THE SABBATH DAY** ARE WE TO KEEP IT?.

Some things to be considered in making this decision.

WHEN WAS THE SBBATH GIVEN TO MAN, AND FOR HOW LOMG, AND TO WHOM.

We find that God gave the children of Israel the ten commandment law at Mount Sinai, twenty five hundred years after the creation of all all things, recorded in the first chapter of Genesis and that He rested t the seventh day. Read Nehemiah 9,13-14 More over thou camest down on mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgements, and true laws, AND MADEST KNOWN UNTO THEM THY HOLY SABBATH, and commandest them precepts, statutes, and laws by the hand of thy servant Moses.--He made known unto them His Holy Sabbath, and other laws. Now let us turn to De.5,1 And Moses called all Israel and said unto them, Hear O Israel, the Statutes and Judgments I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn t them, and keep them, and do them. 2 The Lord our God, made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us who alive here this day.--Then beginning with the sixth verse to the 22 he names the ten commandments, then verse 22 He states-These we words the Lord spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and He added no more, and He wrote them on two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me. We learn from these verses that God made acovenant with them, wrote it upon two tables of stone, and the command to keep the Sabbath was one of them. Now turn to Chapter 9 verse 9 When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the Lord made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread or drink water: ~~And the Lord delivered to me~~ 10 And the Lord delivered unto me two tables of stone written with t the finger of God. Verse 11 And it came to pass at the end of the forty days and forty nights, that the Lord gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant. Here he refers again to the thigs written onn the two tables of stone as the covenant. Now let us go to De.4,12 And the Lord spake unto you out of the fire: Ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard the voice. 13 And He declared unto you His covenant, wgich He commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and He wrote them on two tables of stone. Here again we have the ten commandments called the covenant, and that they are written on two tables of stone. Now let us not forget that keeping the sabbath was one of these ten commandments, which were written on the two tables of stone, and called the covenant.

Let us now go to Jeremiah 31,31 about nine hundred years later,--Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Judah and the house of Israel: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant they brake, altho I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord. 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel, after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws in their inward parts, and write them in their hearts and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Read 34.

This prophecy was quoted in He.8,6 Relating the office which Christ holds, But now hath He (Christ) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much more also He is the mediator of a better covenant which is established upon better promises (eternal life). For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place been sought for a second. 8 For finding fault with them, He saith-Jer.31,31 is quoted Which shows that the new is in force. Back to He.8, 13 In that He saith a new covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which waxeth old and decayeth is ready to vanish away. Now the new covenant is in force, the old is vanished.-dead.

Now some more comparisons.

Heb.10,1 The first covenaht is referred to as the law (the law of Moses) For the Law having a shadow of good things to come, Heb.9,9 A figure... Col.2,12-13-14 Referring to the old covenant, Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances, that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way nailing it to His cross. Verse 17 Which things are a shadow, but the body is of Christ. The laws, and ordinances were a shadow, a figure of the better covenant, a spiritual covenant.

Now referr back to He.8,6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. Verse 8 A new covenant, 13 In that He saith a new covenant, He hath made th the first old. Now that which waxeth old and decayeth is ready to vanish away. Let us remember that the first covenant was the ten commandments, and were written on two tables of stone, and also that the Sabbath was one of the ten commandments.

The Law, the first covenant not permanent, Jn.1,17 The law and the prophets were until John (the baptist) since that time the kingdom of heaven is preached and all men press into it.

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgression till the seed should come to whom the promise was madeGal 3,19. Verse 16 Now to abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not unto seeds of many; but as of one, and to thy seed which is Christ. The law was to be in force until the promise was fulfilled (in thee and thy seed shall all families of the earth be blessed). All nations should be saved through Him. Gal. 3,11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God it is evident; for the just shall live by faith-24 Wherefore the law was our school master, to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come we are no longer under the schoolmaster. Gal 3,18 No inheritance under the law-For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

No life. Gal 3,21For if there had been a law that could have given life, verily life should have come by the law.

He. 7,11-19For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did. 12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made a necessity a change also of the law. 18 For there is verily a disanulling of the commandment going before, for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did, by the which ~~with~~ we draw nigh unto God. Ro. 7,6 But now are we delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve Him in newness of spirit, and not in oldness of the letter. 2 Cor. 3,13 Abolished. Eph. 2,15 Having abolished ~~the enmity~~ in His flesh the enmity (enmity between Jew and Gentile.) even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, for to make in Himself of the twain one new man so making peace.

2 Cor. 3,6-11 The apostles were made able ministers of the new testament, not of the letter, but of the Spirit, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. 7But if the ministration of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious--which ~~was~~ glory was to be done away. 8 How shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather glorious? 11 For For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

Now let us turn to Col. 2,14 Blotting out the hand writing of ordinances that was against us, that was contrary to us, and took it out of ~~th~~ the way, nailing it to His cross, 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect to an holy day, or the new moon, or of the Sabbath day. 17 Which things are a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ.

Now sum these things up and we find that the first covenant was faulty, made nothing perfect, was a shadow of good things to come, that it was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith, ~~that~~ after that ~~after~~ faith is come we are no longer under the schoolmaster, -No justification by it., not perfect, made nothing perfect, disanulled, changed, abolished, crucified, dead, taken out of the way, That being dead wherein ye were held. AND THE SABBATH WAS INCLUDED IN THE COMMANDMENTS WRITTEN AND ENGRAVED ON STONE, THE COVENANT MADE WITH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AT MOUNT SINIAH.

Now we are under the new covenant, which Christ is the giver and mediator of. Heb. 12,18 For ye are not come to the mount that can be touched, (Mount Sinia), Verse 22 But ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

There is no day designated as a sabbath day under the new Covenant. But we find that the Corinthians were commanded 1 Cor. 16,2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as the Lord hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come, The first verse, Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the saints at Galatia, even so do you. On the first day of the week. Ac. 20,7 Upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them. Ac. 2,42 Those who were the first converts under the new covenant, Continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers. The evidence is, that under the new covenant the first day of the week was set aside, not as a sabbath, but as the day to come together and worship, to teach God's word, Break bread in remembrance of the sacrifice which Christ made for the sins of the whole world as He ordained the night He was betrayed as they were eating the feast of the Passover; As recorded by Mt. 26,26-28 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said Take eat This is my body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Lu. 22,19 This do in remembrance of me. Let us meet on the first day of the week and keep His Death in remembrance. There is no other memorial authorized under the New covenant.

J.H.Lackey Church of Christ.