* (chapter 67), both dating from about A.D. 150. Both denounce Sabbath observance and urge Sunday. The first authentic references to Sunday as the "Lord's Day" come from the apocryphal *Gospel According to Peter* and from Clement of Alexandria (*Miscellanies*, Vol. 14) toward the close of the second century.

However, contemporary records reveal the fact that the churches in Alexandria and Rome had the greatest influence in promoting Sunday observance. About A.D. 440 the church historian Socrates wrote that "although almost all churches throughout the world celebrate the sacred mysteries on the sabbath of every week, yet the Christians of Alexandria and at Rome, on account of some ancient tradition, have ceased to do this."—*Ecclesiastical History*, Bk. 5, chap. 22.

The Roman church took its first official action expressing preference for Sunday at the Council of Laodicea in the fourth century. Canon 29 of the Council stipulates that "Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday [Sabbath], but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honour. . . . If, however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ."