

Mark 2:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

Analysis

'Therefore the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath' asserts Jesus' sovereignty over the fourth commandment. The Sabbath, instituted at creation (Genesis 2:2-3) and codified in the Decalogue (Exodus 20:8-11), was God's gift showing His lordship over time. By claiming lordship over Sabbath, Jesus claims divine authority. The conjunction 'therefore' (hōste) connects to verse 27: 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.' Jesus reverses Pharisaic priorities, showing Sabbath serves humanity's good under God's design, not as burdensome legalism. As Lord of Sabbath, Christ determines its proper observance. Reformed theology sees the moral law (Ten Commandments) as eternally binding but fulfilled in Christ, who is our Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:9-10). The weekly Sabbath principle continues as worship on the Lord's Day, commemorating resurrection.

Historical Context

Pharisees developed elaborate Sabbath regulations (39 categories of forbidden work in Mishnah) to 'fence' the law, making accidental violation impossible. Plucking grain heads while walking (Mark 2:23) violated their oral tradition, though not explicit Torah. Their system made Sabbath oppressive rather than restful. Jesus appeals to David eating showbread (1 Samuel 21:1-6), arguing from lesser to greater: if David's physical need justified ritual violation, how much more the Messiah's authority supersedes ceremonial law? This challenged scribal interpretive supremacy, threatening their religious authority structure.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's lordship over Sabbath free you from both legalism and license?
2. Do your Sundays reflect restful worship in Christ or anxious religious performance?

Interlinear Text

ἄστε	κύριος	ἐστιν	ό	υἱός	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	καὶ	τοῦ
Therefore	Lord	is	G3588	the Son	G3588	of man	also	G3588
G5620	G2962	G2076		G5207		G444	G2532	
σαββάτου								
of the sabbath								
G4521								

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:10 (References Lord): I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Ephesians 1:22 (Parallel theme): And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Matthew 12:8 (References Lord): For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

John 9:14 (Parallel theme): And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

