

## *Mercy not Sacrifice*

### *Mark 2:23-3:6*

*"The Lord's day is for resting from physical labor, so that our bodies can be restored and renewed. It is also for resting from spiritual labor. As the Scripture says, "So then there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his" (Heb. 4:9-10). Jesus Christ has finished the work of our salvation, so that we do not have to work our way to heaven. Then the Lord's day is for worship. It is for praising God with his people, for personal prayer and Bible study, and for fellowship with other Christians. It is for all of these things because it is for the Lord Jesus Christ. If we dishonor the day, we dishonor him; but as we honor the day, we honor him, because he is the Lord of this day." Ryken*

- I. Like with the analogy of new wine in new wine skins, our approach to worshipping and honoring God was never intended to be weighed down by dead, lifeless, manmade rules and regulations. The purpose of the Jewish sabbath was to fulfill the law by setting aside the seventh day as holy so that they could rest from their labor and worship God. The purpose of the Christian Lord's Day is to set aside a day where believers gather together corporately to lift their hearts in praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a day where we are to encourage one another and spur one another on to love and good deeds.

Mark 2:23-27

Gen. 2:2

Exodus 20:8-11

John 1:3-4

Col. 1:16

Eph. 2:8-9

Heb. 10:19-25

*The four Gospels, which record the history of Christ's life on earth, mention the Sabbath at least 50 times. It was observed by all Jews because until the crucifixion, the disciples, as well as Christ, were still under the Law. Not until He cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30) was the Law completely fulfilled. But notice-and this is very important-Christ is not spoken of once as keeping the Sabbath after the crucifixion. Instead, He left us the example of the Lord's Day... [backtothebible.org](http://backtothebible.org)*

**Heb. 10:24-25** *24 And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. 25 Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**John 1:17** *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

- II. The analogy of new wine in new wine skins means that Jesus fulfilled the law upon his death burial and resurrection and gave us a new day, the Lord's day to worship him. Every day belongs to the Lord, which means that we are to daily live under his Lordship. On the other hand, the Lord's purpose in having us meet on Sunday to worship him is so that he, through a supernatural outpouring of the Spirit's fruit through each one of us, can deepen our determination to stand firm in the faith. We can't do it alone, we need one another's love, mercy and encouragement to help us through living in a fallen world. To think otherwise is to our spiritual detriment.

Mark 2:25-28

Matt. 12:5-7

Hosea 6:6

Dan. 7:13-14

Heb. 4:9-11

*John 1:17 for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

- III. Jesus came to usher in a brand-new approach to God. His purpose was to show man that worshipping the Lord should be alive, passionate, and full of his love, grace, and mercy toward others. Any form of legalism is like putting new wine into old wineskins. To require anything other than what Jesus wants grieves the Holy Spirit and hurts the spiritual wellbeing of the bride of Christ; It is an affront to his grace and truth.

Mark 3:1-6

Eph. 4:30

*2 Cor. 3:6 for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

*Hosea 6:6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings.*