

Galatians

Chapter 4

Verse 10

1. The Galatians were observing days, months, times and years. What does this mean?
2. Under the Law of Moses, there were multiple special days and times of the year that Israel had to observe. There were holy days, feast days, Sabbath days, etc.
3. The most common of these was the Sabbath day. This was one of the Ten Commandments. **Exodus 20:8-11**
 - It was to be a day of rest and absolutely no work was to be done.
 - What was the penalty for breaking it? - Death! **Exodus 31:14-15**
 - Many Christians falsely believe that the Sabbath day command is still binding upon us today or at least some form of it.
4. **Who was the Sabbath day given to?**
 - It was given to the nation of Israel. **Exodus 19:2-3**; cf. **Nehemiah 9:13-14**
 - The Sabbath day was a sign of the covenant relationship that God had with the nation of Israel. **Exodus 31:12-13, 17-18**
5. **Why was the Sabbath day command given?**
 - After His creation work, God rested on the seventh day. **Genesis 2:1-3**
 - This simply means that everything He designed and intended to do in creation had been accomplished.
 - According to **Psalms 132:13-18**, God chose a piece of real estate called Zion (or Jerusalem) and said, "That is where I'm going to live and rest with mankind forever and ever."
 - According to **Isaiah 40:21-22**, the whole purpose of God in creation was to provide a place for Him to live and rest with mankind.
 - But God's rest was broken in Genesis 3 by mankind's rebellion and disobedience. From that point forward, God is no longer seen resting, but rather working on behalf of fallen man (God made coats of skins for Adam and Eve).
 - But God's original plan to live and dwell on the earth with mankind in perfect rest, peace, and tranquility will one day be fulfilled. God will bring peace and rest to this earth and He will bring His tabernacle to dwell on this earth, establishing His kingdom and occupying His eternal resting place in Zion.
 - The nation of Israel is the chosen instrument through which God will bring about this eternal rest to the earth. God promised Israel eternal rest in His habitation in Zion. **Exodus 15:17-18**
 - God will come and dwell among them and give Israel, the earth, and Himself perfect rest. **Jeremiah 30:10, 31:1-3** - This is the promise to his People, Israel.
 - The Sabbath day was a weekly reminder and picture of the eternal rest God has promised to them on the earth in the future.
 - It wasn't that they were just to wake up and remember that it was Saturday. There was something of significance that they were to memorialize that day - the eternal rest that is coming in the future.

6. **Why don't we observe the Sabbath day today?**
 - God's work to redeem mankind culminated when Jesus came to this earth and died for our sin. He made it possible for a fallen race to be redeemed back to God. He cried, *"It is finished"* and He died. Redemption's work was done!
 - After His resurrection, He ascended back to heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father.
 - The work of redemption was finished and complete. Now today, Christ bids us to believe upon and rest in His finished work. He is our place of rest and peace with God. It is not through our works or performance, but it is resting in the finished work of Christ. **Colossians 2:14**
 - We do not rest in a **day**, we rest in a **Person** - Jesus Christ. This is why God said in **Colossians 2:16-17**, *"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."*
 - These things have nothing to do with us today in the present. They have to do with God's program with Israel in the future. This is why it says that they are shadows *"of things to come."* This is speaking of Israel's future kingdom on earth.
 - The Sabbath day pointed to an eternal rest for the nation of Israel in the future. There is no significance for the Christian today at all. We have already found an eternal rest in Christ. **Colossians 2:10**
 - This is why God says in **Romans 14:5-6** that one person may regard one day above another, but another person regards every day the same. It really doesn't matter, because our rest isn't in a day; it's in a person - Jesus Christ.
 - Because we rest in a Person, not a day, we are given the capacity to see every day alike and esteem every day unto the Lord.
7. The Galatians were observing these special Jewish days and months and years, thinking that this made them special and acceptable to God.
8. Paul is demonstrating to them how silly and ridiculous this is. The ordinances of the law were taken out of the way when Christ died on the cross. **Colossians 2:14; Ephesians 2:15-16**

Rapture of the church

Second coming of Christ

**Sabbath Days:
shadows of things
to come for Israel**
Colossians 2:16-17



Old Testament

**Body of Christ
Dispensation
of Grace**

Tribulation

**Kingdom
Rest for
Israel**

*SABBATH DAY
COMMAND GIVEN
TO ISRAEL
EXODUS 19:2-3*

*CHRIST'S
FINISHED WORK
ON THE CROSS*

*SABBATH DAY
COMMAND IS DONE
AWAY IN CHRIST -
WE REST IN A
PERSON (CHRIST)
NOT A DAY*

*7 YEARS
OF WRATH*

*THE SHADOW OF
THE SABBATH IS
FULFILLED IN
ISRAEL'S KINGDOM
REST ON EARTH*