The Person of Jesus, God's Obligatory Sabbath: Is Our required Sabbath a Day or is it Jesus?

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Objectives of the Seminar

- 1. To present the Sabbath as fulfilled in Jesus
- 2. To demonstrate that the issue concerning one day versus another (i.e., Saturday vs. Sunday) is:
 - i) Insignificant
 - ii) An unnecessary distraction, and
 - iii) A denial of the potency of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Objectives of the Seminar

3. To show that insistence on the Sabbath being a specific day is to belittle God's law and to unintentionally become an <u>outright Sabbath-breaker</u>

4. To demonstrate that the person of Jesus, and not a day is god's obligatory sabbath

Objectives of the Seminar

5. To uncover whether or not Jesus' act of keeping the Sabbath rendered Sabbathkeeping a requirement for all Christians today

6. To accentuate Jesus, i.e., the gospel, and not a day as being the decisive issue in salvation.

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

 The Sabbath continues to be enforced as a mandatory worship day because of a lack of understanding and appreciation of who Jesus is

• From the early days of the SDA organization, it has been weak on the gospel

The SDA Church has never been a purely Christ-centered Church

Historical Survey of Adventism

- Most SDAs do not know that they are saved
- 1844- 1852 -- The Shut Door Doctrine
- 1854 present -- The Investigative or Pre-advent Judgment
- 1850's 1888 -- Salvation by law-keeping
- 1920's- 1950s Short period of openness
- 1950's- 1970s-- Salvation by works

Present Positions

- The Investigative Judgment (Sanctuary doctrine)
- Moral- ceremonial distinctions of laws
- The Sabbath the end time seal of God
- Scriptures interpreted in light of Ellen White's writings

RESULTS

- Most SDAs do not have an assurance of salvation
- Most have a guilt ridden, legalistic, and dry Spirit-less religious experience
- > Sabbath obligatory as the specific seventh-day
- Unnecessary suffering, re-employment, education, marriage, family relationships, career choices, etc.
- > Segmentation in the body of Christ

Hermeneutics: Method of Bible Study

First what the Bible meant, before what it means

Ancient meaning precedes modern application

Questions:

Wrong Question: "Is the Sabbath Saturday or Sunday?" "One day versus another day?"

Correct Question: "Is the Sabbath a day or is it a Person- Jesus Christ

Himself?"

Jesus is Our Righteousness

• Jesus is our justification, our redemption, our sanctification (Gal 2:15, 16; Eph 2:14,15; 2Cor 5:17-21).

 The means by which we are saved is the objective righteousness of Jesus, separate from what Jesus is accomplishing in us

Jesus is Our Righteousness

• Gal. 2:16: Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through the faith of Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith of Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.

Jesus is Our Righteousness

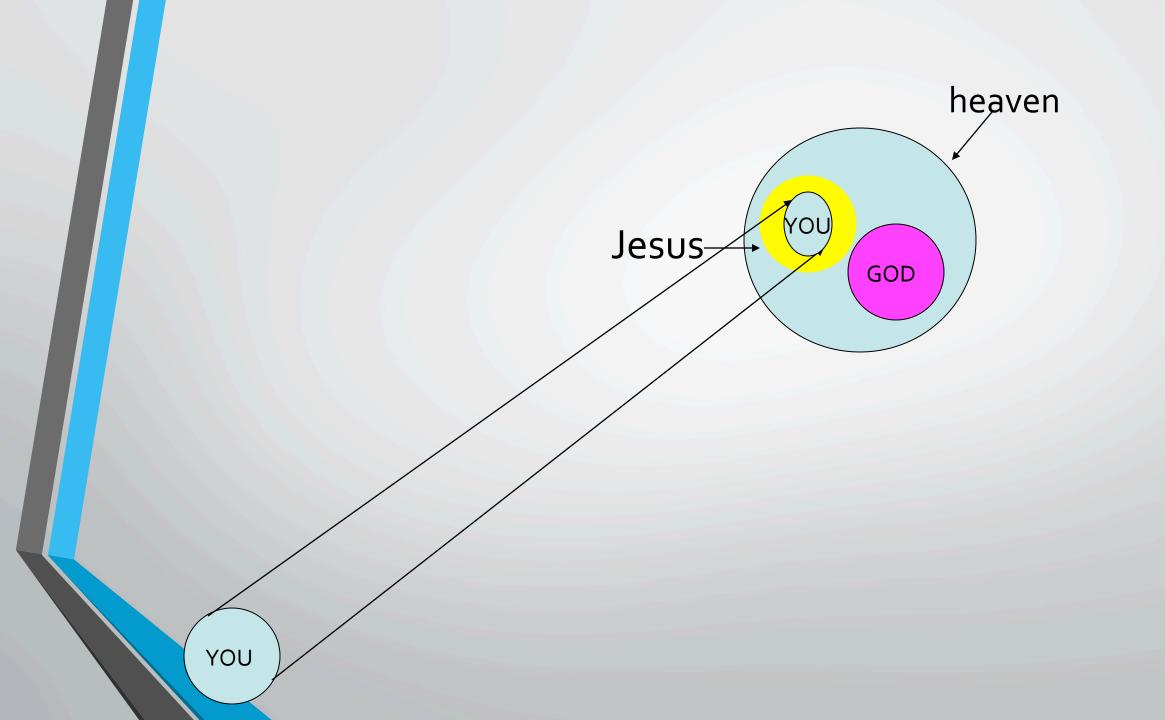
But God demonstrates his love towards us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life (Rom 5: 8,10)

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself (2 Cor 5:19)

Jesus: Our Representative and Substitute

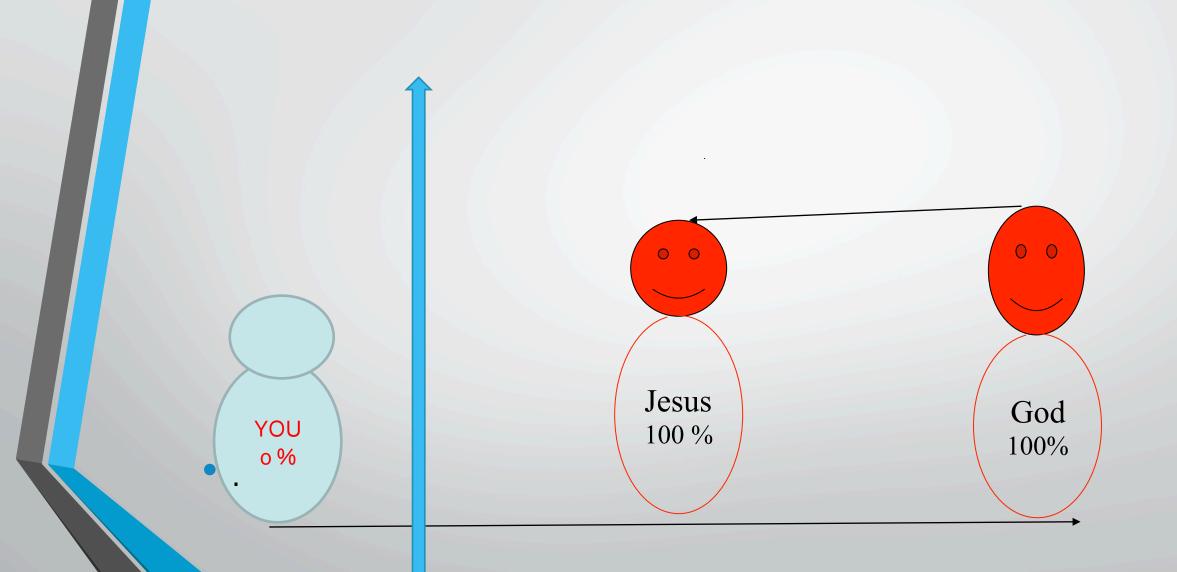
- When Jesus lived right we all lived right in him (Rom 5:15-18)
- When He died we all died in him (2Cor 5:14;Gal 2:20; Rom 6:1-8)
- When He was resurrected, we all were raised in him (Col 3:1-3; 2:12)
- As He now lives in heaven we all live in heaven -legally (Eph 2:6; Phil 3:20; Eph 1:1-14)

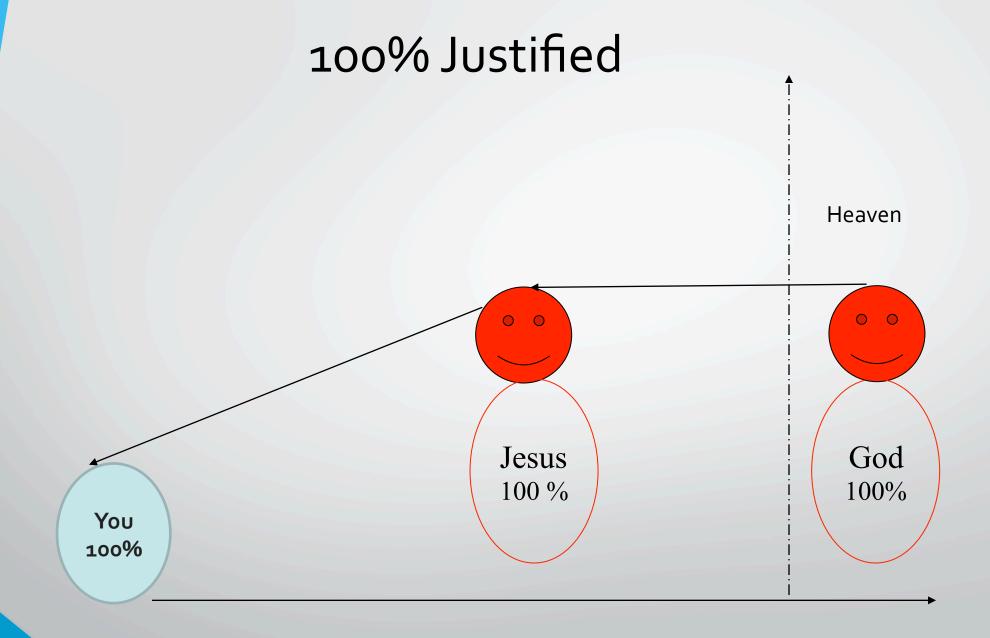
In Jesus, God came to be with mankind, and in Jesus, mankind has gone to be with God forever



We are Justified in Jesus

- To be justified is to be reckoned as righteous, sanctified, saved and sealed for heaven. It signifies that one is totally accepted by God.
- See Rom 3:21-28; 5:1; 8:1-4; Eph 2:6-8; 1Cor 1: 30, 31





That Which is to Come We Now Have

Salvation-now Eph 2: 8

Eternal Life-now John 3:16-18

Justification-now Rom 5:1; 3:21-28

Redemption-now Col 1:14; Eph 1:7

That Which is to Come, We Now Have

Reconciliation-now

Col 1:1-21; Rom 5:8-10

Sealed - now

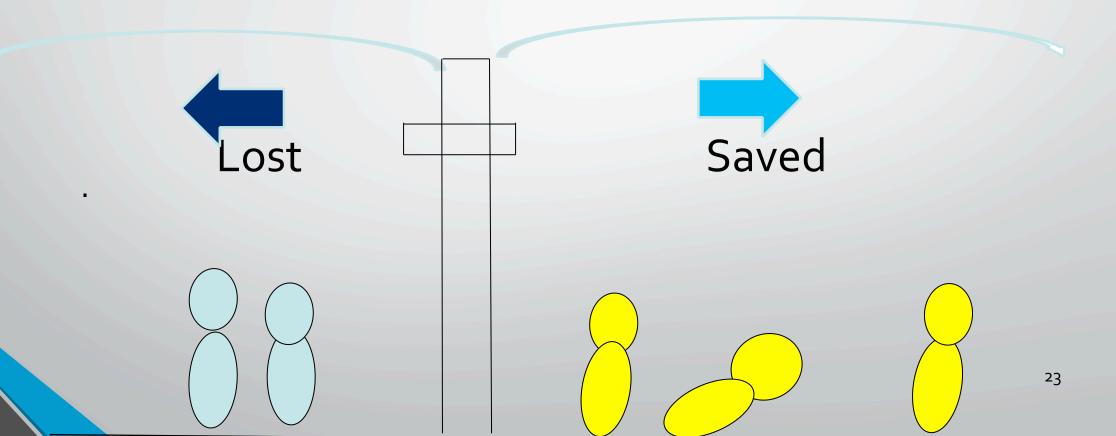
Eph 1:13,14; 4:30

Kingdom - now

Luke 17:20-21

Adopted -now

Eph 1:4,5



WE ARE SAVED BY WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US; NOT BY WHAT HE IS DOING IN US

Saved by the "Outside of Us" Reality

What God is doing in Us

- s imperfect
- Is in process (Heb 10:14)
- Tainted by sin and defiled (Rom 7:18)

What God has done Outside of Us

- Perfect (Heb 7:26)
- * Is Completed (Heb 10:10,14; John 19:30)
- Sinless, undefiled (1Pt 2:22)

Saved by the "Outside of Us" Reality

What God is Doing in US

- Not the basis of our salvation (Rom 3:20)
- A symbol of the righteousness of God
- Involves the process of overcoming sin (Rev 3:21a)

.What God has Done for US

- Is the basis of our salvation (Gal 2:14-16)
- Is the reality of the full righteousness of God (Rom 1:17)
- *Has already overcome sin (Rev 3:21b)

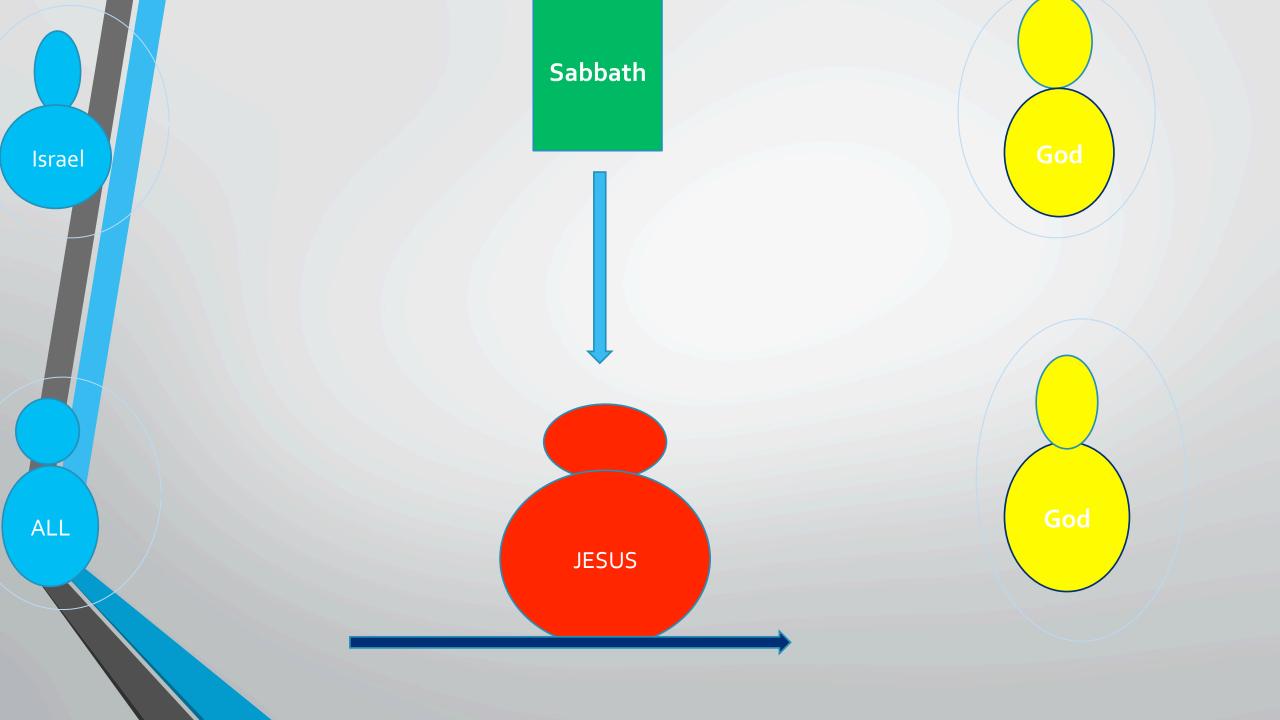
The Person of Jesus is Our Righteousness/ Justification

Cor 1: 30, 31: But by his doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us <u>wisdom</u> from God, and <u>righteousness</u> and <u>sanctification</u> and <u>redemption</u>, so that just as it is written, Let Him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

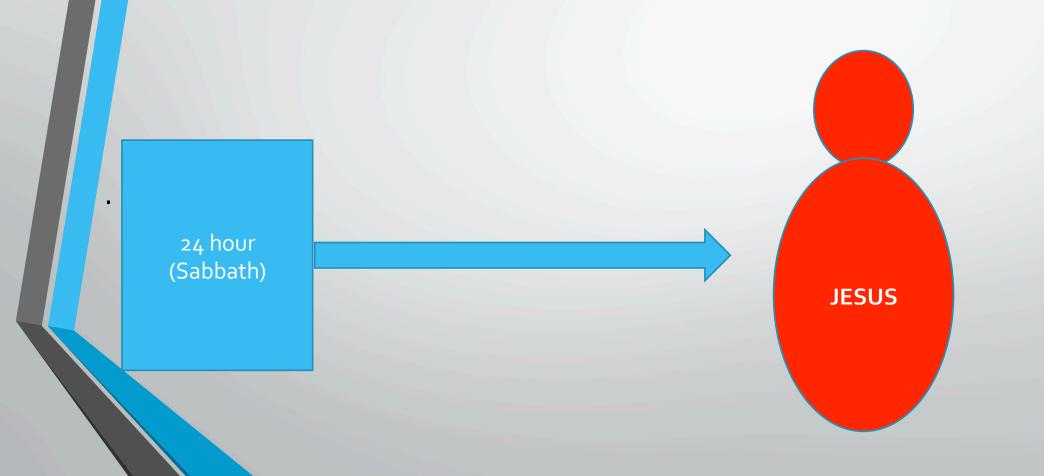
F JESUS IS THE REALITY OF OUR JUSTIFICATION, REDEMPTION, SANCTIFICATION AND SALVATION, THEN A SPECIFIC DAY CANNOT BE OBLIGATORY AS THE SYMBOL OF SALVATION

WHY?

*ALL THAT THE SABBATH REPRESENTED, JESUS IS, AND IT IS WRONG TO MANDATE ANY OTHER ENTITY, LIKE A DAY, TO CARRY OUT THESE SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS OF JESUS



The 7th Day: A Symbol of Jesus



OT

Day: Symbol of:-

- Liberation (Exo 20 :8-11)
- Redemption (Deut 5:15)
- Sanctification (Exo 31:13-18)
- Messianic age (Deut 12:9)

NT

Jesus is (The Reality of)

- Liberator (Luke 4:16-21; Gal 5:1)
- Redeemer (1 Pet 1:18, 19; Rev 5:9; 14:3,4)
- Sanctifier (Heb 10:10,14)
- Messiah ((John 4:26)

TO

Day: Symbol of:-

- Covenant sign or seal (Exo 31:13-18)
- Time for rest and rejuvenation (Exo 20:8-11)
- A Symbol of creation (Exo 20:8-11)
- Social & Economic Liberation (Lev 23; 25; Isa 56; 58:5)

Jesus: (The Reality of)

- God's Seal (John 6:27; Eph 1:13, 14)
- Our Rest (Matt 11:28, 29)
- The Creator (John 1:1-3)

Sabbath: OT Symbol

Redemption

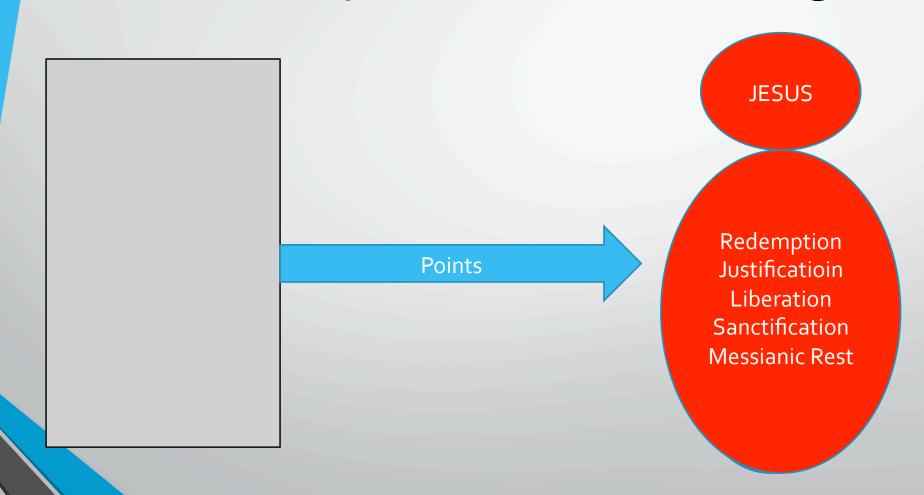
Justification

Liberation

Sanctification

Messianic Rest

The 7th Day Has Lost Its Meaning to Jesus



 THEREFORE, JESUS FULFILLED THE SABBATH. HE IS ALL THAT THE SABBATH REPRESENTED

A PERSON NOW SERVES THE FUNCTION OF THE DAY

• IT IS ABSOLUTELY WRONG TO SAY THAT THE DAY CONTINUES TO HAVE A SPECIAL MEANING FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE

The Early Church: Sabbath Optional for Gentiles (Col 2:16-17)

Colossians 2:16, 17: Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a <u>festival</u> or a <u>new moon</u> or a <u>Sabbath</u> <u>day</u> things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

See also Rom 14: 5,6; Gal 4:10,11

CATEGORIES OF SABBATHS IN THE OT

WEEKLY (days) MONTHLY (Seasons) YEARLY (years)

Kinds of Sabbaths

WEEKLY (days)	MONTHLY (seasons)	YEARLY (Years)
7 th day Sabbath	New Moon Sabbath (28/29 days)	Day of Atonement
		Sabbatical year
		Jubilee year
		Tabernacles
		Pentecost
		Unleavened Bread

Categories of Sabbaths in the Old Testament

- Ezk 45:17: It shall be the princes part to provide the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the drink offerings, at the feasts on the *new moons and* on the Sabbaths at all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel.
- Hosea 2:11: I will put an end to all her gaiety, her feasts, her new *moons, her* Sabbaths and all her festal assembles.

Categories of Sabbaths in the Old Testament

• 2 Chron 31:3: He also appointed the king's portion of his goods of the burnt offerings, namely, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for *the Sabbaths and for the new moons and for the fixed festivals*, as it is written in the law of the Lord.

Categories of Sabbaths in the Old Testament

- Chron 23:31: And to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, on the **Sabbaths, the new** moons and fixed festivals in the number set by the ordinances conceding them, continually before the Lord.
- 2 Chron 2:4: Behold I am about to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, dedicating it to Him, to burn fragrant incense before Him and to set out the shewbread continually, and to offer burnt offerings morning and evening, on Sabbaths and new moons and on the appointed feasts of the Lord our God, this being required forever in Israel.

THE GALATIANS SITUATION

BACKGROUND

Jewish Christians using the Law (Torah) as an identity marker, i.e., as a means of distinguishing the chosen people and as a symbol of status within the covenant community

Paul affirmed that the law had lost its status as an identity marker

BACKGROUND to GALATIANS

• What replaced the law as the new identity marker?

• What practices of the law specifically served as an identity marker?

• Gal. 2:16: Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be <u>justified by faith of Christ</u>, and <u>not by the works of the Law</u>; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified. (NAS)

BACKGROUND to GALATIANS

pisteos Iesous Christou = A Subjective Genitive Construction (Faith of Jesus Christ) Justified by faith of Christ = Pisteos leosus Christou

• pisteos lesous Christou = Subjective Genitive

Noun action Genitive nouns

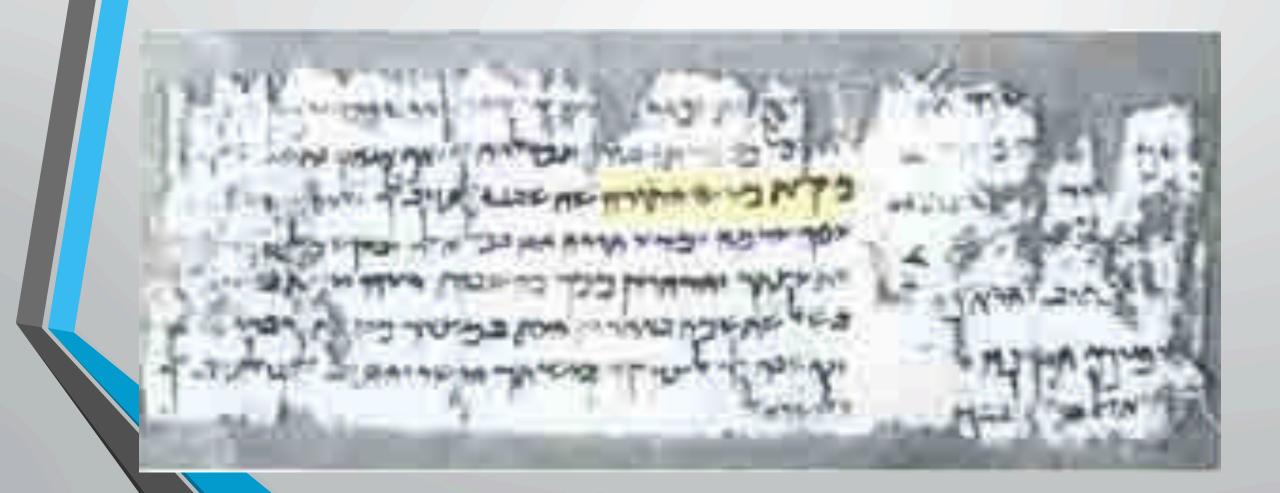
Justified by faith of Christ = pisteos lesous Christou

• pisteos lesous Christou = Jesus carrying out the faith action that causes our justification, i.e. we are justified by the faith[fulness] of Jesus

Justified by the faithfulness of Jesus, <u>Apart</u> from works of law (ex ergon nomou)

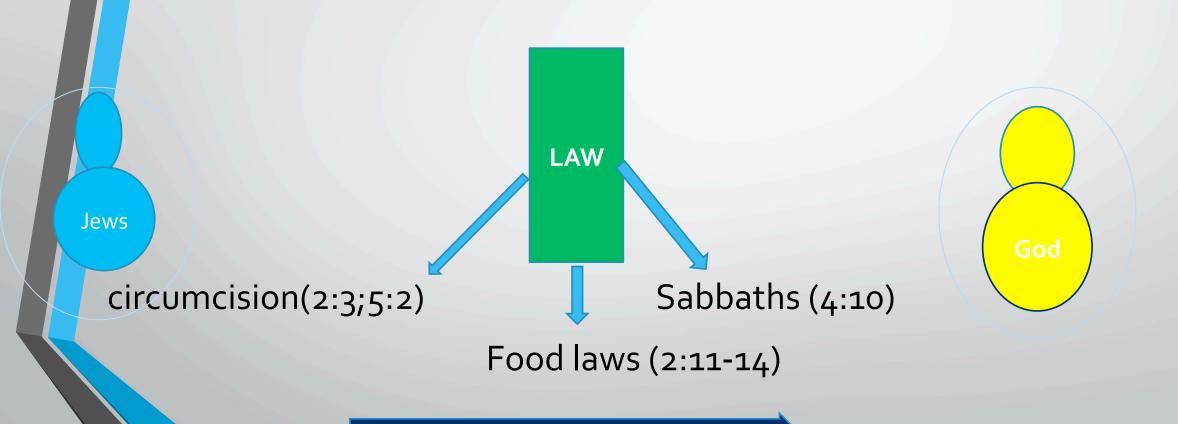
 Ex ergon nomou = (Miqsat Ma'ase ha-Torah (4QMMT) = circumcision, food laws, Sabbaths

Miqsat Ma'ase ha-Torah (4QMMT)



• Therefore, Jesus, separate from the <u>works of law</u> (circumcision, food laws, Sabbath), symbolizes our justification before God

WORKS OF LAW



- Gal 2:5- but we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel may remain in us
- Gal 5:3: Behold, I Paul said to you if you receive circumcision Christ will be of no benefit to you

• Gal 2: 11: But when Cephas came to Antioch I opposed him to the face, because he stood condemned

Gal 4:10,11

But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

You are observing <u>days</u> and <u>months</u> and <u>seasons</u> and <u>years</u>. I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain

NOTE

 Circumcision, food laws and Sabbaths are the only specific elements of the law that Paul mentioned in Galatians as being works of law

Nowhere in Galatians does Paul speak positively of "works of law"

Note

Paul <u>was not saying</u>, do not use circumcision as an entry or identity marker, however continue to celebrate circumcision as a symbol of the salvation you have in Christ

Note

 Paul was not saying do not use food laws (Jew- Gentile separation) as an entry marker. However, continue the practice of Jew- Gentile separation as a symbol of the status you have in Jesus

 Paul was not saying do not use Sabbaths as an entry or identity marker, however, continue to celebrate Sabbaths as a symbol of the status you have in Jesus If Circumcision --- Christ is of no value to you, you are severed from Christ (5:2)

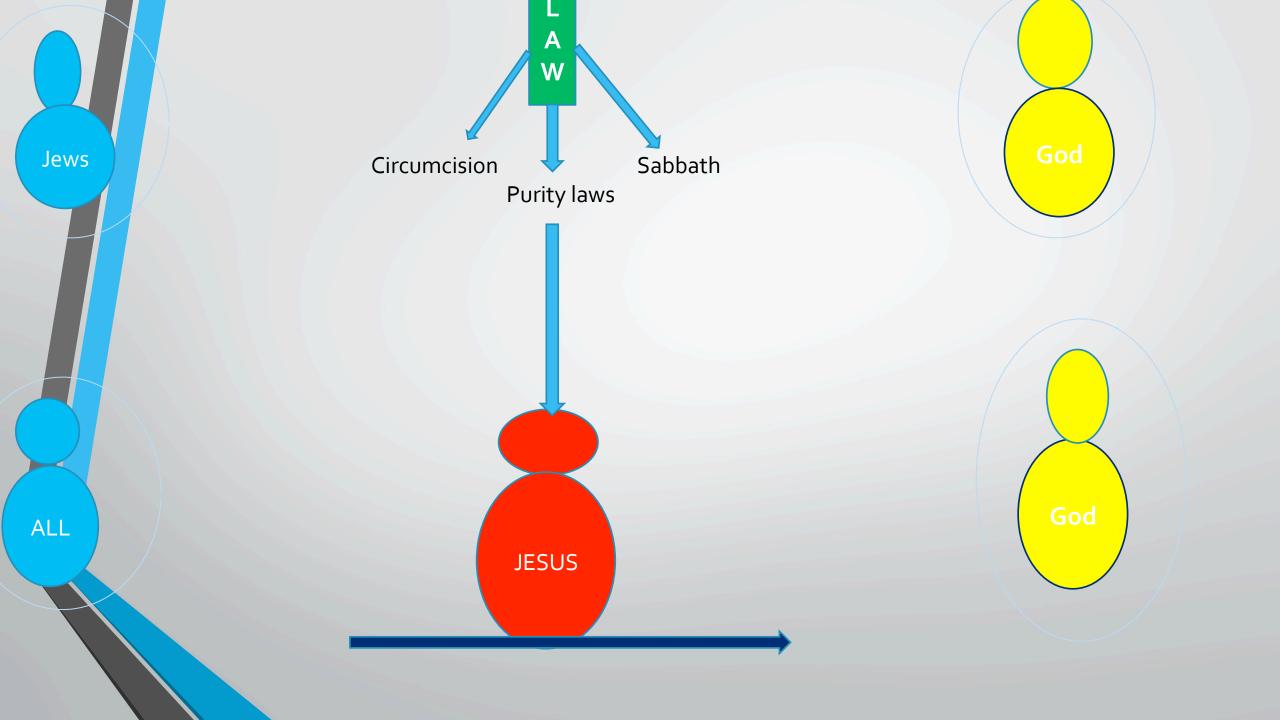
• If food laws ---- then a denial of the truth of the Gospel (2:14)

 If Sabbaths --- -then under the weak, miserable and beggarly principles of the world (4:10,11)

Note

 The Sabbath as a weekly practice, set Israel apart. Therefore, if in the new system, it has lost its function of distinguishing the chosen people (Christians and Jews), then it means that its weekly practice is no longer obligatory The ethical functions of the law are pegged to its elective function

 The law (Torah) cannot lose its elective function and still maintain it ethical demands



❖ BECAUSE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTED JESUS, THE SABBATH IS NO LONGER OBLIGATORY AS A DAY, BUT AS A PERSON

- It is often claimed that because Jesus kept the Sabbath then it is obligatory upon all Christians for all times
- Is this a fair conclusion?

 Jesus kept all the OT rituals, not in order to show the continued authority of those rituals/laws, but to demonstrate the continued authority of himself

 Jesus kept the OT rituals not show the continued authority of himself to enforce those OT laws in their exact OT format but to demonstrate the authority of himself as the new law of God

JESUS WAS A JEW

JESUS LIVED AS A JEW ALL HIS LIFE

AS A PRACTICING JEW, JESUS KEPT THE ENTIRE TORAH

Jesus Was Circumcised (Luke 2:21)

And when eight days were completed before <u>His circumcision</u>, His name was *then* called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

JESUS MADE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PURITY RITES OF CHILDBIRTH (Luke 2:22-24)

22. And when the days for their purification according to the <u>law of Moses</u> were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

23. as it is written in the <u>Law of the Lord</u>, "Every *first-born* male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord

24. and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the <u>Law of the Lord</u>, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Jesus Endorsed the Sacrificial System (Matt 5:23, 24)

- "If therefore you are presenting your <u>offering at the altar</u>, and there remember that your brother has something against you,
- leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and <u>present your offering</u>.
- Offering = animal sacrifices

Jesus Recommended Sacrifices: Matt 8:4

And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and present the <u>offering that Moses commanded</u>, for a testimony to them.

What Moses Commanded (Lev. 14:1-5, NAS)

- 1. Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying (Lev. 14:1 NAS)
- 2. This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing. Now he shall be brought to the priest,
- 3. And the priest shall go out to the outside of the camp. Thus the priest shall look, and if the infection of leprosy has been healed in the leper.
- 4. Then the priest shall give orders to take two live clean birds and cedar wood and a scarlet string and hyssop for the one who is to be cleansed.
- 5. The priest shall also give orders to slay the one bird in an earthenware vessel over running water.

What Moses Commanded (Lev. 14:1-7, NAS)

6. As for the live bird, he shall take it, together with the cedar wood and the scarlet string and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was slain over the running water.

7. He shall then sprinkle seven times the one who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the live bird go free over the open field.

Jesus Recommended Jewish Tithing System (Luke 11:42-44)

• But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay <u>tithe of mint and rue and every kind</u> <u>of garden herb</u>, and <u>yet</u> disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

 Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the front seats in the <u>synagogues</u>, and the respectful greetings in the market places.

TITHE

 Note: Every time tithe is mentioned in the OT many other "ceremonial" offerings/sacrifices are mentioned in the same context.

• And there you shall bring your <u>burnt offerings</u>, <u>your sacrifices</u>, <u>your tithes</u>, the contribution of your hand, your <u>votive offerings</u>, your freewill offerings, and the <u>first-born</u> of your herd and of your flock. (Deut. 12:6; Dt 12:11,17; 14; Lev 25:26-34; Mal 3)

JESUS RECOGNIZES OLD TESTAMENT PURITY LAWS

"Woe to you! For you are like <u>concealed</u> <u>tombs</u>, and the people who walk over *them* are unaware *of it*. (Lk 11:44; Matt 23:27)

Jesus Paid the Temple Tax

Matt 17:24, 27: And when they had come to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma *tax* came to Peter, and said, "Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma *tax*?"

Go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

JESUS KEPTTHE SABBATH (Lk. 4:16)

And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was <u>His custom</u>, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read

Jesus Observed the Feast of Booth (John 7:2, 10, 14,37)

- Now the feast of the Jews, the feast of Booths, was at hand.
- But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as it were, in secret.
- But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and began to teach.
- Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

Jesus Observed The Passover (Luke 22:1, 8-10)

- Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching
- And He sent Peter and John saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it."
- And they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare it?"
- And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house that he enters."

Jesus Observed Passover: (Lk. 22:11-13 NAS)

- "And you shall say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room in which <u>I may eat the Passover</u> with My disciples?"
- And he will show you a large, furnished, upper room; prepare it there."
- And they departed and found everything just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

Conclusion

SINCE JESUS OFRERED SACRIFICES, OBSERVED JEWISH PURITY LAWS, PAID THE TEMPLE TAX, OBSERVED THE PASSOVER, THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES, KEPT THE SABBATH, AND HE IS OUR EXAMPLE IN EVERY PRACTICE; SHOULD WE BE OBSERVING ALL THESE PRACTICES AS WELL?

QUESTION

- DID JESUS' PARTICIPATION IN THESE OT LAWS DESIGNED TO LEGITIMIZE THE CONTINUED OBSERVANCE OF THESE LAWS, OR WERE HIS ACTIONS INTENDED TO LEGITIMIZE THE PERSON AND CLAIMS OF JESUS?
- WHAT CRITERIA DID THE EARLY CHURCH USE TO DISTINGUISH WHAT CUSTOMS OF JESUS THEY SHOULD FOLLOW AND WHICH THEY SHOULD ABANDON?

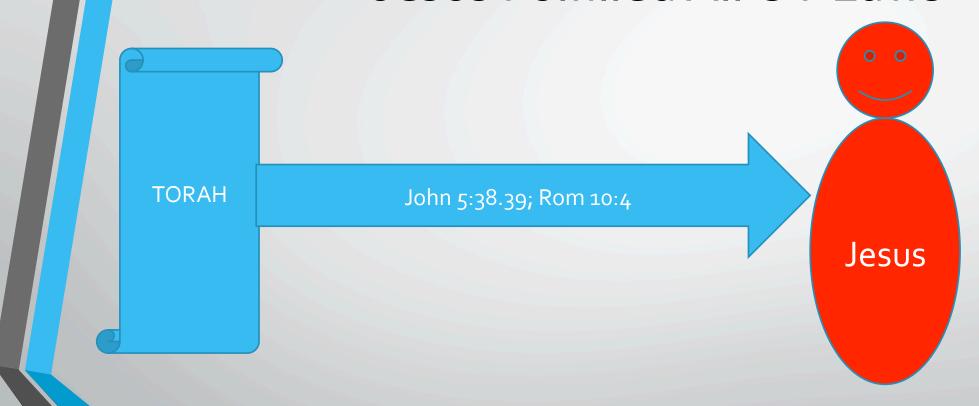
NOTE: Paul and Others kept Jewish Ceremonial Practices as Well

- Acts 18:18, Paul observed the Nazarite vow; this would necessitate him offering a sacrifice. See Nom 6:13f
- Observed vow with others and paid price, etc.- Acts 21:20f

*THEY SAW JESUS AS THE MEANING OF THE ENTIRE OT(both "moral" and "ceremonial" laws)

*THEY INTERPRETED THE OT IN LIGHT OF WHO JESUS WAS

Jesus Fulfilled All OT Laws



WHO WAS JESUS FOR THE EARLY BELIEVERS?

- He was God in the flesh (John 1:1-3)
- He was God's final word to humanity (Heb 1:1-3)
- He was the lamb of God (John 1:29)
- He was God's high priest (Heb 8, 9)
- He was the one who sanctifies (Heb 10:10, 14)

WHO WAS JESUS FOR THE EARLY BELIEVERS?

- He was God's justification (1Cor 1:30, 31)
- He was the redeemer (1Pet 1:18)
- He was God's seal (John 6:27, 28)
- He was the fulfilment of the entire OT (Rom 10:4; 3: 21-25)
- He was the definitive voice of God to humanity, through whom all laws were to be interpreted (Heb 1:1-3; John 5:38, 39)

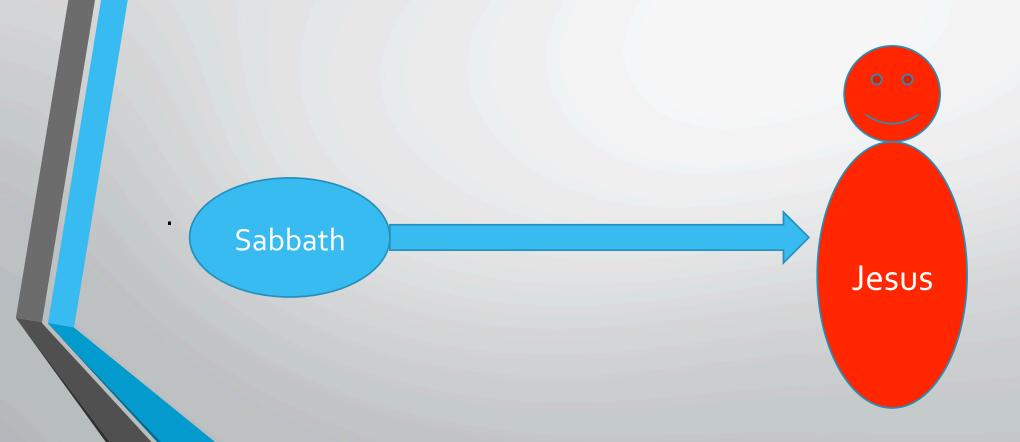
NT APPLICATION

- Jesus was God's high priest, therefore human priesthood became optional (Heb 8, 9)
- Jesus was God's lamb, therefore sacrifices no longer applied (Heb 10)
- Jesus as God's circumcision for us, therefore circumcision no longer applied (Rom 5:2,3)

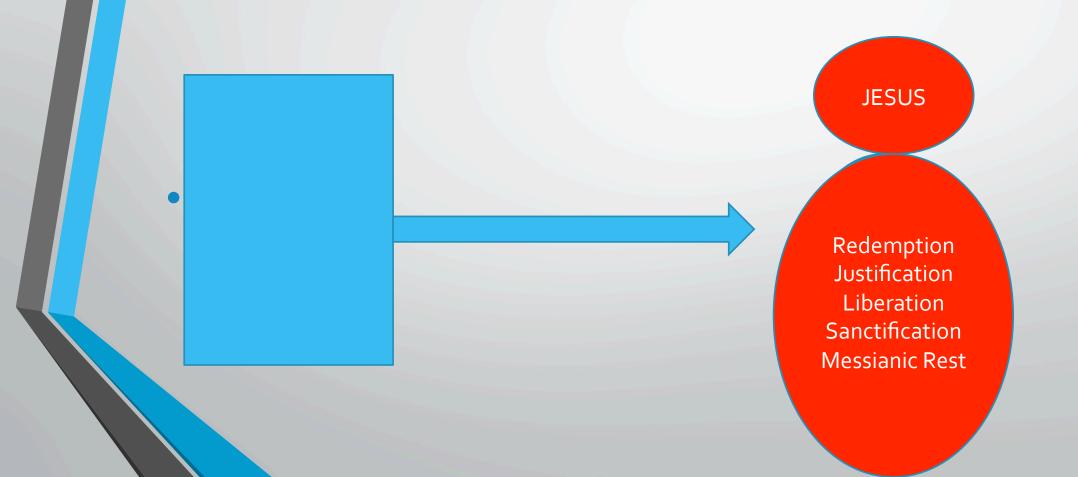
NT APPLICATION

- Jesus was the fulfilment of the Sabbath, therefore the day was no longer obligatory (Gal 4:10,11; Col 2:14-16)
- Jesus is the fulfilment of the entire Sinaitic covenant- therefore the believer is now under a new covenant (2Cor 3)

Sabbath Fulfilled in Jesus



Day Has Lost Its Meaning to Jesus



WHAT ABOUT JESUS' SABBATH KEEPING ACTIVITES?

PURPOSE OF JESUS' SABBATH ACTIVITIES

THEY WERE DESINGNED TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT THE FULFILMENT OF THE SABBATH LOOKED LIKE

 Contextually, Sabbath deeds of Jesus were intended to demonstrate that the Sabbath meant doing good deeds at all times

 That is, deeds of love, mercy, healing and liberation = fulfilment of the Sabbath requirement

 Just as His death demonstrated what the sacrifices were about, so His Sabbath activities demonstrated what the Sabbath was about –love and liberation of humanity ONCE YOU ACCEPT JESUS, YOU HAVE MET THE FULL REQUIREMENT OF THE SABBATH COMMANDMENT

ALL SINCERE CHRISTIANS ARE SABBAHT KEEPERS, BUT NOT ALL SABBATH KEEPERS ARE CHRISTIANS

THE SABBATH IS TOTALLY SYMBOLIC

Sabbath a Symbolic or "Ceremonial" Command (Exo 31:13-14)

- The Sabbath command was a *sign* (Exo 31:13; Ezk 20:12)
- A sign naturally demands a ceremony for its expression
- The Sabbath is "ceremonial" in terms of commemorating a reality
- It points backwards to creation and forwards to the cross (Exo 20:8-11; Col 2:14-16).

- People who do not keep the Sabbath as a practice, can accept Jesus and certainly have the seal of God (Eph 1:13,14)
- People who kill, steal, commit adultery, worship idols as a practice cannot be said to have accepted Jesus and certainly do not have the seal of God

- People who DO NOT keep the Sabbath, but accept Jesus can become members of the SDA church without baptism
- People who kill, steal, commit adultery and worship idols as a practice cannot become members of the SDA Church, full stop

- People who violate the Sabbath commandment, but have accepted Jesus are 100% justified
- People who violate the commandments regarding killing, stealing, committing adultery, worship idols, etc., cannot claim to have accepted Jesus and are not justified

- People who DO NOT keep the Sabbath as a practice, but who have accepted Jesus are called Christians.
- People who kill, steal, commit adultery, worship idols as a practice are not called Christians

 The Sabbath is the only command which can only be kept if another person violates it on your behalf. Therefore, whereas Sabbatarians acknowledge the justified status of non-Sabbatarian Christians, then Sabbatarians knowingly or unknowingly have deny the obligatory status of the Seventh-day Sabbath.

 The symbol of an entity becomes optional when the reality of the same entity is present

