

THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

- A. **More & more people think of Sunday** as being no different from any other day of the week.

- B. **New Christians often have to make major changes** in their weekend habits to be with the saints.

- C. **But even those of us who have been Christians for a long time need to consider from time to time what we are doing on “The Lord’s Day”.**
 - 1. It may be we are neglecting to make that day the special day it ought to be to us.

I. “THE LORD’S DAY”

- A. **SUNDAY, or THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, is referred to in the New Testament as the “Lord’s Day”.**

Rev 1:10-11 – I was in the Spirit on **The Lord’s Day**, & I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha & the Omega, the First & the Last," &, "What you see, write in a book & send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, & to Laodicea."

1. “The Lord’s Day”: *a day pertaining to the Lord.*
2. It may refer to any day that Jesus claimed as His own in order to fulfill His own special purpose.

[**So** how can we know that THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, which we call SUNDAY, is “The Lord’s Day”?]

II. MANY NOTABLE EVENTS ON THE FIRST DAY

A. God created light

Gen 1:3-5 – Then **God said, "Let there be light"; & there was light.** 4 And God saw the light that it was good; & God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, & the darkness He called Night. **So the evening & the morning were THE FIRST DAY.**

1. Of all the things He created, nothing is more symbolic of God’s nature than **light**.
 - a. **Light reveals His creative power:** What good would His creation be to us, if we could not see it illuminated by **light**.
 - b. **Light describes His abode in Heaven:** He “dwells in unapproachable **light**”(1 Tim 6:16).

- c. **Light illustrates the holiness of His character:** “God is **light** & in Him is no darkness (evil) at all” (1 Jn 1:5).
- d. **Light speaks of His ability to know everything:** “For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to **light**” (Mk 4:22).

[**And** light was created on THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK!]

B. Jesus was resurrected from the dead...

Luke 23:50-24:3 – Now behold, there was a man named **Joseph**, a council member, a good & just man. 51 He had not consented to their decision & deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate & asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, & laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. 54 That day was the Preparation, & the Sabbath drew near. 55 And **the women** who had come with Him [Jesus] from Galilee followed after, & they observed the tomb & how His body was laid. 56 Then they returned & prepared spices & fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. **Now on THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK**, very early in the morning, they, & certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. 3 Then **they** went in & **did not find the body of the Lord Jesus**.

C. The H. S. came upon the apostles...(Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4)

D. The Lord's church began...(Acts 2:1-47)

1. The Day of Pentecost was on a day that followed a Sabbath day (Lev 23:15-21).

E. The Lord's Supper observed...(Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 10:16-17; 1 Cor 11:23-29)

Acts 20:7 – Now on **THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK**, when **the disciples came together to break bread**, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them & continued his message until midnight.

Why was this done on THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK?

1 Cor 11:23-25 – For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 & when He had given thanks, He broke it & said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

It is on the FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK that our Lord wants us to commune with Him & with each other in His kingdom.

Mark 14:25 – Assuredly, I say to you, **I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.**

1 Cor 10:16-17 – **The cup of blessing** which we bless, **is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread** which we break, **is it not the communion of the body of Christ?** 17 For we, though many, are one bread & one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

F. Christians assembled to pray, sing, teach & study the Word of God, & to give of their means to support the Lord's work....

1. THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK was a day of spiritual refreshment, a time to be edified.

G. Finally, the FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK was the day on which John saw the host of heaven worshipping God the Father & His Lamb (Rev 4:8-11; 5:11-14).

[So obviously, SUNDAY or THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK is not a day of rest like the Jewish Sabbath day used to be.

The Sabbath was done away in Christ (Col 2:14, 16). **Sunday** is not the “Christian Sabbath”!!!

But it is “The Lord’s day” because *it pertains to the Lord*; because there are certain activities that he calls Christians together to perform on that day.

We must never think of “The Lord’s Day” as mainly our day — & only reluctantly give Him part of it?

But think of “The Lord’s Day” as one out of seven that has been set aside for things that are clearly related to the Lord.

Apart from what we have been commanded to do on “The Lord’s Day”, there are many other things we can do to make it the special day that it ought to be.]

III. MAKE “THE LORD’S DAY” A SPECIAL DAY

A. We can *keep* ourselves from interferences.

1. Think of “The Lord’s Day” as a wedding day; we certainly would not allow anything to interfere it.

B. We can *prepare* for it.

1. Careful planning must be made for a wedding day.

C. We can *pray* about it.

1. Prayers made for a wedding day consist of hope for the highest possible outcome.

D. We can *reserve* it for the Lord & His people.

1. Not everyone is invited to a wedding. And it is certainly not a day for personal pursuits. We must remember that our Lord is counting on us to be present at His table with His (our) family.

E. We can *make memories* of it for our children.

1. Wedding days are the most memorable of days. Memories that center on “The Lord’s Day” ought to be cherished memories.

CLOSING

A. Where would we be without “The Lord’s Day”?

1. Lost in a sea of doubt & discouragement? Living entirely for ourselves?
2. Thankfully, our Heavenly Father in Heaven has set aside this day to strengthen our spirits, & to remind us of our spiritual family, & to commune with us as Friend with Friend.

B. “The Lord’s Day” is not just as something that is required for our good.

1. It ought to be a satisfying & enjoyable day.

It is no wonder that David,
“**The sweet psalmist of Israel**”
Sang (Psa 122:1),

***“I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’”***