

The Lord's Day

In the last lesson we studied why people worship on the first day of the week, rather than the seventh day the Lord blessed and sanctified. Why would people make such a change when we do not find such a command recorded in the new testament. Does man have a right to make such a change?

In the last lesson we studied concerning the "Resurrection of Christ". Most people feel that Christ arose on the first day of the week, and thus they should observe that day. But we found no such thing took place on the first day of the week, rather it was "*In the end of the sabbath...*", according to Matt. 28:1.

Again we found no basis for observing the first day of the week as the Sabbath, especially since we found no such command by Christ or His Father for changing the day of worship. The other reason people give for worshipping on the first day of the week is that Sunday is the Lord's Day. I'm sure we all have heard this remark many times.

Still we do not want to take man's word for it, so can we find in the bible where Sunday is called the Lord's Day? This is very important, for if the Bible says that Sunday is the Lord's Day, then we need to recognize it as such. But if the Bible does not say so, then we should be very careful about accepting man's traditions. Let's take our Bibles and see.

1. **I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day.** Revelation 1:10

We do find one verse in the bible that mentions the "Lord's Day". But can you tell from this verse which day is the Lord's Day? John does not mention any certain day, so we cannot determine from this verse which day he is referring to. To say this refers to Sunday is certainly doing injustice to the scriptures. Let us check another verse as found in the next reference.

2. **Lord of the Sabbath.** Mark 2:27-28

Verse 28 tell us that the Lord (Christ), "*...is Lord also of the sabbath.*" Sabbath in the bible always refers to the seventh day of the week or Saturday as it is now called. Nowhere in the bible is Sunday referred to as the sabbath or the Lord's Day. Since the Lord "*is Lord also of the sabbath*" it would appear if John in Revelation was referring to a specific day, he was referring to the seventh day of the week. It seems this verse makes it quite clear.

But it is said the people gathered together on the first day of the week after his Resurrection. This is true, but let us find out "why" they gathered. Was it because Sunday was a holy day, or was it for some other reason? I think the Bible will tell us exactly why the people gathered on the first day of the week.

3. **Disciples were assembled together.** John 20:19

Here it does say the disciples were gathered on the first day of the week, and Jesus even appeared with them. But the question is "why" were they gathered here on the first day of the week. Read the verse carefully and you will see it was "*...for fear of the Jews...*" They had been followers of Jesus, and they were afraid for their lives.

They had no thought for worship; they were fearful of what might happen to them. So we must throw this reference aside as a reason for worshipping on the first day of the week.

4. **Broke bread on the first day of the week.** Acts 20:7

Perhaps this is the first verse that people will read to try to prove we should worship on the first day of the week. They say the apostles or the disciples came together on the first day of the week to observe communion or the Lord's Supper. When studying the Bible, we do not want to read as we think, but think as we read. We need to let the Bible speak to us, rather than trying to make the Bible

fit our preconceived idea's.

Notice the wording in this verse. It says they came together to "break bread". Does it say anything about the cup? Whenever the breaking of bread is in connection with the Lord's Supper, the cup is always mentioned. Since the cup is not mentioned, this leads us to believe there was some other reason for gathering at this time. Before we explain this verse, we will consider some other scriptures that speak about the breaking of bread, then we will come back and explain the this verse.

5. Broke bread from house to house. Acts 2:46

Here it says they broke bread from house to house. Now did they observe the Lord's Supper from house to house? We would have to say they did not. The breaking of bread here is in reference to eating their meals or to eating a meal. When they ate their meals at home, they ate it with gladness and thanksgiving. Let's examine another reference which is plainers till.

6. After fasting, they broke bread and did eat. Acts 27:33-35

This tells us they fasted for fourteen days, then Paul took some bread, broke it and told them to eat for their health. Here again it says they took bread and broke it, but it was not to celebrate the Lord's Supper. They were to eat a meal. In the olden days, they did not cut their bread as we do today, they just simply broke off as much as they wanted, and ate it. So this is what breaking of bread means, the eating of a meal.

7. Let us go back to Acts 20:7.

This does say they came together to break bread on the first day of the week. Now why did they come together? If you will read the verse carefully you will notice Paul was going to leave them. So they came together to meet with Paul before his departure, and they ate a meal. Then Paul took the opportunity to speak to them until midnight.

This was not to observe the communion, for the cup is not mentioned and the breaking of bread in the bible has reference to just the eating of a meal.

8. When referring to the Lord's Supper, the cup is always mentioned.

Luke 22:19-20

Matt. 26:26-28

Mark 14:22-24

1 Cor. 11:23-25

9. Lay by in store. 1 Corinthians 16:2

Now this is a very interesting verse, and one that most rely on for support to keep the first day of the week as a day of worship. Most feel that the people at this time were worshipping on the first day of the week, as the people took an offering.

Here again, what we have been taught in our past governs our thinking a lot of the time.

Many people read this casually and read into it what they have been taught, but really the thought is not there. Nothing is mentioned here about worship, so how can we say they were worshipping on the first day of the week. They were told, "*...to lay by in store on the first day of the week.*" indicating the meeting had taken place prior to the first day of the week.

But there are also other very important thoughts we want to consider about this verse. If you will notice verse 1, they were to take a collection. Now a collection can refer to several things. You can collect money, you can collect food, you can collect clothing, or you can collect any number of things. Now who was this collection to be for? Verse 1 tells us it was to be for the saints, not for the gospel work. Now why would they be taking a collection for the saints? Was it normal procedure to

take collections for the people? I think it was not. The offerings were to go for the support of the gospel work, beyond which the tithe was to be used. But this collection was to go for the “saints”, why? Let’s see if the scripture does not tell us.

10. **A famine to come.** Acts 11:27-30

You notice here a “*great dearth*” was to come and they were going to send relief to the brethren. In other words, a collection had to be taken to relieve the saints and they were going to send it by Barnabas and Saul (Paul).

11. **Paul goes to Jerusalem with the contribution.** Romans 15:25-27

Here it speaks of the “poor saints”. Why were they poor? It was because of the dearth or famine, and they needed relief or help. This is the reason a collection was needed for the saints. We are commanded to help one another, so they also wanted to give.

12. **Paul mentions again the collections of 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.** Please read 2 Cor. 9:1-7.

As you read this, you will see that Paul mentions that he had sent someone on ahead to make up their bounty (collection), so it would all be ready when he came through their area. He also writes they had notice before, so this was more than just a collection taken in church. This included food, clothing, or anything that would be of help to the poor saints at Jerusalem.

13. **Turn back and read 1 Cor. 16:1-2 again.**

Now can we see why this collection was to be taken, and taken on the first day of the week? This would include a lot of work, getting the materials ready, preparing it, boxing it, cleaning it, etc. This would not have been done on the Sabbath, so they were told to do it (lay by) on the first day of the week, when this kind of work was permitted.

14. **If Jesus had given them rest.** Hebrews 4:8-10

If Jesus had spoken of another day of rest He would have mentioned it, but He didn’t. Therefore he did not change the day of worship. The Sabbath is the same as it has always been.

SUMMARY

We have compared the reasoning of the people for worshipping on the first day of the week in these last two lessons, but find it does not stand up in the light of God’s word. The scripture do not mean what most people feel they do. I hope we will have the courage to stand up and be counted with God’s people, no matter what others think.

God said, “...*Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*” Ecclesiastes 12:13