

3     *The CHRISTIAN SABBATH*

a holy Convocation. In Numb. xxviii. 9. we meet with additional Sacrifices appointed for the Sabbath. The Ninety Second Psalm; which is entituled, *a Psalm or Song for the Sabbath-Day*, begins with recommending *Divine Worship*, as a noble Employment. And it is the Language of the Prophet, Isa. lxvi. 23. *From one Sabbath to another, shall all Flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.* This Practice was also countenanced by our LORD JESUS CHRIST himself. We frequently see him, while he was upon Earth; and his Apostles, after his Ascension, preaching in the Synagogues, upon the Sabbath-Day. It affects not the present Argument, whither this was the First or Seventh Day of the Week. All that I now insist upon is, that if there is a Sabbath, under the Gospel, it is a Day appropriated to *publick Worship*. Whether there is or not, we shall see presently. Only, take Notice, that as far as one is demonstrated, the other follows of Course; the original Idea of a Sabbath as necessarily including *publick Worship*, as it does a *Rest* from secular Labour. If either of these is wanting, the Sabbath is not compleat. From whence, by the Way, we may gather the following useful Corollary; a Truth which, perhaps, is seldom thought on: and that is, that where there is no *publick Worship*, the Sabbath is not properly celebrated; and those who separate themselves from this Divine Institution, whatever they may think of it, and how devoutly soever they may spend their Time in their Closets, they cannot be said to keep a Sabbath. A Person that absents himself from the *Worship of God* in his Sanctuary, as effectually breaks the Sabbath, as if he laboured in his worldly Business. It is a common Observation indeed, that Necessity has no Law; and in Cases of Necessity, we may be absent. True; and in Cases of Necessity, we may also *labour* upon the Sabbath; but neither in one Instance, nor the other, can we properly be said to *keep* the Sabbath; and Nothing therefore, but Necessity