What is the Christian Sabbath?

Text—1 Thess. 5: 21-22

Introduction—

1. Definition—Sabbath, **(SABBATON)—**the root means to cease, desist. The doubled ‘b’ has an intensive force, implying a complete cessation. The idea is not that of relaxation or refreshment, but cessation from activity. {VINE’S}

***“For the first three centuries of the Christian era the first day of the week was never confounded with the Sabbath; the confusion of the Jewish and Christian institutions was due to declension from apostolic teaching.”***

**People are generally not familiar with the words "declension or cessation" in future you should explain these terms.**

1. Seventh Day Adventist
   * + 1. Worship still on Saturday (Sabbath)
       2. Not under Old Law
       3. Jesus not King…yet.
       4. Some say Gov’t changed day from Saturday to Sunday.

You switched the words you said Sunday to Saturday.

* + - 1. Was the day of worship changed?

1. What does the bible say about the Sabbath?
2. Under The Old Law
3. After Israel left Egypt—Ex. 16: 4-7, 23-30
4. At Mount Sinai [looking back in history in a prayer to God] —Neh. 9: 13-14
5. To Israel—Deut. 5: 1-3, 12-15 you skipped
6. Sign between God and Israel—Ezek. 20: 10-12; Ex. 31: 16-17
7. The Sabbath Was Not Given in the Garden of Eden!

  1. 7th-day Adventists assert this, but without Biblical proof.  
  2. Gen. 2: 2 - God rested on the 7th day of creation - Not man!  
  3. Exo. 20: 11 - God uses His day of rest from work of creation to illustrate the rest (Sabbath) He commanded Israel!

1. **Key Passage—Ex. 20: 1-2**
   * + 1. Spoke to the children of Israel
       2. Brought them up from Egypt
       3. Didn’t do that to anyone else
2. Under The New Law
3. Worshipped on the First Day
   * + 1. The day of Resurrection—Lk. 24: 1-8

***Justin Martyr wrote, "But Sunday is the day which we hold our common assembly, because it is the first day of the week, and Jesus our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead".***

* + - 1. Day of Jesus’ first appearance to disciples—Jn. 20: 19
      2. Met second time, with Thomas, following first day—Jn. 20: 26
      3. Day of Pentecost always on First Day—Acts 2
      4. Christians assembled on First Day—Acts 20: 7
      5. Paul to Corinthians, give on First Day—1 Cor. 16: 2

1. Has the Sabbath day been changed?
   * + 1. NO!
       2. Sabbath part of the Old Law,
          1. nailed to cross—Col. 2: 14-17

**Colossians 2:14-17**

**14** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

* + - * 1. Catholic church understands this, splits 10th Commandment into two separate commands
        2. **Christians didn’t have a day of worship before Pentecost.**
      1. Jesus never mentioned Sabbath during his Sermon on the Mount—Matt. 5-7
      2. **Key Passage—Mk. 2: 23-28 (vs. 27) -** Weak logic or explanation

1. What about Paul?

Went to the synagogue on the Sabbath—(8 ref.)Acts 9: 20; 14: 1; 16: 13; 17: 2, 17; 18: 4, 11; 19: 8

* + - 1. Paul was a Jew; allowed in synagogue
      2. Reasoned from their scriptures about Jesus
      3. Not a Sabbath keeper, Doing God’s command—Matt. 28: 19
      4. Assembled with saints on Sunday as well—Acts 20: 7

1. What about Matt. 24: 20?
2. Jesus warned about Sabbath
   * + 1. He discussed the Abomination of Desolation—vs. 15
          1. Romans attack—70 AD
          2. Be prepared for imminent Departure—vs. 16-18
       2. What about vs. 20?
          1. If Jewish practice, why warn Christians?
          2. Jerusalem is a Jewish community.
          3. Abide by Jewish laws.
          4. Gates would be closed from Sundown Friday to Sunrise Sunday.
          5. Difficult to escape with gates closed on Saturday.

**\*\*Let’s Review\*\***

1. Difference between Sabbath and Lord’s Day
   * + 1. Jews
          1. Worshipped on The Sabbath (Saturday)
          2. No work at all—Ex. 16: 23
          3. Ordained by God—Ex. 20: 8-11
          4. Supported by Moses—Ex. 16: 27-28
       2. Christians
          1. Worshipped on The Lord’s Day (Sunday)
          2. Labor not forbidden—Jn. 9: 4
          3. Ordained by Christ—Acts 2
          4. Supported by Apostles—Acts 20: 7
2. The Christian’s Sabbath
3. Sabbath was for the Jews only
4. Sunday is NOT the Sabbath
5. The Christian Sabbath is Heaven—Heb. 4: 9-11

Conclusion

Gal. 5: 3-4, **“Yea, I testify again to every man that receiveth circumcision, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Ye are severed from Christ, ye would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace.”**

Matt. 28: 18-20, **“And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”**