

The Truth About

**The  
Lunar  
Sabbath**



*SureWord Ministries*

# The Truth About the Lunar Sabbath

## Introduction

Today there is growing confusion among Sabbath-keeping Christians as to exactly which day constitutes the Biblical Sabbath. This confusion has arisen due to the relatively recent emergence of a teaching which promotes the idea that the seventh-day weekly Sabbath, Saturday, is actually an error, a deception of Satan, and that it is the so-called “lunar Sabbath” which is the true Biblical Sabbath, and that this lunar Sabbath has simply been forgotten over the centuries and that God is now calling the “faithful” back to its observance.

Much evidence has been put forward in favour of the lunar Sabbath teaching by those who promote it, in the form of plausible and apparently persuasive arguments from the Bible, from history, even from Jewish scholars, and it is this “evidence” that is causing confusion and leading many to doubt the weekly seventh-day Sabbath, because many have not made the word of God their anchor and foundation.

Those who observe the weekly seventh-day Sabbath do so because they believe the Bible clearly teaches that the seventh day of each week, Saturday, is the Bible Sabbath, and that this immutable pattern was established by God at creation.

Those who promote the lunar Sabbath as the true Sabbath do so because they believe that the Bible teaches that the Sabbath is not one specific day of the week, but rather the new moon must be used to determine which day of the week constitutes the Sabbath. In the lunar Sabbath system, the first day of the month is the new moon, then follows six working days, after which follows the first Sabbath of the month and each subsequent Sabbath of that month is simply the seventh day following the previous Sabbath, until the next appearance of the new moon when the cycle resets and begins again. This means that the Sabbath is no longer tied to the weekly cycle of days, to a specific day of the week, but rather is tied to the appearance of the new moon, and to specific days of the month, and so the Sabbath can and does fall on any day of the week, and there may not necessarily be six days of work between each Sabbath day.

Is the seventh-day weekly Sabbath the true Sabbath of the Bible, or have seventh-day Sabbath keepers been deceived into observing the wrong day? Can we determine beyond doubt from the Bible which day constitutes the Biblical Sabbath, the day which God Himself actually commands us to observe?

## Identifying the Sabbath Day

In order to identify which day is the Bible Sabbath, we need to begin by locating the origin of the Sabbath, and to do that there is only one place where we can go, and that is to the very beginning, to creation, where the Sabbath was first established by God Himself.

Proponents of the lunar Sabbath insist that the new moon must be used to determine which day constitutes the first Sabbath of each month. If that is true then we should clearly see this pattern being established by God at creation. What we should see is God creating the moon, and then seven days later establishing the Sabbath – we should see the Sabbath day being clearly and unambiguously tied to the appearance of the moon. So what pattern do we actually see being established by God at creation?

At the very beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis, we have the account of creation, when God took six days to create the heavens and the earth, and rested on the seventh day. Here we see God establishing the 7-day weekly cycle – six days of labour and one day of rest – the pattern He established

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for human existence, which has not ceased from that time until the present. We still have a 7-day week today.

Now let's begin by identifying when the moon was created, when it first appeared:

*Genesis 1:14-19 14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. 19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.*

So we can see that the moon was created, it appeared, on day four of the first week of creation.

Next we need to see when the Sabbath day was established:

*Genesis 2:2-3 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

So we can see that the Sabbath was established on day seven of the first week of creation. Do we see here any clear unambiguous relation between the moon and the Sabbath? No. None at all. What we actually see is God establishing the Sabbath on the seventh day after He began His work of creation, the seventh and final day of the first week, not the seventh day after the moon appeared – so we see no relation whatsoever between the appearance of the moon and the occurrence of the Sabbath day, in fact we see the opposite, we see the Sabbath being tied to the weekly cycle, being specifically and unambiguously identified by God Himself as the seventh day, the final day, of the weekly cycle.

Do we see this weekly cycle pattern being repeated and confirmed anywhere else in scripture?

In the book of Exodus there is a very interesting story recorded, where God rained Manna from heaven for the children of Israel during their wilderness wanderings:

*Exodus 16:4-5 4 Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. 5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.*

*Exodus 16:22-23 22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. 23 And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.*

*Exodus 16:25-26 25 And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the Lord: to day ye shall not find it in the field. 26 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.*

*Exodus 28-30 28 And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? 29 See, for that the Lord hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. 30 So the people rested on the seventh day.*

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What we can see from this story is that the Israelites were provided with Manna for six consecutive days, but on the seventh-day no Manna was provided, because God was teaching them something that they had forgotten during their captivity and slavery in Egypt, that the seventh-day of the week was to be considered holy, it was their Sabbath rest, which they were to observe from that point on. An important point to note is that nowhere in this story recorded in Exodus chapter 28 is the moon mentioned at all – further evidence that the moon had nothing whatever to do with the weekly seventh-day Sabbath.

In Exodus we see God formally giving His ten commandments to the Israelites, which included the command to remember the Sabbath day – a day which they had forgotten during their captivity in Egypt:

*Exodus 20:9-11 9 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work. 10 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 that is within thy gates: 11 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.*

Do we see here any mention of the moon? What we actually see is God linking the Sabbath day to creation, to His work of creating the heavens and the earth, which took six days, and He clearly identifies the Sabbath day as the seventh-day of the week, the final day of the first week of creation. If God expected us to use the moon to identify the Sabbath then He would have clearly and unambiguously stated that here in His ten commandments.

In Leviticus we again see God clearly linking the Sabbath day to the weekly cycle:

*Leviticus 23:15-16 15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: 16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord.*

This verse tells us that seven Sabbaths in a row, plus one day, equates very simply to a **consecutive** 50 days – that's simply seven consecutive weeks (49 days) plus one day. This could not be true if the Sabbath was determined by the moon – in that situation this verse would make no sense.

Proponents of the lunar Sabbath like to point out that various calendars have been used at different points in history and that this is evidence that the weekly cycle has been lost over time. However this weekly cycle has never changed, regardless of which calendar was being used at any point in history, as it is independent of any calendar. We recommend the following study, available on our web site:

[http://www.sureword.co.uk/downloads/Calendars\\_and\\_Weeks.pdf](http://www.sureword.co.uk/downloads/Calendars_and_Weeks.pdf)

The weekly cycle was established at creation and has never been broken, and it will continue throughout eternity. Referring to the earth made new, God says through the prophet Isaiah:

*Isaiah 66:22-23 22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. 23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.*

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This tells us that the Sabbath day will still exist, and that we will still continue to observe it, when the earth is made new.

So we have seen clear evidence from the Bible that the Sabbath is purely and simply the seventh-day of each recurring week, that is has nothing whatsoever to do with the moon. This is the pattern that God Himself established at creation, it has never changed, it is the pattern that He expects and commands us to follow today, since the Sabbath was given to all mankind, for all time.

This evidence should be enough for any sincere Bible-believing Christian to determine which day is the true Bible Sabbath – the one that we are specifically commanded by God Himself to observe.

## The Purpose of the Moon

If the moon is not to be used for determining the weekly Sabbath day, then what purpose does it serve? To answer that question let's go back to the very beginning again, to creation:

*Genesis 1:14-16 14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years. 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.*

The sun and moon were created not just to give light on the earth during the periods of daylight and night-time, but also to mark the passage of time – the sun primarily to mark the passage of days, but also in conjunction with the stars to mark the passage of seasons and years, and the moon to mark the passage of months. This is the reason that God instructed the Jews to keep track of the moon – it was to mark the beginning of each month to enable the Jews to determine when the annual ceremonial feast days occurred, which were always determined in relation to the new moon, or the beginning of the Jewish month – these are the “holy days” of which the apostle Paul speaks:

*Colossians 2:16-17 16 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: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

The holy days Paul is talking about here are the seven annual feasts which the Jews were required to observe as part of the ceremonial system. The “*sabbath days*” he is referring to are not the weekly seventh-day Sabbath but rather the seven annual sabbaths which were always observed together with the seven annual feasts and which could occur on any day of the week, because they were determined in relation to the appearance of the new moon, or the beginning of the Jewish month.

Paul makes it clear here that all of these things were part of the old ceremonial system which ceased when Christ was crucified – they were “shadows” of things to come, in other words they prefigured the work that Christ would accomplish, and after His crucifixion they no longer had any meaning because they had been fulfilled by His life and death. So those who promote the lunar Sabbath teaching are actually trying to return us to observing rituals from the old Jewish ceremonial system.

By saying “*Let no man judge you*” Paul is teaching that Christians cannot be saved by any form of external works – our salvation is based solely on our faith in Christ, His sacrifice for us, and His righteousness which covers us as long as we have faith in Him.

So we can see that the new moon was used only to determine the beginning of the month, which was in turn used to calculate when the annual feasts days, the annual sabbaths, occurred – it was never

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intended to be used in relation to the weekly seventh-day Sabbath, and in fact there is no need for this, because the Sabbath is very simply every seventh day.

## **How Long is the Sabbath Day? When Does it Begin and End?**

Most Sabbath-keepers observe the weekly Sabbath day as a 24-hour period, from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday. However proponents of the lunar Sabbath teach that a day in the Bible does not consist of a 24-hour period, but is rather only the hours of daylight, from sunrise to sunset, and that the night-time hours are not counted as part of a Biblical day.

Can we see clear evidence from the Bible to confirm the length of a Biblical day?

*Genesis 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

So right at the very beginning, at creation, we see that the very first day consisted of an evening (sunset, including the hours of darkness which followed), followed by a morning (sunrise, including the hours of daylight which followed). So we can see clearly that a day in the Bible consists of an evening and a morning – night-time followed by daytime. We can also see that a day in the Bible begins and ends at evening, or sunset. This pattern has never changed.

Can we see any further clear evidence from the Bible to confirm which hours of the day constitute the Sabbath?

*Leviticus 23:32 It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.*

Here we see God confirming the hours during which the Sabbath day is to be observed, removing any confusion – “*from even unto even*” – in other words from one evening to the following evening – 24 hours, a complete day. So the Sabbath begins at evening and ends at the following evening, sunset to sunset, the same pattern for the length of a day which was established by God at creation.

## **Law and Grace**

In the days of the apostle Paul, there were some Jewish converts to Christianity who were following Paul around on his missionary journeys. These Jewish converts were going around the churches that Paul had established and were seeking to convince the Christians there that they must observe the law of Moses in order to be saved, which involved practices such as circumcision, observing the annual feasts of the Jewish ceremonial system etc.

*Acts 15:1-2, 5 1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. 2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them.....5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.*

Paul in his letters to the churches made repeated efforts to combat these teachings, which he saw as luring believers away from the pure gospel of faith and back to legalism, back to bondage:

*Galatians 4:9-11 9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage. 10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. 11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.*

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Paul was trying to get the Christians believers to see that by accepting Christ by faith, they had been set free from legalistic observance of Jewish rites and rituals, and were now living by faith and the grace of God.

History is repeating itself. It seems that there is a similar movement growing among Christians today, to return us to our Jewish roots, to return us to the bondage of legalistic observance of Jewish rites and rituals, which explains teachings such as the lunar Sabbath, observing the feasts days, the sacred name etc. These are all part of the same movement. This is the very same battle that the apostle Paul had to fight in his day as we saw in Acts 15.

The lunar Sabbath teaching is just another of the efforts some are making to turn Christianity back into Judaism, just like the Jewish converts of Paul's day, and make Christianity a religion of salvation by works instead of salvation by faith and grace.

It makes sense that Satan is the one behind this whole movement, because he is trying to deceive believers into focusing on external "works" rather than internal change - having our characters changed by the Spirit of God. And he is using the very same tactic that he used so successfully in Paul's day – legalism.

Today it seems that Satan has brought the very same controversy back in among God's people, which is why it's vitally important that each of us know the scriptures for ourselves so that we will not be led astray by clever deceptions, of which there will be many in these last days.

*[2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.](#)*

## The Sabbath in History

If we examine the record of history we find that God's true people have always kept the seventh day of each week as the Bible Sabbath. We recommend the video series entitled "**The Seventh Day**" which shows clearly how the weekly seventh-day Sabbath has been kept by God's faithful people throughout history. We also recommend our video, "**What Jesus Said About the Sabbath**" which clearly shows the important role the Sabbath day plays in the life of a Christian. Both of these videos are available to watch via the Videos section of our web site:

<http://www.sureword.co.uk/index.php?page=VB>

## The Sabbath Changed

We can also use Bible prophecy to clearly identify which day the Bible reveals as the true Sabbath. Bible prophecy tells us that the antichrist power would seek to change God's law:

*[Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.](#)*

The law being referred to here is not the laws of men but the law of God – God's moral law, as embodied in the ten commandments. Can we identify any power on earth which has tried to change God's moral law, the ten commandments? Yes we can. The Roman Catholic church claims to have changed God's law, and it claims that this is in fact a mark (or seal) of its authority. So which law has this church sought to change?

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In the **Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine**, we read:

*Q. Which is the Sabbath day?*

*A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.*

*Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?*

*A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea, (AD 336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday....*

*Q. By what authority did the Church substitute Sunday for Saturday?*

*A. The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plenitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her!*

*Rev. Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., (1946), p. 50.*

Also in **A Doctrinal Catechism** we read:

*Q. Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?*

*A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her. She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.*

*Rev. Stephen Keenan, (1851), p. 174.*

So the Roman Catholic church claims that by its ecclesiastical authority it changed the day which Christians observe, the Sabbath, from the seventh-day of the week (Saturday), to the first day of the week (Sunday). This change directly contradicts the fourth of the ten commandments, where God specifically commands us to observe the seventh-day of each week as the Sabbath. But at the same time it is also a direct fulfilment of Bible prophecy.

So if the Roman Catholic Church admits that it changed the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday, which is a fulfilment of prophecy, then this is clear evidence that the day originally being observed by early Christians was Saturday, the seventh-day of the week, in obedience to the fourth commandment.

If the original Sabbath was the lunar Sabbath as its proponents claim, then the above statements from the Roman Catholic Church would make no sense, since by the admission of the Catholic church itself the original Sabbath was Saturday, the seventh-day of the week, and not a lunar Sabbath.

We recommend our video, "**The Three Angels Messages**", which clearly shows the vital role that the Sabbath day plays in the fulfilment of Bible prophecy in these last days of earth's history:

<http://www.sureword.co.uk/index.php?page=VP>

## **A Dangerous Deception**

We have seen from Bible prophecy that the true Bible Sabbath has an extremely important role to play in the final events of earth's history, right before Christ returns. The Bible tells us clearly that the Sabbath is in fact God's "seal of approval" on his faithful people:

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*Exodus 31:13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, 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 doth sanctify you.*

*Exodus 31:17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*

*Ezekiel 20:12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.*

*Ezekiel 20:20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.*

And speaking of those who will live at the end of time just before Christ returns, the Bible says:

*Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

So we can see just how important the Sabbath is in these last days of earth's present history, and just how seriously God regards it, and if this is true then God would certainly have made the Sabbath so simple to identify that a child could see it, it would be simple and obvious enough so that there would be no opportunity for anyone to miss it, or to be confused about it, which is the case if you accept that the Sabbath is simply the seventh day of each week as the Bible plainly teaches. If it were not that simple to identify then it would be unfair of God to judge people for being confused about which day it actually is.

If the Sabbath is so vitally important to us who are living in the last days then it makes perfect sense that Satan, the arch deceiver, would naturally try to lure believers away from observance of the true Bible Sabbath to a false counterfeit Sabbath of his own devising. He has already accomplished this for the majority of Christians by substituting Sunday as the Sabbath (the Lord's day). But Satan sees that there is a minority who remain stubbornly loyal to the true Bible Sabbath, and so he devises another clever counterfeit to deceive even that minority – the lunar Sabbath. Unfortunately many of these minority observers of the true Bible Sabbath have been deceived and lured away by this dangerous and deceptive false teaching, which at first sight seems very plausible but is in reality nothing but a very clever deception and denies the plain and clear evidence to the contrary in the word of God.

It's interesting to note that the fourth of the ten commandments is the only one of the ten to begin with the word "**remember**". It's almost as if God knew that this commandment, specifically, would be forgotten, dented and counterfeited. Did God perhaps foresee that, due to its importance, this fourth commandment would be the one that would be specifically attacked by Satan, more so than the others, causing the people of God to forget its importance and sacredness, and to be lured into deception by clever counterfeits?

If Satan is trying so hard to lure people away from observing the true Bible Sabbath and receiving God's seal, then this must surely be a sign that he is redoubling his efforts because he knows his time is very short, and that Christ's return is even at the door. So the fact that the lunar Sabbath teaching has recently emerged and is rapidly taking hold, is in fact another sure sign of Christ's soon return.

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## Conclusions

The Bible contains no clear and direct command from God to the effect that the Sabbath day should be observed in relation to the moon. This is why the proponents of this teaching are forced to resort to history, philosophy and to twisting the plain and clear statements from the Bible in order to support this teaching. However we have seen that the Bible does contain a clear, direct and incontrovertible command from God that the Sabbath day is to be observed very simply as the seventh-day of each week, both as a memorial of His work of creation, and also as a day of rest and fellowship with Him. In fact that command is so important that God has placed it at the very heart of His ten commandments, His enduring eternal moral law, the law which is the very foundation of His government of all creation.

So many of the common teachings today, including the lunar Sabbath, fail to follow the golden rules of Bible interpretation. People try to prove their teachings by resorting to so-called “evidence” from philosophers, from history, from any source other than the plain statements of the Bible, and when they do this they are leading themselves and others astray.

There are certain things that we must always be prepared to do when seeking to understand the Bible.

Firstly we must be prepared to **lay side any preconceptions we have**. So many people are led to misinterpret the Bible because they try to filter the word of God through their preconceptions, rather than reading what it actually says. They are not truly willing to be taught, they are not willing to give up their pet theory or belief and so God cannot reach them with the truth. We must always have a humble and teachable spirit, or God cannot reveal truth to us.

Secondly we must be prepared to **let the Bible interpret itself**. We do this by following the Bible’s own rule of interpretation:

*Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:*

What this means is that when seeking to understand the Bible, we must be prepared to **compare scripture with scripture** – in other words we should take all of the verses we can find on the subject in question, compare them all and then take the weight of evidence. This is the only sure way to avoid confusion, to avoid constructing teachings that are not Biblical.

The third thing we must always be prepared to do is to **seek God’s guidance, though His Holy Spirit**. The Bible is no ordinary book, it is divinely inspired, it cannot be correctly understood without the aid of the same Holy Spirit that inspired it all to be written:

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God...*

*2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

So when seeking to understand the Bible we must heed the Bible’s own counsel and first pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit:

*James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

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We must lay aside our preconceptions, compare scripture with scripture and seek the aid of the Holy Spirit - If we do all of these things then we can expect that God will fulfil His part and guide us into the truth of His word.

Each of us must strive to ensure that every aspect our faith and practice is based solely upon a solid "thus saith the Lord", and never on cunningly devised fables.

May each of us strive to make the word of God our foundation and anchor, so that we will not be blown off course by the increasing number of "winds of doctrine" that are blowing in these last days - false teachings designed to deceive the people of God and prevent them from receiving His seal of approval.

May each one of us remain anchored to Christ our Redeemer by getting to know Him and His word for ourselves and by hiding His word in our hearts so that we will not be deceived:

*Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

*John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*