

HONORING THE LORD'S DAY

We humans are good at remembering special days. It may be a birthday, a graduation, the day we met our bride/bridegroom-to-be, or merely some occasion special to us. There is at least one day that *God* considers special, for He calls it "The Lord's Day."

Twice in the New Testament God speaks of something as being uniquely "His." In I Corinthians 11:20-25, the Holy Spirit designated the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at the Lord's Supper." In the original language, regarding that supper, it is specified as the Lord's [*kuriakos*]. Later in the New Testament, John was inspired to write, "*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day...*" (Revelation 1:10). There, that day is described at the "Lord's [*kuriakos*] day."

Early in the second century writers began describing the Christian's day of worship as "The Lord's Day." Plummer states this term was commonly used by early Christians "to denote the first day of the week." Ray Summers concurs, saying, the "Lord's day" was "the day of worship for Christian worship, Sunday."

Many speak of Sunday as the Christian Sabbath, and seek to invoke the Sabbath's rules of behavior on Sunday, though no Bible passage implies or states such. NO, Sunday is not the Christian Sabbath. The Sabbath of the Decalogue, along with the entirety of the Mosaic covenant, has been abolished (Ephesians 2:15), and thus fulfilled (Matthew 5:17).

The Lord's Day, being a special day to the Lord, should certainly deserve *our* respect and should be honored as such. Not as a day of rest prohibiting labor, as in Exodus 20:8-10, but as a day for which His Word and His church should have extremely high priorities.

**How Can Christians Honor The "Lord's Day?"**

The answer to this question must begin with the responsibility of man to honor the Lord. Some four hundred years before Christ, the prophet Malachi dealt with Israel, a nation who had sinned grievously. Malachi, God's spokesman, asked the question: "*A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear?*" (Malachi 1:6). Consider then following ways Christians are to honour the heavenly Father and Master:

*First*, we must *honor the Lord's way*. Proverbs 21:2 makes it clear that man's way is often contrary to God's way: "*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.*" There is a "right way" (II Peter 2:15), but it is seldom man's way. If we are going to give honor to the Lord we must be willing to honor the *Lord's way*.

Isaiah clearly denounced Israel's departing from the ways of God:

*"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:6-9).

When man begins to honor the Lord's Way, he will also begin to honor the Lord's Day.

*Second*, we must *honor the Lord's say*. When Paul faced a question that demanded a right answer, he asked, "*What saith the scripture?*" (Romans 4:3; Galatians 4:30).

THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE

"...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel..." (Amos 7:8)

THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE

**THEY TOOK A STAND**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of their Stand

Notes:

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of their Stand

Notes:

III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of their Stand

Notes:

IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ of their Stand

Notes:

**THE CHRISTIAN’S WORTHY WALK**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Hopes in \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

II. Rejects \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

III. Seeks \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

IV. Loves \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

How do we honor the Lord’s Day? In scripture, the Lord’s Day includes assembling with the saints, worship that is in “spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). It includes singing “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19), preaching, praying, and participating in the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 14:15). Worship to the Lord is intended to please Him, not ourselves.

*Third*, we are now ready to *honor the Lord’s Day*. How should we approach this day? We want to honor the *Lord’s Day* according to the *Lord’s Way* and the *Lord’s Say*, having consulted the Scripture for instruction, but what *practical* means can help us honor that day that God calls “His?”

As a boy, I was taught to begin preparing on Saturday night for the Lord’s Day and His assembly. I recall shining my shoes, getting my clothes ready, planning my contribution, and preparing for my Bible class. We all need to be prepared for the Lord’s Day.

*Fourth*, we must then *follow through on our preparation*. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us to “*consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*” One can hardly honor the Lord and His Day, yet forsake that day for which the Lord’s people assemble to worship and remember all He has done for us.

The Lord’s Day! Let us honor the Lord and His Day as He has instructed. In so doing we are brought closer to Him and to His people.

-Carl Garner

**ALL KINDS OF SURPRISES IN THE BIBLE!**

A man was helping his wife with the dishes for the fourth time that week, and he was tired of doing the dishes. “You know,” he said, “this isn’t really man’s work. I’m just trying to be helpful.” His wife answered, “You’re wrong, and the Bible says so.” She then told him to read II Kings 21:13, which reads, “*I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down.*” Well, you never know what you may find when you read the Bible, do you? There just may be a whole lot more that you never knew was there. It is worth spending time finding out!

-via HTH<sup>2</sup>

**THE BOOK OF CHRIST'S SUPREME GLORY**

Unlike the other churches to whom he had written, Paul apparently had not personally established the church in Colossae, nor had enjoyed any personal contact with these brethren through the course of his missionary travels (at least Acts does not reveal it if he had). This, though, did not detract in any way from the deep love and appreciation that he had for these brethren. Whether he had converted them or not made no difference to him, just that they were New Testament Christians. It seems possible that the church in Colossae had been established by a man named Epaphras who himself had been taught and obeyed the gospel on another occasion, then returned to Colossae to preach the glorious redemptive message to them (Colossians 1:7-8; 4:12-13). Whether Paul had or had not personally met these brethren face to face, it is obvious from this book that there was a mutual love and respect between the two. Paul had heard of the faith of these Christians and their love for God and the church (Colossians 1:3-4) and loved them for it; and the Colossians had apparently made their appreciation for Paul known to Epaphras who had shared those feelings with him (Colossians 1:7). Such is a marvelous example of the type of relationship that brethren can have the world over regardless of personal contact. We all share a common bond in Christ Jesus.

While most of the epistle is spent dealing with matters of hope and glory, Paul does take occasion in this epistle to deal with error of which he has been made aware. Likely a great majority of the brethren in Colossae were faithful to the cause, but evil was beginning to sneak in and Paul, in being made aware of it, wanted to expose it before it captured too many souls. It is inferred from Colossians 2:16-23 that there were false teachers who were trying to persuade some of the Christians to worship angels, abstain from meats, observe Jewish rites, and put their bodies through the endurance of long fasts. These errors limited the sufficiency of Christ and His will, and thus Paul wrote to correct these matters. He spent a very limited amount of time blatantly exposing this error, but the rest of the book is spent refuting it by revealing the marvelous truth that Christ and Christ alone is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:21-29). Thus in each and every chapter does Paul address the great need man has for Christ and how that need can be satisfied.

First, in Colossians 1, Paul tells the Colossians to walk worthy of the Lord. *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God...”* (Colossians 1:9-10). It is an honor beyond measure to be able to be called a child of God and servant of Christ, one of which we are not worthy, but should make everyday a continued attempt to be worthy of it by faithfully submitting to His will. We need Christ, thus we should walk in Christ.

Second, in Colossians 2, Paul tells the Colossians to be rooted in the Lord. *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving”* (Colossians 2:6-7). Often are the words sung: “We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows role. Fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.” That is a blessing only enjoyed by anchoring ourselves, or rooting ourselves in Christ; literally digging in our heels and steadfastly standing. We need Christ, thus we should be rooted in Christ.

Third, in Colossians 3, Paul tells the Colossians to seek the things of the Lord. *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth”* (Colossians 3:1-2). Christ was not concerned with things carnal, neither caters to those who are concerned with things carnal. What He does offer, though, are blessings eternal and if we will make those things eternal the object of our affections then we will be seeking the things of the Lord. We need Christ, thus we should seek what He has to offer.

Then, fourth, in Colossians 4, Paul tells the Colossians to enjoy the fellowship in the Lord. In Colossians 4:7-15, Paul makes reference to a number of God’s faithful servants with whom the Colossians were familiar and says to salute them (literally greet, embrace, or enfold them). Christian fellowship is one of the great blessings found in Christ, one that can be enjoyed both now and eternally and should be taken advantage of at every available opportunity. We need Christ, thus we should enjoy the fellowship found in Him.

In this great book Paul set out to prove and did prove that Christ alone is supremely glorious. The mechanics of man pertaining to the soul will fail, but Christ forevermore shall stand victorious. Put your trust in Him and enjoy the eternal glory He offers.

-Andy Brewer