

Colossians 2:16

Colossians 2:16 [King James] *“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:**”*

Does this verse refer to the Fourth Commandment Sabbath?

We need to study **v16** in context, the first rule of correct study and understanding of scripture as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 2:14 [King James] *“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;”*

The Greek word for “*blotting*” is “*exaleipho*” meaning to obliterate.

The Greek word for “*handwriting*” is “*cheirographon*” meaning a handwritten manuscript, specifically a legal document or bond.

The Greek word for “*ordinance*” is “*dogma*” meaning a civil, ceremonial or ecclesiastical decree.

The Thayer Dictionary clearly states that this refers to the “*law of Moses,*” also called “*Mosaic Law*” or “*Book of the Law.*”

The ceremonial law is not the moral law that is the Ten Commandments.

The ceremonial law was practised when a person sinned before the once-for-all-time sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The moral law, the Ten Commandments, defined the sin, we then had to apply the sacrifices found in the ceremonial law to receive temporary forgiveness until Jesus Christ became our sacrifice for the sins of all humanity.

Colossians 2:17 [King James] *“Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”*

All that is referred to are but a shadow of what was to come, especially all the ceremonial sacrificial laws that pointed to the one-time sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:1-12 [King James] *“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;”*

These ceremonial laws pertaining to the sacrifice of the blood of animals could never free us from the penalty of our sins as defined by the moral law, the Ten Commandments.

There are obvious differences between the Ten Commandments and the ceremonial laws.

The Ten Commandments were written by God’s finger, written in permanent stone and placed in the Ark of the Covenant are also expressions of love, eternal, for all people and is sin to break them. [Exodus 31:18; Exodus 32:15-16; Deuteronomy 10:3-5]

The ordinances were in Moses’ handwriting, written in a book and placed in a pocket on the outside of the Ark of the Covenant. They are not love, not eternal, were only for the Jews and were practised because of sin. [Deuteronomy 31:26]

When that one great, perfect and final sacrifice was offered by Jesus Christ, He cried out “*it is finished*” and the true Passover Lamb bowed His head and died.

The now obsolete ceremonial law that pointed to this event was nailed to the cross.

I have placed all that we have been studying, with extra scriptures, in a chart to simplify it.

Sabbath of the Lord	Ceremonial Sabbaths
Spoken by God personally [Exodus 20:1, 8-11]	Spoken by Moses [Exodus 24:3]
Written in stone by God Himself [Exodus 31:18]	Written by Moses’ hand on paper [Exodus 24:4]
Put inside the Art of the Covenant [Deuteronomy 10:5]	Stored on the outside of the Ark [Deuteronomy 31:26]
Was made at creation [Genesis 2:1-3]	Were made after Sinai [Exodus 20:24]
Was established before sin [Genesis 2:1-3]	Were established after sin [Exodus 20:24]
Breaking the Sabbath is sin [1 John 3:4]	These were kept because of sin [See Leviticus]
It is a law of love [Matthew 22:35-40; Isaiah 58:13-14]	They were not love [Colossians 2:14; Galatians 4:9-10]
It is a law of liberty [freedom] [James 1:25; James 2:10-12]	They were bondage [Galatians 4:9-10; Colossians 2:14]
The Sabbath is for everyone [Mark 2:27; Hebrews 4:9-10]	Only for the children of Israel & Jews [Old Testament]
God calls it <i>MY</i> Sabbath [Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:20]	God calls them <i>HER</i> sabbaths [Hosea 2:11; Lamentations 1:7]
The Sabbath is eternal [Exodus 31:16-17; Isaiah 66:22-23]	Were nailed to the cross [Colossians 2:14; Ephesians 2:15]

“Meat and drink” – for this to refer to clean and unclean food would be totally out of context in this passage of scripture.

When kept in context, every single point refers to various Holy feast days and the sacrificial sanctuary system.

The author of Hebrews refers to the “*meat and drink offerings*” that were part of the ceremonial law. [Hebrews 9:7-14]

Nowhere in the Word of God, the Christian Bible, where unclean foods are discussed, do we find any mention of unclean drinks.

“In respect of any Holy day” – these Holy days included Passover, Feast of Weeks, etc.

“Or of the new moon” – new moon celebrations were also part of these ordinances.

“Or of the Sabbath days” – Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Feast of Weeks, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles all were Sabbath days. [**Leviticus 23:4-37**]

2 Chronicles 8:12-13 [King James] *“Then Solomon offered burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch, Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.”*

This confirms that the ordinances were by the hand of Moses and are separate from the whole law and not same as the Ten Commandments.

2 Chronicles 33:8 [King James] *“Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.”*

Note the separation of the Ten Commandments, statutes [civil judgements] and ordinances.

If God intended the Sabbath Day to be temporary, He would have instructed Moses to include it in the ordinances that he wrote in his own handwriting with the temporary Sabbaths linked to feast days.

Colossians 2:20 [King James] *“Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,”*

Paul was asking the Church at Colosse why they were still subject to ordinances?

There are **no** scriptures telling us to **no** longer keep the Sabbath day that points to God as our Creator and forward to a spiritual rest within the Kingdom of God.

[Other scriptures that should be studied with **Colossians 2:16** are **Galatians 4:9-10**; **Romans 14:5-6**; **Hosea 2:11**, that are used by some people to avoid keeping the true Sabbath of God.]