

"SON of GOD" – LORD of Sabbath, Creation, Judgment

Jn 5:16-30; Col 1:15-29

I. LORD of the SABBATH (cf. Mt 12:8; Mk 2:28; Lk 6:5)

- A. Judaism very time-oriented: feasts and sabbaths
- B. Feasts and sabbaths eclipsed as Christians celebrated NEW Way
- C. NT Church referred to the "Lord's Day" on Sunday rather than the "Sabbath" on Saturday; Paul's approach clear (cf. Col 1:15-29)
- D. Apostolic Fathers reveal 2d century perspective
 1. *Didache*
 2. Ignatius of Antioch's *Letters*: praises those who "no longer observe the Sabbath; it is "absurd to profess Jesus Christ and Judaize;" enjoins "observance of the Lord's Day"
 3. Justin Martyr: "Sunday . . . the first day . . . He arose from the dead;" accordingly, "circumcision . . . Sabbaths . . . feasts . . . not observed"
 4. Irenaeus: OT priests worked on Sabbath and since Christians are all priests they do also
 5. Tertullian: patriarchs didn't observe Sabbath
- E. In general: for 1500 years Christians
 1. Took seriously their "Sunday obligation" to weekly attend church—grievous sin to willfully abstain or profane
 2. Considered Sunday a day for relaxation, games, good cheer
- F. Reformation leaders' legacy
 1. Lutherans stressed church attendance without strict standards the rest of the day
 2. Calvinists often tried to duplicate OT rules & regulations
 - a. Calvin in Geneva; Reformed in Holland; English Puritans in revolutionary era
 - b. New England Puritans deeply influence American evangelicalism
- G. Ever needed: golden mean between extremes
 1. Some, like Andy Stanley, want to "unhitch" Christians from OT
 2. Some, like Jehovah's Witnesses and World Wide Church of God, want to impose OT traditions such as Sabbath observance
 3. Needed: delicate, reasonable, balance

II. LORD of CREATION (co-creator, with the Father and the Spirit of the cosmos)

- A. Jn 1:1-2; Col 1:15-29
- B. *PANTOCRATOR* in Orthodox Greek church—Christ the "ruler of all"
- C. Treatises treating this grand truth
 1. Daniel Keefe: Exploring *the World's Foundation in Christ*"
 2. Dorothy Sayers: *The Mind of the Maker* urges us to consider how artists work
 - a. First there is an idea regarding a story, e.g. Hamlet
 - b. Then there is sufficient energy to create the story, putting pen to paper
 - c. Finally there is a product, and actual script detailing the story
- D. Jesus said He and the Father ever working, validating the worth of work and illustrating an aspect of being created in the image of God
- E. Life-giving, supernatural activity, sustaining as well as creating

III. FINAL JUDGE (judges both interpret and enforce the law)

- A. Final Judgment & God's conclusive verdict
- B. Jesus presently interpreting and will finally enforce God's law.