

"It appears that the churches of Syria and Mesopotamia continued to follow the custom of the Jews, and celebrated Easter on the *fourteenth day of the moon*, whether falling on Sunday or not. All the other churches observed that solemnity on Sunday only, namely; those of Rome, Italy, Africa, Lydia, Egypt, Spain, Gaul, and Britain; and all Greece, Asia, and Pontus."- **Boyle's "Historical View of the Council of Nice," page 23, edition 1836.**

14. How was the matter finally decided?

"Easter day was fixed on the Sunday immediately following the full moon which was nearest after the vernal equinox."- **Id., page 24.**

15. What was decreed by the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 364?

That Christians should keep the Sunday, and that if they persisted in resting on the Sabbath, "they shall be shut out from Christ." **See Hefele's "History of the Councils of the Church," Vol. II, page 316.**

16. What imperial law was issued in A. D. 386?

"By a law of the year 386, those older changes effected by Constantine were more vigorously enforced; and, in general, civil transactions of every kind on Sunday were strictly forbidden."- **Neander's "Church History," Vol. II, page 300.**

17. What petition was made to the emperor by a church convention of bishops in A. D. 401?

"That the public shows might be transferred from the Christian Sunday and from the feast-days to some other days of the week."- **Neander's "Church History," Vol. II, page 300**

NOTE: The desired law was secured in **425 A.D.**

18. What was the object of the church bishops in securing these Sunday laws?

"That the day might be devoted with less interruption to the purposes of devotion." "That the devotion of the faithful might be free from all disturbance."- **Id., pages 297, 301**

The Foundation Bible Lessons

PART 10: Christian Liberty

Topic: Union of Church and State

Lesson: 106 Part A Volume: 10



MISSION STATEMENT

Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. exists to build upon the four **PILLARS** (*Mental, Physical, Spiritual and Social*) that **GUIDED** Jesus' life.

VISION

All Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. members will use the four pillars to establish and build their personal life and that of others.

SLOGAN

"Don't Accommodate Eliminate"

MOTTO

"Building on FOUR"

TEXT

"And Jesus increased in wisdom (Mental) and stature (Physical & Spiritual), and in favor with God (Spiritual) and man (Social)." **Luke 2:52**

WEBSITE

www.fpsam.org

1. What was already at work in the church in Paul's day?

"For the _____ of _____ doth already work." **2 Thessalonians 2:7**

2. What class of men did he say would arise in the church?

"For I know this, that after my departing shall *grievous* _____ enter in among you, not sparing the flock. *Also of your* _____ *selves shall men* _____, *speaking* _____ *things, to* _____ *away* _____ *after them.*"

Acts 20:29-30

3. Through what experience was the church to pass, and what was to develop in the church, before Christ's second coming?

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come, except there come a* _____ *away first, and that* _____ *of* _____ *be* _____, the son of perdition." **2 Thessalonians 2:3**

4. In what was shown the first tangible evidence of this "falling away" from the truth of God?

The adoption of heathen rites and customs in the church.

NOTE: "The bishops augmented the number of religious rites in the Christian worship, by way of accommodation to the infirmities and prejudices, both of Jews and heathen, in order to facilitate their conversion to Christianity. . . . For this purpose they gave the name of *mysteries* to the institutions of the gospel, and decorated particularly the holy sacrament with that solemn title. They used in that sacred institution, as also in that of baptism, several of the terms employed in the heathen mysteries, and proceeded so far, at length, as even to adopt some of the rites and of the ceremonies of which those renowned mysteries consisted." - **Mosheim's "Ecclesiastical History" (MacLaine's translation), cent. 2, part 2, chap. 4, pars.2-5.**

5. How early was this tendency manifested?

"This imitation began in the eastern provinces; but, after the time of Adrian [emperor **117-138 A.D.**], who first introduced the mysteries among the Latins, it was followed by the Christians who dwelt in the western parts of the empire."- **Id., par. 5.**

6. What has been one great characteristic of the Papacy?

A union of church and state, or the religious power dominating the civil power to further its ends.

7. When was the union of church and state formed from which the Papacy grew?

During the reign of Constantine, **313-337 A.D.**

8. What was the character and the work of many of the bishops at that time?

"Worldly-minded bishops, instead of caring for the salvation of their flocks, were often but too much inclined to travel about, and entangle themselves in worldly concerns."- Neander's "History of the Christian Religion and Church" (**Torrey's translation**), Vol. II, page 16

9. What did the bishops determine to do?

"This theocratical theory was already the prevailing one in the time of Constantine; and. . . the bishops voluntarily made themselves dependent on him by their disputes, and by their determination to make use of the power of the state for the furtherance of their aims."- **Id., page 132.**

NOTE: The "theocratical theory" was that of a government administered by God through the church, particularly through the church bishops.

10. What was the date of Constantine's famous Sunday law?

A. D. 321

11. When and by whom was the Council of Nice convened?

By the emperor Constantine, **325 A. D.**

12. Under what authority were its decrees published?

"The decrees. . . were published under the imperial authority, and thus obtained a political importance."- **Id., page 133.**

13. What was one principal object in calling this council?

"The question relating to the observance of Easter, which was agitated in the time of Anicetus and Polycarp, and afterward in that of Victor, was still undecided. It was one of the principal reasons for convoking the Council of Nice, being the most important subject to be considered after the Arian controversy."

What did the Arians believe?

Arianism is a nontrinitarian Christological doctrine which holds that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who was begotten by God the Father, and is distinct from the Father (therefore subordinate to him), but the Son is also God the Son but not co-eternal with God the Father.

