

‘Let no One Judge You Regarding Sabbaths’ (The True Meaning)

Did this Bible Verse Abolish God’s Fourth Commandment of Sabbath?

**“Let no Man Judge you in Food or in Drink or
regarding a Festival or a New moon or Sabbaths”**

(Colossians 2:16: New King James Version)

The True Meaning

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1. PART 1: WAS THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH ABOLISHED BY COLOSSIANS 2:16

Colossians 2:14-17 is referred by many to mean that when Jesus died, he nailed to the cross, the 10 commandments of God, such as keeping the Sabbath day holy. So that we do not have to keep this command any more. This bible study gives biblical proof that the Sabbath commandment was not removed in Colossians 2:16 and it's still a relevant God commandment that should be observed.

"Let no man judge you in food or in drink or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths" (Col 2:16. *New King James Version*).

"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" (Col 2:16. *King James Version*).

There are five Key words used by Apostle Paul in this verse

1. **Food (or meat)**
2. **Drink**
3. **Festival (or holy day)**
4. **New moon**
5. **Sabbaths (or Sabbath days)**

To understand fully the true meaning of what Apostle Paul was talking about in this verse, we must go back into the Old Testament and find where all these key words occur together. Why look into the old testament? Because Apostle Paul's said:

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning," (Romans 15:4)

"I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets" (Acts 24:14)

2. Types of Offerings in the Old Testament

1.1. "Food" offerings

"and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; all the fat *is* the Lord's" (Leviticus 3:16)

"Command the children of Israel, and say to them, 'My offering, My food for My offerings made by fire as a sweet aroma to Me, you shall be careful to offer to Me at their **appointed time**'" (Numbers 28:2)

"The LORD said to Moses, "Give this command to the Israelites and say to them: 'Make sure that you present to me at the appointed time my food offerings, as an aroma pleasing to me.' Say to them: 'This is the food offering you are to present to the LORD: two lambs a year old without defect, as a regular burnt offering each day. Offer one lamb in the morning and the other at twilight, (Numbers 28: 1-4, NIV)

“In this manner you shall offer the **food of the offering** made by fire daily for seven days, as a sweet aroma to the LORD; it shall be offered besides the regular **burnt offering** and its **drink offering**” (*Numbers 28:24*)

1.2. “Grain”, and “Drink” offerings

We find that food, drink, and grain offerings often come together concerning the daily offerings and burnt sacrifices that were spelt out in the law of Moses.

“Also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings and with the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order” (2 Chronicles 29:35)

So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it. (Genesis 35:14)

And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; and you shall offer with it the grain offering and the drink offering, as in the morning, for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD” (Exodus 29:41) (also see Exodus 30:9)

“And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be *as a burnt offering* to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD” (Leviticus 23:18)

“and he shall offer the ram as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, with the basket of unleavened bread; the priest shall also offer its grain offering and its drink offering” (Numbers 6: 17) (also read *Numbers 28: 8, 11, 15, Numbers 29: 11, 16, 22, 25, 28, 34,38*)

“So, he burned his burnt offering and his grain offering; and he poured his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar (2 Kings 16:13) (also read 2 Kings 16:15)

1.3. “New moon”, “feasts” and “Sabbath days” offerings

“Then it shall be the prince’s part to give burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings, **at the feasts, the New Moons, the Sabbaths**, and at all the **appointed seasons** of the house of Israel. He shall prepare the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings to make atonement for the house of Israel.” (Ezekiel 45:17)

“this is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering with its drink offering” (Numbers 28: 10)

“besides the burnt offering with its grain offering for the **New Moon**, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, as a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD” (Numbers 29:6)

"These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day" (Leviticus 23:37)

"And to offer all burnt sacrifices to The Lord in the Sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded to them, continually before The Lord." (1 Chronicles 23:31)

"Behold, I build a house to the name of The Lord my God, ... for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of The Lord our God." (2 Chronicles 2:4)

"He appointed also ... the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of The Lord". (2 Chronicles 31:3)

"And the burnt offering that the prince shall offer to The Lord in the Sabbath day shall be six lambs without blemish, and a ram without blemish". (Ezekiel 46:4-6)

1.4. Festival sabbaths- God's Appointed feast days

We first have to note below verse (Leviticus 23:37). In addition to weekly holy sabbaths, other feasts of the Lord, with holy convocations are added

"These are the **feasts of the LORD** which you shall proclaim to be **holy convocations**, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day— besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD" (Leviticus 23:37)

1. The weekly Sabbaths offerings (Leviticus 23:3, Numbers 28:9-10)
2. New moons (monthly offering) (Numbers 28:11-18, Psalm 81:3)
3. Daily regular burnt offering (Numbers 28:1-8)
4. The Passover and Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:4-8, Numbers 28:11-25)
5. The Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)
6. The Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15-22, Numbers 28: 26-31)
7. The Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1-6)
8. The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32, Numbers 29:7-11)
9. The Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-34, Numbers 29:12-40)

3. What was the Purpose of all these Offerings on Gods' Appointed feasts?

They were all offered to make atonement of sins for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. Just as the words "grain" and "drink" were referring to sacrifice offerings made on appointed days, even so, looking at the above scriptures, it becomes obvious that the words "feast", "new moon", and "Sabbaths" always come together when referring to offerings made on those appointed days.

"For the showbread, and for the continual grain offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the Sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and **for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel**, and for all the work of the house of our God." (Nehemiah 10:33)

“Then it shall be the prince’s part to give burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings, **at the feasts, the New Moons, the Sabbaths**, and at all the **appointed seasons** of the house of Israel.” (Ezekiel 45:17)

4. So, what was True Meaning Apostle Paul Wanted to Communicate in Colossians 2:16

After looking at above key words usage in the old testament, there is one scripture (Ezekiel 45:17) where all five words; grain, drink, feast, new moon, and Sabbaths are all mentioned together. Look at the order of these underlined words. They are in exactly the same order as Paul quoted them in Colossians 2:16, making it obvious that this was exactly what Paul was referring to.

| New testament | Old testament |
|---|--|
| <p>Colossians 2:16.</p> <p>“Let no man judge you in <u>food</u> or in <u>drink</u> or regarding a <u>festival</u> or a <u>new moon</u> or sabbaths” <i>(New King James Version)</i></p> <p>“Let no man therefore judge you in <u>meat</u>, or in <u>drink</u>, or in respect of an <u>holyday</u>, or of the <u>new moon</u>, or of the <u>sabbath days</u>” <i>(King James Version)</i></p> | <p>Ezekiel 45:17</p> <p>Then it shall be the prince’s part to give <u>burnt offerings</u>, <u>grain offerings</u>, and <u>drink offerings</u>, at the feasts, the New Moons, the Sabbaths, and at all the appointed seasons of the house of Israel.</p> <p>He shall prepare the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings <u>to make atonement for the house of Israel.</u>”</p> |

So, Apostle Paul must have been talking of another law, a law that enjoined food offerings, drink offerings, and offerings in the observance of festivals, new moons, and yearly sabbaths.

Paul knew these scriptures, and he was referring to these Old Testament daily sacrifices and offerings in Colossians 2:16. These sacrifices were made daily and on the appointed feast days for the atonement of sins and for the works of the house of God. But as is with New Testament Greek, he probably could have missed out a word: "**offerings**" in Colossians 2: 16. Or maybe it would be God’s design and will for the word not to be inserted at all. However, this would not confuse the Christians in those days, because the Old Testament was their bible, and they would know where to look for in their old testament bible to see what Paul was writing about, but it has allowed many to misinterpret what Paul was saying here.

If we could **rewrite Colossian 2:16** within the contextual knowledge of this bible study, then it would be rewritten like this;

“Let no man judge you in food offerings or in drink offerings or offerings regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths”

(NB: The Italic word “offerings” is my own insertion, which I have used to reinforce and to contextualize the true interpretation of this verse. These insertions are for learning purposes in clarifying the deeper meaning and should in no way whatsoever be added to the words of God in the bible)

5. Were Burnt Sacrifices and Offerings Abolished?

All the burnt offerings were abolished, because of the repetitive sinful nature of the children of Israel. The Law of Moses that contained these ordinances and statutes could not wipe out their sins, and was done away with by Jesus on the cross.

"I will also cause all her mirth to cease, Her feast days, Her New Moons, Her Sabbaths— All her appointed feasts. (Hosea 2:11)

"Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies— I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly" (Isaiah 1:13)

"Because they had not obeyed my laws but had rejected my decrees and desecrated my Sabbaths. ²⁵ So I gave them other statutes that were not good and laws through which they could not live" (Ezekiel chapter 20:24-25)

6. So, Should Anyone Judge You Concerning Sabbaths Offerings?

No. No one should judge you at all. On what basis should you not be judged? Because all these types of offerings and sacrifices were made for one purpose: to make physical atonement for sins of Israel. Seeing that Jesus has become our sin offering once and for all, we no longer offer physical burnt offering. He has abolished all of them and nailed the ordinances(statutes) that guided these offerings on the cross. As such, no one should judge you if you do not offer burnt offerings like the children of Israel were commanded to do.

When Jesus died on the cross, he fulfilled all the Old Testament **offerings and sacrifices**. His physical body, and His Soul became the ultimate sacrifice which was acceptable to God. Since then, none of the Old Testament **sacrifices or offerings** under the Moses law, or the ordinances that go with them, are necessary any more. Since, they were only a type or shadow of the body of Jesus Christ. This is what Paul is saying in this scripture (Colossians 2:14-17).

"Indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Thus, to keep offering burnt sacrifices after Christ's death would be to imply that Jesus had not accomplished atonement. Such an observance would be contrary to the teachings of Christianity.

7. What Sacrifices and Offerings Should we Believers Offer Today?

While the grain and burnt offering are no longer required, we cannot stop offering spiritual offerings; like prayers offerings and our bodies as living sacrifices to God on holy convocation days of sabbath.

"beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy**, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*" (Romans 12:1)

Every day, including in the appointed holy convocation (assembly) day of seventh day sabbath, we should offer ourselves as living sacrifices.

8. Does the Verse Abolish the Holy Assemblies Command within the Fourth commandment?

No. It does not. Neither does it abolish the God command for people to hold holy convocations as dictated in the fourth commandment of sabbath. Holy convocation (NKJV) as translated as sacred assemblies (NIV) as in verses below. These are church congregations that Christians churches conduct every week. Unfortunately, and against God commandment they are held on Sunday instead of the appointed day of seventh day sabbath.

Six days shall work be done, but the ***seventh day*** is a Sabbath of solemn rest, **a holy convocation**. You shall do no work *on it*; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings (Leviticus 23:3)

“There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of **sacred assembly**. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord (Leviticus 23:3, New International version)

Apostle Paul reminded Christians this way;

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10: 24-25)

9. Would Apostle Paul have abolished only Sabbath day while not condemning holy convocations on sabbath

Apostle Paul advocate Christians not to forsake holy assemblies (Hebrews 10: 24-25), yet these holy convocations are part of the fourth commandment of sabbath. Would he had condemned only the sabbath without condemning the second part of the commandment as well?

It would be self-defeating and against biblical his teachings for Paul to advise Christians not to forsake holy assemblies while at the same time condemning the keeping and observance of sabbath day that contained God’s command to hold holy assemblies. On the other hand, if he condemned seventh day sabbath assemblies, then he would have offered Christians an alternate day for worship apart from Saturday.

The fourth commandment was not an ordinance or a statute within the law of Moses, but one of the 10 commandments of God, engraved in the tablets of stone, and written by the finger of God. This is explained below.

“Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished” (Matthew 5:17-18)

Apostle Paul said, “What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! So then, **the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good**”, Therefore, the Law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good” (Romans 7:7–13)

10. Meaning of Word "Sabbath" and two Types of Sabbaths

Sabbath means Rest, where customary work is not to be done at all. Customary work means usual, ordinary work done on a daily basis by any person. There were two categories of sabbaths occurring on appointed holy days of the Lord.

1. Sabbath-rest on 'The Seventh day' recurring each week (in the 10 commandments).
2. Sabbath-rest on 'certain Appointed feast days' of the Lord (in the statutes or ordinances)

a. The Sabbath (the Seventh Day weekly sabbath)

From the very beginning, on day seven of creation, God, after finishing his creation, blessed the seventh day because he rested on it.

(Genesis 2:1-3). "Thus, the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and **He rested on the seventh day** from all His work which He had done. **Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it**, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

About 2500 years after the creation, God gave Moses the 10 commandments in Mt. Sinai. In it he reminded the children of Israel of the seventh day rest that he had sanctified from the very beginning "remember to keep". God wrote this seventh day sabbath in the 10 commandments he gave Moses.

(Exodus 20:8-11). "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but **the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work**: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, **and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it**

Sabbath-rest on 'The Sabbath' (the seventh day)': ³ 'Six days shall work be done, but the **seventh day** is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; *it is* the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings (Leviticus 23:3)

There were offerings to be made on the seventh day sabbath as well. The rules guiding these offerings were written on the ordinance contained in the law of Moses and not on the 2 tablets of stone.

Seventh day Sabbath Offerings: "On the Sabbath day, make an offering of two lambs a year old without defect, together with its drink offering and a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil. This is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering" (Numbers 28:9-10).

b. The Sabbaths (the yearly Appointed Feast Days)

These are the yearly sabbaths – the ‘Appointed Feast Days’ of the Lord

1. **Sabbath-rest on Feast of Unleavened Bread:** “on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷ On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do *no customary work* on it. ⁸ But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days” (Leviticus 23: 6-8)
2. **Sabbath-rest on the Feast of Weeks:** ¹⁶ “Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. ¹⁸ And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be *as* a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD. ²¹ And you shall proclaim on the same day *that* it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do *no customary work* on it. (Leviticus 23: 6-8)
3. **Sabbath-rest on The Feast of Tabernacles:** ³⁵ “The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the Feast of Tabernacles *for* seven days to the LORD. ³⁵ On the first day *there shall be* a holy convocation. You shall do *no customary work* on it. ³⁶ For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It *is* a sacred^[e] assembly, *and* you shall do no customary work *on it.* ³⁹ Also, on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD *for* seven days; on the first day *there shall be* a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest”. (Leviticus 23: 35-39).”
4. **Sabbath-rest on The Day of Atonement:** ²⁷ “Also the tenth *day* of this seventh month *shall be* the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. ²⁸ And you shall do no work on that same day, for it *is* the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. ²⁹ For any person who is not *afflicted in soul* on that same day shall be cut off from his people. ³⁰ And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. ³¹ You shall do no manner of work; *it shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ³² It shall be to you *a sabbath of solemn rest,* and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth *day* of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath.” (Leviticus 23: 35-39)
5. **Sabbath-rest on The Feast of Trumpets:** ²⁴ “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. ²⁵ You shall do *no customary work* on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD” (Leviticus 23: 24-25)
6. **Passover feast** ⁴ ‘These *are* the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵ On the fourteenth *day* of the first month at twilight *is* the LORD’s Passover. ⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you

must eat unleavened bread.⁷ On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.⁸ But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. " (Leviticus 23: 1-8)

7. **The Feast of Firstfruits.** ⁹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰ "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. (Leviticus 23: 9-14)

11. Which Sabbath(s) laws were Nailed on the Cross?

The ordinances or the statutes in the law of Moses, that spelt out what sacrifices and burnt offering and how all the offerings were to be conducted on appointed holy sabbath days were abolished. Not only does the laws regulating those sacrifices abolished, but also the sacrifices and offering themselves were abolished. There were so many ordinances to regulate how what type of offerings and burnt sacrifices and how and when they were to be offered on the sabbath-rests of appointed days. All the statutes, ordinances or regulation were written by hand of Moses in a book (the book of the law) and not by God's finger. They are referred to by Apostle Paul as "handwriting requirement", since they were written by hand on Moses.

"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**" (Colossians 2:14)

The Fourth commandment of sabbath was not nailed on the cross. Jesus said, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." (Matthew 5:18), we cannot write off the Ten Commandments without contradicting Jesus.

When Moses was writing the ordinances and statutes God gave him, he also included the 10 commandments in his book. We might argue that it couldn't refer to the ten commandments, because they were initially written by "the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18), not man's hand, and therefore they endure for ever (Psalm 89:34; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25). However, they were also written by Moses in the book of the law, so other scriptures will help to clarify.

"Then indeed, even the first *covenant* had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. (Hebrews 9:1)

"Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances*, so as to create in Himself one new man *from the two, thus making peace*" (Ephesians 2:15)

The "law of commandments" referred to here is called a "law of carnal commandment" (Hebrews 7:16), and the "ordinances" referred to are called "carnal ordinances":

"It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience— concerned only with foods and drinks various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation" (Hebrews 9: 9-10)

They are the ordinances to do with these sacrifices, some of which were also man made:

"Also, we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God; For the showbread, and for the continual grain offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the Sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God." (Nehemiah 10:32-33)

NOTE:

There were no regulations or ordinances that God gave concerning the seventh day sabbath stated in the 10 commandments. He simply commanded people to rest as he did. Reason He gave for that? "I created the earth, heaven and seas within six days, and on the seventh day I rested, therefore, so must you rest too as I did, and have a holy convocation.

But in the ordinances that God gave Moses, which Moses later wrote on the book, he gave instructions on the types, the quantities and procedures on how to offer burnt sacrifice and grain, drink and food offerings on the seventh day sabbath. These instructions are the ones called statutes or ordinances. They are the ones which were nailed on the cross and not the fourth commandment itself. Today we are required to offer our body as living sacrifices on the sabbath day.

12. Jesus is the 'Once-and-for-all' Sacrificial Offering for Sins

Jesus has become our sin offering. Thus, we no longer need physical sacrificial burnt offerings to atone our sins. Jesus fulfilled them all, as He was the real offering:

"But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:11-14)

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins." (Hebrews 10:4).

"we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10)

"you shall make his soul an offering for sin," (Isaiah 53:10)

"Christ also ... has given himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God"(Ephesians 5:2)
"we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."
(Hebrews 10:10)

"But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever," (Hebrews 10:12)
"For by one offering he has perfected for ever those who are sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14)

13. All Sacrifices under the law of Ordinances were Made Obsolete and Abolished.

Reinforcing apostle Paul argument that no one should judge you concerning offerings, all the sacrifices were a shadow or type of the physical body of Jesus Christ, which was the true and only acceptable offering for sin, and which made all the sacrifices under the law obsolete. This is in total agreement with the next verse in Colossians 2:14-23

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.**

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.

²⁰ Therefore, if you died with Christ from the **basic principles of the world**, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations ²¹ "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," ²² which all concern things which perish with the using— according to the **commandments and doctrines of men**?

²³ These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

14. Summarizing Colossians 2: 16

When Jesus died on the cross, he fulfilled all the Old Testament **offerings and sacrifices for sin**. His physical body, and his Soul (or life) were the ultimate sacrifice which was acceptable to God. Since then, none of the Old Testament sacrifices or offerings under the law, or the ordinances that go with them, are necessary any more. They were only a type or shadow of the body of Jesus Christ. This is what Paul is saying in this scripture (Colossians 2:14-17).

Apostle Paul is saying nothing at all about the Sabbath day itself being done away with, only the physical sacrifices which were being made on that day.

The ordinances of law in the Old Covenant concerning sacrifices, has been done away with. God has replaced it in the New Covenant with God's laws written in the heart of the believer (Hebrews 8:10; 10:16). The carnal interpretation has gone and been replaced by the spiritual, because "the law is spiritual" (Romans 7:14). However, as Jesus said, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18), we cannot write off the Ten Commandments without contradicting Jesus.

Nowhere in the New Testament, after the death of Jesus, was Paul, or any other Christian, ever accused of breaking the Sabbath day, or teaching others to do so. Paul even defended himself when he was taken to Rome that he never taught contrary to the law of God or of prophets and broke them.

“while he answered for himself, “Neither against the **law of the Jews**, nor against **the temple**, nor **against Caesar** have I offended in anything at all”. (Acts 25:8)

“Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans” (Acts 25:7)

“So, when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus **from both the Law of Moses** and **the Prophets**, from morning till evening. 24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved” (Acts 25:23-24)

15. The Mistake of Translation in the Kikuyu Bible in Colossians 2:16

Throughout this bible study, you will note that all the bible verses in both NKJV and KJV use the plural “**Sabbaths**” or “**Sabbath days**” in Colossians 2:16. In the kikuyu bible however, there was an oversight in the interpretation and used the singular noun “Sabbath day – “*Muthenya wa thabatu*” instead of how its properly written in the bible as a plural noun” sabbath days” thus should be (*Mithenya ya thabatu*). In the bible, when this singularity of the noun is used, its meaning often refers to *the “the seventh day sabbath - the fourth commandment”* contained in the 10 commandments. When plural noun is used, it refers to yearly sabbaths. We acknowledge the kikuyu bible was translated from the English version and this mistake maybe could probably have resulted from an omission rather than intended, or devil’s deceptive intent to trap the people of God.

The use of singular and not plural brings a lot of confusion in many people while interpreting the verse in Kikuyu language. As many imply it to mean that the fourth commandment “The seventh Sabbath Day” should either not be observed, or people should not be judged because of it and thus no one should compel people to observe it. Others, using this wrong translation, condemns wholesomely those who observe the fourth commandment. The reason is that they do not take time to go back to the old testament to look the context in which this verse is used, as this study has demonstrated, in order to get factual, true meaning and intention of Apostle Paul.

God warns of changing anything in His words; be it a noun, verb or an adverb. Or either changing a comma or a full stop, or even changing a singular or a plural in its words. We should be very observant of these things.

“For I tell you truly, until heaven and earth pass away, **not a single jot, not a stroke of a pen**, will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished (Matthew 5:18)

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man **shall add unto these things**, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: (Rev. 22:18–19.)

“And if any man shall **take away from the words** of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” (Rev. 22:18–19.)

PART 2: WERE THE 10 COMMANDMENTS FULFILLED ON THE CROSS

Some argue that when Jesus said he has fulfilled all the law, including 10 commandments, we are no longer bound by them, and neither should we fulfil them. Is this true?

a) If Jesus fulfilled the commandments, should we then fulfill them?

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill**" (Matthew 5:17)

b) If the Lord would have fulfilled and thus nailed the law on the cross would He have said this way

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: **I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds, I will write them,**" (Hebrews 10:16)

c) If Jesus has already fulfilled the law for us, and abolished them, do we now need to keep these commandments anymore? And does it mean that,

1. we should have other gods before God?
2. we should make carved images?
3. we should take the name of the Lord in vain?
4. We should not observe and keep the Sabbath?
5. we should be free dishonor our father and mother?
6. we should kill people?
7. we should commit adultery?
8. we should be free to steal?
9. we should be free to lie?
10. we should be free to covet our neighbor's wife and house?

Did He abolish them after having fulfilled them? Of course not, and neither does it mean that we can break the Sabbath commandment. Jesus has fulfilled as much of the law as was expected of him at his first coming, and having given us his example we are now meant to fulfill the righteousness of the law:

"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." (Romans 8:4)

How can we fulfill the righteousness of the law without keeping the ten commandments? Yet the bible says,

"for all your commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172).

"Hear me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law" (Isaiah 51:7)

Jesus has not changed, neither is his law; "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He put his laws inside us, and high holy spirit lives in us- all true believers, and if we love Him, and are in Him, we should keep all His commandments.

“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled” (Matthew 5:18)

“Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19)

| THE LAW OF GOD IN OLD TESTAMENTS (Exodus 20:3-17) | | THE LAW OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT |
|--|-----|--|
| Thou shalt have no other gods before Me | I | “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.”—Matthew 4:10. |
| Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto the thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments | II | “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s devices.”—1 John 5:21; Acts 17:29. |
| Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain. | III | “do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?” “That the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed.” “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” —1 Timothy 6:1; 2 Cor 15:58; Mat 15:9; James 2:7 |
| Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; 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. 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 | IV | “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” “For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works.” “There remaineth therefore a keeping of a Sabbath to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His.” “For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth.”—Matthew 24:20; Mark 2:27-28; Hebrews 4:4, 9, 10; Colossians 1:16. |
| Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. | V | “Honor thy father and thy mother.”—Matthew 19:19. |
| Thou shalt not kill. | VI | “Thou shalt not kill.”—Romans 13:9. |
| Thou shalt not commit adultery | VII | “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”—Matthew 19:18 |

| | | |
|---|------|--|
| Thou shalt not steal. | VIII | "Thou shalt not steal."—Romans 13:9 |
| Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. | IX | "Thou shalt not bear false witness."—Romans 13:9 |
| Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's. | X | "Thou shalt not covet."—Romans 7:7 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have (Hebrews 13.5) |

1. "If You Want to Enter into Life, Keep the Commandments" (Matthew 19:17)

The 10 commandments were done away with, but are now written in our hearts and minds, that we should do them.

| Old testament covenant | New testament covenant |
|--|--|
| Jeremiah 31:33 "After those days, says The Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people." | Hebrews 10:16" "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says The Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them" |

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments" ²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." ²³ "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:15-23)

² "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments." ³ "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:2-3)

"If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17)

"Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but **keeping the commandments of God is what matters**" (1 Corinthians 7:19)

2. If we claim to be Abraham children, we Must do like him.

| New testament | Old testament |
|--|--|
| John 8:39 Jesus said: "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the <u>works of Abraham</u> | Genesis 26:5 "because Abraham obeyed My voice and <u>kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.</u> " |

3. In Summary:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments:** for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

"He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. "But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him" (1 John 4:4-5)

Jesus said;

"He Who is of God Hears Gods' Words"

(John 8:48)