

Col 2:16:

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ. (Col 2:16-17).

Question: Does Colossians 2:16-17 refer to the Saturday Sabbath as a type which NT churches are not commanded to keep? Yes, because:

1.) The context of the verse itself supports this. The previous reference to the fulfillment and nailing to the cross of all the Law, the forgiveness of “all trespasses” (v. 13) and nailing them all to the cross (certainly including trespasses against the ten commandments!) and this verse’s contrast of “holy day” and “sabbath days” supports it. The following context supports it as well.

2.) The Greek word *sabbaton*, or “sabbath,” is never used in the NT to refer to ceremonial sabbath days. The word is used 62 times. This would show that here it refers to the Saturday Sabbath.

All 62 *sabbaton* verses in the Bible:

Mt 12:1* At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day <4521> through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

TR εν εκεινω τω καιρω επορευθη ο ιησους τοις σαββασιν δια των σποριμων οι δε μαθηται αυτου επεινασαν και ηρξαντο τιλλειν σταχυας και εσθειν

Mt 12:2 But when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day <4521>.

TR οι δε φαρισαιοι ιδοντες ειπον αυτω ιδου οι μαθηται σου ποιουσιν ο ουκ εξεστιν ποιειν εν σαββατω

Mt 12:5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days <4521> the priests in the temple profane the sabbath <4521>, and are blameless?

TR η ουκ ανεγνωτε εν τω νομω οτι τοις σαββασιν οι ιερεις εν τω ιερω το σαββατον βεβηλουσιν και αναιτιοι εισιν

Mt 12:8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day <4521>.

TR κυριος γαρ εστιν και του σαββατου ο υιος του ανθρωπου

Mt 12:10* And, behold, there was a man which had *his* hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days <4521>? that they might accuse him.

TR και ιδου ανθρωπος ην την χειρα εχων ξηραν και επηρωτησαν αυτον λεγοντες ει εξεστιν τοις σαββασιν θεραπευειν ινα κατηγορησωσιν αυτου

Mt 12:11* And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day <4521>, will he not lay hold on it, and lift *it* out?

TR ο δε ειπεν αυτοις τις εσται εξ υμων ανθρωπος ος εξει προβατον εν και εαν εμπεση τουτο τοις σαββασιν εις βοθυνον ουχι κρατησει αυτο και εγερει

Mt 12:12* How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days <4521>.

TR ποσω ουν διαφερει ανθρωπος προβατου ωστε εξεστιν τοις σαββασιν καλωσ ποιειν

Mt 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day <4521>:

TR προσευχεσθε δε ινα μη γενηται η φυγη υμων χειμωνος μηδε εν σαββατω

Mt 28:1* In the end of the sabbath <4521>, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week <4521>, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

TR οψε δε σαββατων τη επιφωσκουση εις μιαν σαββατων ηλθεν μαρια η μαγδαληνη και η αλλη μαρια θεωρησαι τον ταφον

Mr 1:21* And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day <4521> he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

TR και εισπορευονται εις καπερναουμ και ευθεωσ τοις σαββασιν εισελθων εις την συναγωγην εδιδασκεν

Mr 2:23* And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day <4521>; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.

TR και εγενετο παραπορευεσθαι αυτον εν τοις σαββασιν δια των σποριμων και ηρξαντο οι μαθηται αυτου οδον ποιειν τιλλοντες τουσ σταχυασ

Mr 2:24* And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day <4521> that which is not lawful?

TR και οι φαρισαιοι ελεγον αυτω ιδε τι ποιουσιν εν τοις σαββασιν ο ουκ εξεστιν

Mr 2:27* And he said unto them, The sabbath <4521> was made for man, and not man for the sabbath <4521>:

TR και ελεγεν αυτοις το σαββατον δια τον ανθρωπον εγενετο ουχ ο ανθρωπος δια το σαββατον

Mr 2:28* Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath <4521>.

TR ωστε κυριος εστιν ο υιος του ανθρωπου και του σαββατου

Mr 3:2 And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day <4521>; that they might accuse him.

TR και παρετηρουν αυτον ει τοις σαββασιν θεραπευσει αυτον ινα κατηγορησωσιν αυτου

Mr 3:4 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days <4521>, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

TR και λεγει αυτοις εξεστιν τοις σαββασιν αγαθοποιησαι η κακοποιησαι ψυχην σωσαι η αποκτειναι οι δε εσιωπων

Mr 6:2* And when the sabbath day <4521> was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing *him* were astonished, saying, From whence hath this *man* these things? and what wisdom *is* this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

TR και γενομενου σαββατου ηρξατο εν τη συναγωγη διδασκειν και πολλοι ακουοντες εξεπλησσοντο λεγοντες ποθεν τουτω ταυτα και τις η σοφια η δοθεισα αυτω οτι και δυναμεις τοιαυται δια των χειρων αυτου γινονται

Mr 16:1* And when the sabbath <4521> was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint

him.

TR και διαγενομενου του σαββατου μαρια η μαγδαληνη και μαρια η του ιακωβου και σαλωμη ηγορασαν αρωματα ινα ελθουσαι αλειψωσιν αυτον

Mr 16:2* And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week <4521>, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

TR και λιαν πρωι της μιας σαββατων ερχονται επι το μνημειον ανατειλαντος του ηλιου

Mr 16:9* Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week <4521>, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

TR αναστας δε πρωι πρωτη σαββατου εφανη πρωτον μαρια τη μαγδαληνη αφ ης εκβεβληκει επτα δαιμονια

Lu 4:16* And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath <4521> day, and stood up for to read.

TR και ηλθεν εις την ναζαρετ ου ην τεθραμμενος και εισηλθεν κατα το ειωθος αυτω εν τη ημερα των σαββατων εις την συναγωγην και ανεστη αναγνωσαι

Lu 4:31* And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days <4521>.

TR και κατηλθεν εις καπερναουμ πολιν της γαλιλαιας και ην διδασκων αυτους εν τοις σαββασιν

Lu 6:1* And it came to pass on the second sabbath <4521> after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing *them* in *their* hands.

TR εγενετο δε εν σαββατω δευτεροπρωτω διαπορευεσθαι αυτον δια των σποριμων και επιλλον οι μαθηται αυτου τους σταχυας και ησθιον ψωχοντες ταις χερσιν

Lu 6:2 And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days <4521>?

TR τινες δε των φαρισαιων ειπον αυτοις τι ποιειτε ο ουκ εξεστιν ποιειν εν τοις σαββασιν

Lu 6:5 And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath <4521>.

TR και ελεγεν αυτοις οτι κυριος εστιν ο υιος του ανθρωπου και του σαββατου

Lu 6:6 And it came to pass also on another sabbath <4521>, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

TR εγενετο δε και εν ετερω σαββατω εισελθειν αυτον εις την συναγωγην και διδασκειν και ην εκει ανθρωπος και η χειρ αυτου η δεξια ην ξηρα

Lu 6:7 And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day <4521>; that they might find an accusation against him.

TR παρετηρουν δε αυτον οι γραμματαις και οι φαρισαιοι ει εν τω σαββατω θεραπευσει ινα ευρωσιν κατηγοριαν αυτου

Lu 6:9 Then said *Jesus* unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days <4521> to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy *it*?

TR ειπεν ουν ο ιησους προς αυτους επερωτησω υμας τι εξεστιν τοις σαββασιν αγαθοποιησαι η κακοποιησαι ψυχην σωσαι η απολεσαι

Lu 13:10* And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath <4521>.

TR ην δε διδασκων εν μια των συναγωγων εν τοις σαββασιν

Lu 13:14* And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath <4521> day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath <4521> day.

TR αποκριθεις δε ο αρχισυναγωγος αγανακτων οτι τω σαββατω εθεραπευσεν ο ιησους ελεγεν τω οχλω εξ ημεραι εισιν εν αις δει εργαζεσθαι εν ταυταις ουν ερχομενοι θεραπευεσθε και μη τη ημερα του σαββατου

Lu 13:15* The Lord then answered him, and said, *Thou* hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath <4521> loose his ox or *his* ass from the stall, and lead *him* away to watering?

TR απεκριθη ουν αυτω ο κυριος και ειπεν υποκριτα εκαστος υμων τω σαββατω ου λυει τον βουν αυτου η τον ονον απο της φατνης και απαγαγων ποτιζει

Lu 13:16* And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath <4521> day?

TR ταυτην δε θυγατερα αβρααμ ουσαν ην εδησεν ο σατανας ιδου δεκα και οκτω ετη ουκ εδει λυθηναι απο του δεσμου τουτου τη ημερα του σαββατου

Lu 14:1 And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath <4521> day, that they watched him.

TR και εγενετο εν τω ελθειν αυτον εις οικον τινος των αρχοντων των φαρισαιων σαββατω φαγειν αρτον και αυτοι ησαν παρατηρουμενοι αυτον

Lu 14:3 And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day <4521>?

TR και αποκριθεις ο ιησους ειπεν προς τους νομικους και φαρισαιους λεγων ει εξεστιν τω σαββατω θεραπευειν

Lu 14:5* And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath <4521> day?

TR και αποκριθεις προς αυτους ειπεν τινος υμων ονος η βους εις φρεαρ εμπεσειται και ουκ ευθεως ανασπασει αυτον εν τη ημερα του σαββατου

Lu 18:12* I fast twice in the week <4521>, I give tithes of all that I possess.

TR νηστευω δις του σαββατου αποδεκατω παντα οσα κτωμαι

Lu 23:54 And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath <4521> drew on.

TR και ημερα ην παρασκευη και σαββατον επεφωσκεν

Lu 23:56* And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day <4521> according to the commandment.

TR υποστρεψασαι δε ητοιμασαν αρωματα και μυρα και το μεν σαββατον ησυχασαν κατα την εντολην

Lu 24:1* Now upon the first *day* of the week <4521>, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.

TR τη δε μια των σαββατων ορθρου βαθεος ηλθον επι το μνημα φερουσαι α ητοιμασαν αρωματα και τινες συν αυταις

Joh 5:9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked:

and on the same day was the sabbath <4521>.

TR και ευθεως εγενετο υγιης ο ανθρωπος και ηρεν τον κραββατον αυτου και περιπατει ην δε σαββατον εν εκεινη τη ημερα

Joh 5:10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day <4521>: it is not lawful for thee to carry *thy* bed.

TR ελεγον ουν οι ιουδαιοι τω τεθεραπευμενω σαββατον εστιν ουκ εξεστιν σοι αραι τον κραββατον

Joh 5:16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day <4521>.

TR και δια τουτο εδιωκον τον ιησουν οι ιουδαιοι και εζητουν αυτον αποκτειναι οτι ταυτα εποιει εν σαββατω

Joh 5:18* Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath <4521>, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

TR δια τουτο ουν μαλλον εζητουν αυτον οι ιουδαιοι αποκτειναι οτι ου μονον ελυεν το σαββατον αλλα και πατερα ιδιον ελεγεν τον θεον ισον εαυτον ποιων τω θεω

Joh 7:22* Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day <4521> circumcise a man.

TR δια τουτο μωσης δεδωκεν υμιν την περιτομην ουχ οτι εκ του μωσεως εστιν αλλ εκ των πατερων και εν σαββατω περιτεμνετε ανθρωπον

Joh 7:23 If a man on the sabbath day <4521> receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day <4521>?

TR ει περιτομην λαμβανει ανθρωπος εν σαββατω ινα μη λυθη ο νομος μωσεως εμοι χολατε οτι ολον ανθρωπον υγη εποιησα εν σαββατω

Joh 9:14 And it was the sabbath day <4521> when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

TR ην δε σαββατον οτε τον πηλον εποιησεν ο ιησους και ανεωξεν αυτου τους οφθαλμους

Joh 9:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day <4521>. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

TR ελεγον ουν εκ των φαρισαιων τινες ουτος ο ανθρωπος ουκ εστιν παρα του θεου οτι το σαββατον ου τηρει αλλοι ελεγον πως δυναται ανθρωπος αμαρτωλος τοιαυτα σημεια ποιειν και σχισμα ην εν αυτοις

Joh 19:31* The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day <4521>, (for that sabbath day <4521> was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

TR οι ουν ιουδαιοι ινα μη μεινη επι του σταυρου τα σωματα εν τω σαββατω επει παρασκευη ην ην γαρ μεγαλη η ημερα εκεινου του σαββατου ηρωτησαν τον πιλaton ινα κατεαγωσιν αυτων τα σκελη και αρθωσιν

Joh 20:1* The first *day* of the week <4521> cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was

yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

TR τη δε μια των σαββατων μαρια η μαγδαληνη ερχεται πρωι σκοτιας επι ουσης εις το μνημειον και βλεπει τον λιθον ηρμενον εκ του μνημειου

Joh 20:19* Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week <4521>, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

TR ουσης ουν οψιας τη ημερα εκεινη τη μια των σαββατων και των θυρων κεκλεισμενων οπου ησαν οι μαθηται συνηγμενοι δια τον φοβον των ιουδαιων ηλθεν ο ιησους και εστη εις το μεσον και λεγει αυτοις ειρηνη υμιν

Ac 1:12* Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath <4521> day's journey.

TR τοτε υπεστρεψαν εις ιερουσαλημ απο ορους του καλουμενου ελαιωνος ο εστιν εγγυς ιερουσαλημ σαββατου εχον οδον

Ac 13:14* But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath <4521> day, and sat down.

TR αυτοι δε διελθοντες απο της περγης παρεγενοντο εις αντιοχειαν της πισιδιας και εισελθοντες εις την συναγωγην τη ημερα των σαββατων εκαθισαν

Ac 13:27* For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day <4521>, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*.

TR οι γαρ κατοικουντες εν ιερουσαλημ και οι αρχοντες αυτων τουτον αγνοησαντες και τας φωνας των προφητων τας κατα παν σαββατον αναγινωσκομενας κριναντες επληρωσαν

Ac 13:42* And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath <4521>.

TR εξιοντων δε εκ της συναγωγης των ιουδαιων παρεκαλουν τα εθνη εις το μεταξυ σαββατον λαληθηναι αυτοις τα ρηματα ταυτα

Ac 13:44* And the next sabbath day <4521> came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

TR τω δε ερχομενω σαββατω σχεδον πασα η πολις συνηχθη ακουσαι τον λογον του θεου

Ac 15:21* For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day <4521>.

TR μωσης γαρ εκ γενεων αρχαιων κατα πολιν τους κηρυσσοντας αυτον εχει εν ταις συναγωγαις κατα παν σαββατον αναγινωσκομενος

Ac 16:13* And on the sabbath <4521> we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.

TR τη τε ημερα των σαββατων εξηλθομεν εξω της πολεως παρα ποταμον ου ενομιζετο προσευχη ειναι και καθισαντες ελαλουμεν ταις συνελθουσαις γυναιξιν

Ac 17:2* And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath <4521> days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

TR κατα δε το ειωθος τω παυλω εισηλθεν προς αυτους και επι σαββατα τρια

διελεγετο αυτοις απο των γραφων

Ac 18:4* And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath <4521>, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

TR διελεγετο δε εν τη συναγωγη κατα παν σαββατον επειθεν τε ιουδαιους και ελληνας

Ac 20:7* And upon the first *day* of the week <4521>, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

TR εν δε τη μια των σαββατων συνηγμενων των μαθητων του κλασαι αρτον ο παυλος διελεγετο αυτοις μελλων εξιεναι τη επαυριον παρετεινεν τε τον λογον μεχρι μεσονυκτιου

1Co 16:2* Upon the first *day* of the week <4521> let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

TR κατα μιαν σαββατων εκαστος υμων παρ εαυτω τιθετω θησαυριζων ο τι αν ευοδωται ινα μη οταν ελθω τοτε λογισται γινωνται

Col 2:16* Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath <4521> *days*:

TR μη ουν τις υμας κρινετω εν βρωσει η εν ποσει η εν μερει εορτης η νουμηνιας η σαββατων

3.) Every time this phraseology of holyday, new moon, and sabbath appears in the OT, the “sabbath” referred to is the Saturday Sabbath.

Verses that have the same order:

Ezek. 45:17 And it shall be the prince’s part *to give* burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel.

2Chr. 2:4 Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate *it* to him, *and* to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This *is an ordinance* for ever to Israel.

2Chr. 8:13 Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, *even* in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.

2Chr. 31:3 *He appointed* also the king’s portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, *to wit*, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as *it is* written in the law of the LORD.

Verses that have all three elements:

Is. 1:13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting.
the new moons.

Hos. 2:11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.

Neh. 10:33 For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy *things*, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and *for* all the work of the house of our God.

1Chr. 23:31 And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD:

Verses that connect sabbath and new moon (“solemn feast” and “sabbath” verses are all already listed):

2Kings 4:23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? *it is* neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, *It shall be well*

Is. 66:23 And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Ezek. 46:1 Thus saith the Lord GOD; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened.

Ezek. 46:3 Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the sabbaths and in the new moons.

Amos 8:5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?

4.) The order of “holyday,” “new moon,” “sabbath” is a progression from the abolition of the yearly (“holyday”), monthly (“new moon”), and weekly (“sabbath”) Jewish festivals. Therefore the “sabbath” days do not refer to anything other than the weekly sabbath. Nor can the fact that the plural form of the word “sabbath” be used to prove a reference to merely special ceremonial sabbaths. The Greek of Exodus 20:8-10—the giving of the fourth commandment itself—utilizes the plural also found in Colossians 2:16. Leviticus 24:8; Numbers 15:32; Luke 4:16; Acts 13:14 do as well, but reference is made to the Saturday sabbath, not to anything else.

Conclusion:

Colossians 2:16-17 indicates that the Saturday Sabbath has been abolished, as a shadow of things to come, fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ.