

Cry For "Save Our Sundays"

D. James Kennedy

Kennedy has a regular Sunday morning program, "The Coral Ridge Hour," which is carried by more than 500 TV stations. In addition, Kennedy has a radio program, "Truths That Transform," heard daily on more than 500 stations. According to the America United for Separation of Church and State

A 1996 Kennedy tome, *The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail: The Attack On Christianity And What You Need To Know To Combat It*, coauthored with Jerry Newcombe, calls the wall of separation a "great deception [that] has been used to destroy much of the religious freedom and liberty this country has enjoyed since its inception."

So Kennedy is demanding the destruction of the wall of separation between church and state.

Notice as well his mandate for Sunday in a very revealing sermon preached on November 4th, 2001, in the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale Florida, called "The Gift of Rest".

God so loved the human race that He gave us the Sabbath. In fact, before the state, before the church, before even the family, the first institution that God gave to mankind was the Sabbath. Having created the heavens and the earth and all things therein, he rested on the seventh day and blessed the seventh day and hallowed it. And He commands us to keep it as such, because He loves us. And if we love Him we will love His Sabbath. ... The Sabbath, the first institution given to man, is one that is vitally important. It is the longest commandment of the ten, more words dedicated to that throughout the rest of the scripture, mentioned more than virtually any other, and it was a very serious matter. God intended us to keep it. There is an old saying that goes, 'As goes the Sabbath, so goes the nation', because when the Sabbath becomes profaned and desecrated, church attendance is ignored, the teaching of God's holy word and His morality and spiritual life is forgotten, and the nation sinks deeper and deeper into the mire of sin. And that has a profound negative impact upon any country.

It sounds very Biblical, for indeed the Sabbath is God's gift of rest to us. BUT notice two things, one that has already emerged here:

The national consequences--

Remember that Kennedy stated in his work, *Character & Destiny: A Nation In Search of Its Soul* "How much more forcefully can I say it? The time has come, and it is long overdue, when Christians and conservatives and all men and women who believe in the birthright of freedom must rise up and reclaim America for Jesus Christ." (p. 80)

This "reclaiming" is to be done by breaking down the wall between church and state-- which can only mean LEGAL ENFORCEMENT OF RELIGION!

The wrong day is proclaimed the Sabbath

But let's continue to see what he says about the Sabbath in his sermon.

There are those today that, that don't think anything about the Sabbath. You know your great grandfather called it the holy Sabbath. Did you know that? Your grandfather called it

the Sabbath. Your father probably called it Sunday. We call it the weekend. Would you think that the Sabbath is being demeaned in the eyes of the American public. I'm afraid that it is, even though it is very important.

It [the Sunday Sabbath] is attacked by those who would say that we are not even supposed to be worshipping on the first day of the week. There are those that say we are supposed to be worshipping on the seventh day of the week. And the commandment is "Six days shalt thou labor and the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord our God". How did we go, they will ask, from being, Saturday being the Sabbath, to Sunday being the Sabbath.

What is this popular radio preacher saying here?

He is blaming those who uphold the true Sabbath of God's commandments, as defiling his Sunday, which has NO SCRIPTURAL COMMAND WHATSOEVER!

Is this not a clear revelation of prophecy being fulfilled?

He continues:

Who changed the Law? Well, seventh day celebrators, Seventh-day Adventists who celebrate Sabbath on the seventh day, will usually tell you that it was Constantine, in the early 300's, 325 A.D. that had the temerity to take upon himself, the authority, simply because he was the Caesar of Rome, to change the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday. Do you buy that? Think about it. Like for example, the Romans had no Sabbath at all. Saturday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday, none! They had no Sabbath to change. What Constantine simply did, was, make Sunday a legal holiday so that they wouldn't have to worship in the catacombs before light on early Sunday morning and then go to work. He would not certainly have wanted to jeopardize the support of all of the millions of Christians that had grown up in those three centuries, that had allowed him to take over the Roman empire, by changing their day.

Seventh-day Adventists do NOT say Constantine change the Sabbath. The Christian church, especially the Roman church, changed it. This is what we teach

In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church. But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment.

"Great Controversy", by Ellen White, 1911 edition, page 53.

Dr. Kennedy's sermon moves from misrepresenting our historical position as to the change of the Sabbath, and then uplifts circumstantial verses in the scripture where something happened on the 1st day as proof that Sunday is now the Sabbath. However, there is NO COMMAND anywhere in scripture that Sunday is to be kept holy in place of God's blessed and sanctified 7th day!

Colossians 2:16 becomes more and more meaningful as we read it in its context. Manmade commandments will perish, let no man judge you concerning the sabbath.

THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE

The Lord's Day Alliance of the United States exists to encourage Christians to reclaim the Sabbath—the Lord's Day—as a day of spiritual and personal renewal, enabling them to impact their communities with the Gospel.

In an article entitled "What Happened to the Sabbath?" by Marvin R. Jonassen

We see the same assumption about Sunday being the day God was talking about in his ten commandments, which we see in the Pope's letter. Yet SUNDAY is the pagan festival of the venerable day of the Sun god. The SEVENTH-DAY is the Sabbath which God asked His people to remember, not Sunday.

The article states:

What happened to that day of rest at the end of the week, that day in which we are called, by God, to, "Remember and keep Holy?" Sometimes, one has to wonder what happened to it. Indeed, it seems to have gotten lost somewhere along the line.

Notice the referral to the commandment-- but is he speaking of the true Sabbath that command asked us to remember?

Indeed, a few years ago, my son's soccer coach suggested to my wife--who was concerned about a game being scheduled for Sunday morning--that it wouldn't hurt him to miss one day of church.

No, he is not speaking of the Sabbath that the commandments actually ask us to remember. He is speaking of Sunday. Yet he gives to Sunday the full moral and spiritual meaning which the Bible says belongs to the SEVENTH-DAY.

The Reverend McQuilkin, Pastor at Orange, New Jersey, furnishes a pamphlet for The Lord's Day Alliance. Read what the Doctor says:

God claims the Sabbath for himself in a very unique, distinctive way as a day of rest and worship. He again and again commands you to spend its hours in the conservation of our spiritual power in the exercise of public and private worship. To spend this holy day in pleasure or unnecessary secular labor is to rob God. We have got to be careful how we take the hours of the Sabbath for secular study or work, for God will surely bring us to judgment concerning the matter. Church attendance is a definite obligation, a debt which we owe to God.

Again-- he is NOT SPEAKING of the day actually mentioned in the ten commandments, but of another day which God never sanctified and NEVER asked anyone to keep holy.

The push is on to stop secular activities like sports, on Sunday by legislation.