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Luther on Sabbath & Eschatology

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Luther on Sabbath & Eschatology

TREVOR O'REGGIO

Intro—Natural Law



- ▶ Written on man's heart
- ▶ Gentiles bound to natural law not Decalogue or mosaic law
- ▶ Decalogue for Jews,
- ▶ Binding when in agreement with natural law
- ▶ Sabbath not binding a Christians because it is not joined to natural law

Origin of Sabbath

- ▶ Day of worship in Eden
 - ▶ Had Adam remained sinless he would kept the 7th day sacred
- ▶ Day devoted to the things of God
 - ▶ Goodness and praise
 - ▶ Taught children to keep Sabbath
 - ▶ Pre-fall great value of Sabbath



Judaization of Sabbath



- ▶ Abraham kept Sabbath
 - ▶ Joined other rituals—e.g. Circumcision
- ▶ Moses connect sabbath with Exodus
- ▶ Luther's Pamphlet abolishing of Sabbath—1535
 - ▶ New Testament & Paul abolished Sabbath
 - ▶ New Testament all days equal
- ▶ Sabbath only for order and convenience
- ▶ Why did the Christian church keep Sunday
- ▶ Christian church chose Sunday because of resurrection

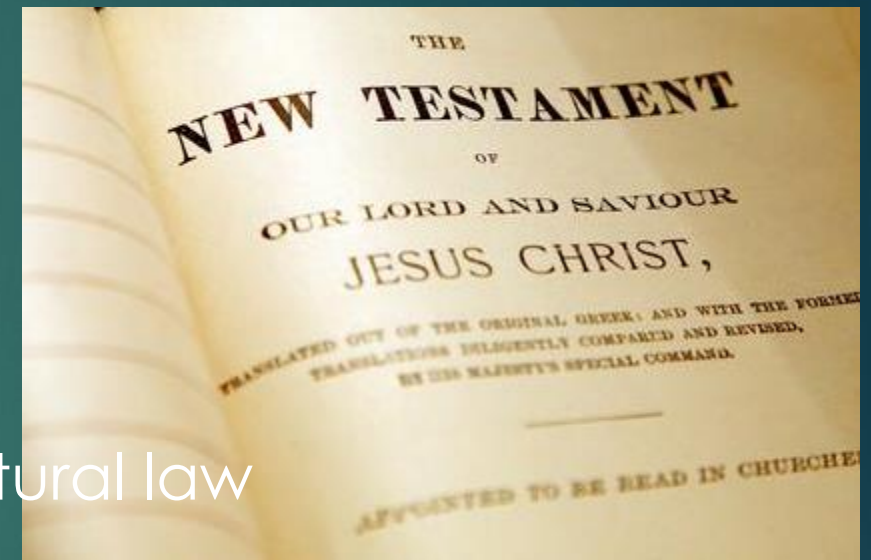
Sabbath after sin has eschatological significance

- ▶ Sign and promise of redemption
- ▶ Sign of spiritual life restored in Christ
- ▶ Sign of foretaste of coming paradise



Positives of Sabbath

- ▶ The Decalogue are natural laws for all humans
- ▶ Ceremonial element of the Decalogue
- ▶ Images and the Sabbath
 - ▶ Ceremonial element
 - ▶ Abrogated by Christ
 - ▶ Images and the Sabbath goes beyond natural law and not supported by natural law
 - ▶ Specifically give to the Jewish People alone
 - ▶ New Testament supported neither of these laws



Sabbath—spiritual and practical value for Luther



- ▶ Practical:
 - ▶ people need rest, time to recover from physical forces
 - ▶ Consecrated period for worship and religious instruction
 - ▶ How much time and precise moment is not specified
 - ▶ Human authority should establish specific demands

Negative views on Sabbath



- ▶ Resurrection brought forth new spiritual reality
- ▶ Days no longer counted
- ▶ More important to observe one eternal day for God's elect
- ▶ God's eternal Sabbath

Why keep Sunday?

- ▶ All days are free and open
- ▶ It is nevertheless useful, good, and necessary to observe one, be it Sabbath, Sunday or any other day, because God wants to rule the world in an orderly and peaceful way
- ▶ Reasons for rejecting sabbath.
- ▶ Following Augustine by spiritualizing the Sabbath
- ▶ Anti-Semitism



Eschatology



- ▶ Luther, Adventists, longed and looked for the day of the Lord
 - ▶ Death,
 - ▶ a deep sleep
 - ▶ Time does not exist
 - ▶ Dead not in purgatory or paradise
- ▶ Strong believer in the nearness of the end
- ▶ False prophets among Anabaptists, Turks, Papacy- Antichrists

Eschatology

- ▶ End of apocalyptic era
 - ▶ Everything destroyed, changed
- ▶ Book of Revelation
 - ▶ Unsure of inspiration
 - ▶ To be studied with Daniel

