

into Sunday, not by the command of Christ, but by its own authority. With this, to be sure, the last illusion was destroyed, and it was declared that tradition does not signify antiquity, but continual inspiration." (Canon and Tradition, p 263, Heinrich Julius Holtzman, Ludwigsburg, 1859)

#### 4.—IS ROME'S CHANGE OF THE SABBATH SUCH A SERIOUS MATTER, AFTER ALL?

God, not man, must be allowed to decide this question. His Word settles the matter with absolute finality. The urgency of the warnings given, and the severity of the penalties imposed, reveal how seriously God views this matter:

**Rev. 14 : 9-11: "The wrath of God without mixture."**

No one could read these awesome words thoughtfully and feel this is a matter of small importance. These verses contain the most solemn and terrible warning in all the Bible. It is evident, therefore, that this high-handed action of the Papal power has stirred the indignation of Heaven to its very depths.

A moment's reflection will reveal why this is so. The change of the Sabbath is the boldest and most sustained challenge to the authority of God that has ever been offered by man!

If it is a crime to forge a human name; if it is treason to tamper with the law of an earthly king; what yardstick can measure this unbelievable outrage, where puny men have dared to mutilate the law of Heaven, and forge God's name to a lie?

Seen in this light, the Sabbath-Sunday controversy is not merely a clash of days—it is essentially a clash of authorities—the authority of the creature versus the authority of the Creator. This is what makes it of life-and-death importance!

Think of our nation's flag. What makes it different? What makes it sacred? It is composed of the same materials as a shirt or a handkerchief; why then don't we treat it as if it were a common thing? Because it is the chosen symbol of our nation's authority! Respect for the flag shows respect for the authority it represents. Disrespect for the flag shows disrespect for the same authority.

Apply this to the Sabbath. It is made of time—just like the other six days. What, then, makes it different? What makes it sacred? God has "sanctified", or separated it for a special purpose. It is the appointed "sign" or "seal" of the Creator, the chosen symbol of His authority.

If a citizen deliberately trampled his own nation's flag in the dust, and just as deliberately gave his salute to an enemy's flag, would he not be guilty of treason? By the same token, the man who deliberately exalts Sunday, and consciously tramples the Sabbath underfoot, is guilty of treason against God!

**Conclusion** One final question remains to be answered: On which side will we stand in the last great conflict between truth and error?

(See Chart No. 28—*Truth or Tradition?*)

The simplest way to answer this question is to ask again: Where would Jesus stand? If He returned today, and witnessed the inexcusable breach that has been made in God's law—would He stand among those who are enlarging the breach, or among those who are repairing the breach, or would He take a passive, neutral, uncommitted attitude?

**Heb. 13 : 8: "Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, and today, and forever."**

If Jesus came back today, He would stand exactly where He did in days of old. He would champion the down-trodden law of God. He would become a fearless repairer of the breach. Life holds out no greater honour to us than to stand with Him, and work with Him, for the finishing of this sacred task!