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# Mister One-Day-Late

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**D**ID YOU KNOW that the solid rocket boosters on a space shuttle are of a width gauged to two horses' behinds? The boosters had to fit through a railroad tunnel on the way to the launch site. U.S. railroad tracks are gauged to ancient roads in England; the first English immigrants to the U.S. built the only kind of road they knew. Back in England, the roads were built to accommodate horse carts. A different road width would've broken the cart wheels, because then the carts wouldn't have been the same width as the deep ruts in the road. Who built the ancient rutted roads in Europe? The Imperial Roman legions. They used this width because it was the width of a Roman war chariot—specifically, the width of two horses' behinds.

Do we sometimes do things because “that’s the way we’ve always done it”? Do we follow traditions without asking why? Is it possible that human traditions not from God have entered the Christian church?

## Thoughts to Remember:

- ♦ “He said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition’ (Mark 7:9). Christ knew people would begin to put tradition above His law. “Study to show thyself approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15). Open the Bible for yourself so you won’t be deceived by human traditions in place of God’s law.
- ♦ “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it” (Genesis 2:2, 3). God repeated this law, first given at creation, when He traced it on tablets of stone at Sinai; but the Sabbath existed long before there *were* any Israelites.
- ♦ The seventh day Sabbath is more than choosing between two days. It is choosing between two masters—God and Satan. Imagine Mr. One-Day-Late and his family. The Lates have been a day late for birthdays, holidays, and church for generations. They used to worship alone at church because they didn’t make it until Sunday. But now when they go to church a day late, the church is packed! What changed? What happened?
- ♦ The book of Daniel prophesies that someone will try to change the Sabbath. “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other” (Daniel 7:2, 3). These beasts

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correspond to the great nations in the image in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, from an earlier study. "After this I saw in night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different than all the other beasts who were before it, and it had ten horns" (Daniel 7:7). This matches the ten toes of the image, the ten kingdoms.

- ♦ "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words" (Daniel 7:8). The horn is a symbol of power; the eyes are a Biblical symbol of prophecy. The little horn will take power and prophecy, but only with human wisdom ("eyes of a man"). Who is this little horn?

- ♦ "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25). Only one commandment deals with time: the Sabbath. This power would think it had the authority to change God's Sabbath.

- ♦ Gradually, through the centuries, human traditions have crept into the church and claimed divine authority. A modern writer has said: "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures force the religious observance of Saturday" (James Cardinal Gibbons, *Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 9). Cardinal Peter Gierman wrote in the Converts Catechism: "Q: Which is the Sabbath day? A: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? A: Because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

- ♦ Prominent Catholic author Karl Keating wrote in 1988, "...Fundamentalists meet for worship on Sunday, yet there is no evidence in the Bible that corporate worship was to be made on Sundays...It was the Catholic Church that decided Sunday should be the day of worship for Christians..." The Catholic Church says, We have the authority to change the Sabbath; if you're going by the Bible, keep Saturday; otherwise, you accept the authority of the Catholic Church.

- ♦ "For I am the Lord, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). God did not change His law; human beings substituted their own traditions for God's law. How did sun worship enter the church?

- When ancient Rome persecuted Jews, some Christian leaders wanted to differentiate themselves from Jews to avoid persecution. They did this by keeping Sunday in honor of the resurrection. At first they only did this once a year.
- Constantine passed a law to unite his empire. He didn't forbid Sabbath worship, but commanded Sunday worship. Christian leaders accepted this compromise.
- Constantine went on to pass laws to unite Christians and pagan sun worshippers. Over the centuries, Sunday has been accepted in place of the Sabbath.

- ♦ Satan is a great deceiver; he deceived a third of the angels, and he deceived Adam and Eve. Trading Sunday for the true Sabbath is one of his greatest successes.

## The "take-home" message for you . . .

- ♦ The choice is plain. The teachings of tradition, or the teachings of the Bible? It's more than just one day or another; it's a matter of love and loyalty. If we love God, we keep His Sabbath.

## Just between you . . . and God:

- ♦ We live now on the verge of God's kingdom. You may sense God drawing you nearer to Him. Find rest, refuge, and joy in worshiping on the true Sabbath day; you have a faithful Friend.

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