

Seventh Day Adventist Challenge...Answered

(The following challenge was sent to us from a Seventh Day Adventist church. It is a copy of a document that offers 500 pounds (England) to any person who could produce from the Bible one text or more proving any one of the following propositions. We have answered them under the heading '*Strawmen Answered*').

1. One text commanding Christians to keep Sunday, the first day of the week, as a holy day of rest and worship.
2. One text affirming that Christ ever observed Sunday as a sacred day. Or ever enjoined anyone else to do so.
3. One text that says that the Sabbath was ever changed by Christ or His apostles, from Saturday, the seventh day, to Sunday, the first day of the week.
4. One text that states when or where the Lord's sacred day, the seventh-day Sabbath, was ever abolished by Christ or His apostles.
5. One text that releases us from the observance of the fourth commandment, and its sacred Sabbath requirements.
6. One text telling us that the fourth commandment, or any part of the sacred Ten-Commandment Moral Law, written by God on tables of stone, was ever abolished.
7. One text affirming that it was customary for the church to meet for worship on the first day of the week, or any other day, except the Bible Sabbath.
8. One text that calls the seventh-day Sabbath a Jewish Sabbath.
9. One text affirming that any of the twelve apostles ever kept Sunday holy.
10. One text showing that any of the Apostles ever regarded Sunday as anything but one of the six working days of the week.
11. One text proving that any other Christian in apostolic days ever kept Sunday as a holy day.
12. One text proving that Christ or His apostles ever ignored the sacred seventh-day Sabbath as most Church-goers do today.
13. One text that condemns, or pronounces any penalty against Sunday work or Sunday sports.
14. One text that applies to Sunday any sacred title whatsoever.

Strawmen Answered

(*'Strawmen'* are false or counterfeit arguments put up and then pulled down. Strawmen are untruths, presumptions or lies that are credited to another so as to falsely align the opposition and to distract attention from their own errors. Most cults use this tactic to teach their own false doctrine. We urge readers to refer to our previous articles for Scriptural refutations on SDA errors - *Diakrisis* July/Aug 2001 and Nov/Dec 2001).

STRAWMAN 1: There is no text commanding Christians to keep Sunday as a 'holy day of rest and worship'. But neither is there any New Testament command for Christians to keep *Saturday* or any other day as a 'holy day of rest and worship'! The Christian faith once delivered does not use any *text* as a *command* for Christians to keep *either day* for rest or worship. Adventists also confuse 'rest' (*'Sabbath'*) with 'worship'.

STRAWMAN 2: Christ never observed Sunday as a '*sacred day*' or ever taught anyone else to do so.

STRAWMAN 3: The Sabbath ('rest') was never changed by Christ or His apostles, from Saturday, the seventh day, to Sunday, the first day of the week. But neither did Christ or the apostles ever command Christians to keep a Saturday Sabbath that could be '*changed*'!

STRAWMAN 4: The seventh-day Sabbath was never 'abolished' by Christ or His apostles. But neither did Christ or the apostles ever command the keeping of such! Christ is now our '*rest*', (Heb.4).

STRAWMAN 5: No New Testament text 'releases' us from the fourth commandment. But neither does the NT command us to its observance. The fourth commandment, unlike all the other nine, is not mentioned anywhere in the New Testament! The Sabbath was given as a sign '*to the children of Israel*', (Ex.31:13,16,17; Ezek.20:12).

STRAWMAN 6: Same as strawman No. 4

STRAWMAN 7: Arguably, no text '*affirms*' that it was 'customary' for the church to meet for worship on the first day of the week. But neither does any text affirm that the day of worship was on Saturday. However, the apostles did meet together in fellowship, breaking bread and taking offerings *on Sunday*! (Jn.20:19, 26, Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:1,2). The SDA church says Sunday keeping was instituted after 300 AD by the Roman Catholic religion. This is historically *false* as there are *numerous* and irrefutable accounts of early church Fathers, (from Justin Martyr (100-165AD), Ignatius (110AD) to Cyprian (200-258AD), who spoke of keeping Sunday. All the great leaders, (Jerome, Huss, Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin, etc) all kept Sunday. And again, the SDA movement confuses *rest* (Sabbath) with *worship*.

STRAWMAN 8: No text *literally* calls the seventh-day Sabbath a 'Jewish Sabbath'. Yet, the Sabbath was given as a sign '*to the children of Israel*', (Ex.31:13,16,17; Ezek.20:12).

STRAWMAN 9: No text '*affirms*' that any of the twelve apostles ever kept Sunday '*holy*'. It is likely they kept every day '*holy*' unto the Lord! Nevertheless, they did meet together in fellowship, broke bread and took offerings *on Sunday*! (Jn.20:19, 26, Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:1,2). It is up to the individual as to which day he chooses, (Rom.14:5,6).

STRAWMAN 10: No text specifically says that any of the Apostles ever regarded Sunday as anything sacred or different from any other day. But no text says they regarded Saturday as special either!

STRAWMAN 11: No Christian in 'apostolic days' ever spoke of Sunday as a 'holy' day. The subject was not an issue! However, as mentioned above, the apostles met together on Sunday, (Jn.20:19, 26, Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:1,2).

STRAWMAN 12: No text says that Christ or His apostles '*ignored*' the 'sacred seventh-day Sabbath'. But no text says they kept it or considered it as 'sacred' either!

STRAWMAN 13: No text condemns or pronounces any penalty against Sunday work or sports. But neither does any text condemn or pronounce any penalty against Saturday work or sports! However, anything that would '*forsake the assembling of ourselves*' (Heb.10:25) or would take priority of resting in, or worshipping the Lord, would be idolatry.

STRAWMAN 14: No text applies to Sunday any '*sacred title*'. But neither does any New Testament text apply to Saturday any sacred title whatsoever!