

# The Lord's Day

going to church



## Sunday

Sunday or Saturday? The debate will continue as long as we hold on to our own opinions. Without laying down a law concerning the matter, we can easily see that Jesus never commanded his disciples to keep Saturday as the Sabbath since He rose from the dead on Sunday. In short, the resurrection of Jesus settles the matter concerning which day we gather for worship. We can offer no more powerful argument than the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If this does not convince someone, nothing else will soften his hard heart. A different view of Scripture demonstrates either weak faith or enslavement under the Old Law.

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. Mark 16:9

Therefore, this tract will not address the Saturday/Sunday issue, rather how we must keep the Sabbath holy.

## The Lord's Moment

We will discuss and ask, however, "Are we in the Spirit on the Lord's Day?"

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet Revelation 1:10

We must ask ourselves if we are separated from the world and worshipping God in Spirit and Truth. Today, most Christians do not celebrate the Lord's Day, but the Lord's Moment. Two hours at a church building does not constitute the Lord's Day.

When we attend Sunday school, listen to a short sermon, and then rush out to fulfill our plans for the day we stumble into on the Sabbath. John received this vision on the Island of Patmos; exiled from the world which permitted God to reveal Himself fully. In the same way, if we expect God to reveal more of Himself to us then we too must exile ourselves from the world.

Those who whine and call this teaching legalism reveal themselves as the vilest worshippers who ever attended church. A true Christian finds the Sabbath a delight and an honorable, holy day. Our actions and steps reflect our hearts. As we will see in the following passage, we find it a joy in our spirit to rejoice in not doing as we “please.” Christians who truly carry their crosses understand clearly that we must never do our own will and know the joy and “honor” of not going their “own way.” While we never do what we want to do, on Sunday we devote ourselves anew to the blessing of hating our own lives (John 12:25) that the crucified life demands.

If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words. Isaiah 58:13

So many believers, by their lack of reverence in church on Sunday, demonstrate to angels and demons that they do not find the Lord’s Day a delight. Not only do we find “speaking of idle words” but an unholy indulgence with words. In the past when you entered a church building you could feel a sense of hush

and reverence. Today, we blab as we prepare for church, as we drive to church, as we sit in the building, and then as we depart. Christians today have made Jesus an entertaining wimp of an idol that no longer demands holy silence and soul searching of those who attend church. In short, we worship at the First Church of Fools who offer their sacrifices of praise and money. Most would consider it the curse of legalism to “guard” their “steps” and a cruel God that convicts souls to the point they shut their mouths. How many fools in today’s church have no clue, nor desire to discover “they do wrong” by coming to church in the manner they do? Anyone who enters a church should have an attitude and actions that speak of listening.

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Ecclesiastes 5:1

The Lord’s Day should be an entire day event. For this reason, many years ago God led us to hold church at 1:30 in the afternoon. When we arise on Sunday morning we guard our steps and shut our mouths as we look forward to worship. We do not rush around preparing for church. Nor do we make plans for the afternoon because the Lord has planned the day for us; a day of contemplation, prayer, fellowship, confession of sin, praise, and seeking His face. Rather, in holy reverence by the power of the Holy Spirit we place ourselves in exile on the “Island of Patmos” and worship the Lord all day long. Only fools go to church dressed casually and then leave to finish off the day as they please. Those of us who live in a land where we can worship freely should not fetter away that freedom in an indulgence of self; rather, in holiness we must worship the living God.

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## The Fault

The guilt of this sin rests squarely on the preachers of today. The teaching that we are free in Christ because it's all the same to God floods the Christians community. They have made a generation of simple ones who perish and in their simple ways (Proverbs 1:22). Violence has occurred to God's Word, but not by wicked cults, but by the mainstream denominations and average churches of today. For modern pastors teach that no difference lies between the clean and the unclean, and shut their eyes to an acceptable Lord's Sabbath day.

Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.  
Ezekiel 22:26

This profanity against God has exploded in the entertaining and love for pleasure that we see in the church today. Food, fun, and irreverence replace faith, denying self, and holiness. As Paul warned, in the last days Christians would be "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1-4). If the community knows your church for its fun, talk of food, movies, and entertaining sermons that draw people to your church, then your church cannot be filled by the Holy Spirit nor blessed by God. It is, in unmistakable terms, a tool of Satan. If your members come dressed to your church in their casual clothes then your church is unholy and blasphemous.

Christians have been given the promises of God and therefore they joyfully perfect holiness. Out of reverence for God, we should spend each Sunday learning how to grow in holiness through the Holy Spirit. A holiness not in mere words, but one that purifies the "body and the spirit." In other words, you should tangibly see a growing holiness that flows from a purified spirit reflected with our bodies. We will think, with the renewed mind of Christ, how to better discipline our lives and how to hear from God to become more holy in heart and action. Those who love God find it a joy to constantly perfect holiness. Others consider it a law too heavy to carry.

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. 2 Corinthians 7:1

It is nonsense to say, "God doesn't care what I wear," or, "We can anything because we are free in Christ." We should never use freedom in Christ as a cover to do evil (1 Peter 2:16). True Christians feel thrilled to attend the festival of righteousness. Spending all day Sunday at church in holy reverence becomes the exciting part of the week (1 Corinthians 5:8). Everyone else with a different attitude should stay home, mow their yards, go out to eat, and watch the football game.

## Sabbath-rest

The New Testament states in Hebrews that Christians have a Sabbath-rest they must enter. Since Jesus surpassed the Saturday Sabbath of the Old Law, true Christians will surpass it also.

Think of the contradiction God calls us to. We must make “every effort” to enter the “rest” of God. Hebrews warns us that we too will fall if we embrace disobedience in this matter. It is no minor matter to go to church; it is a salvation issue.

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. Hebrews 4:9-11

The Sabbath-rest of God is not a one day thing. A person cannot be holy on Sunday then act worldly the remainder of the week and expect to arrive in heaven. We cannot enter the Sabbath-rest of God by laying down a bunch of rules about activities or eating specific foods, and not working on Sunday. We find the Sabbath-rest of God only by picking up our crosses and following the leading of the Holy Spirit. When this happens, church will not become a golden calf experience in the name of the Lord (Exodus 32:5), but a sweet fragrance unto a most holy God.

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