

The Lord's Day

Text: Revelation 1:10

Introduction:

- A. Various religious bodies teach that we are to observe the seventh day Sabbath as a holy day.
 - B. The majority of the denominations of Christendom assert that Jesus changed the Sabbath to the first day of the week.
 - C. What is the day of worship under the New Testament?
- I. Are we to remember the Sabbath?
- A. The Sabbath was given exclusively to Old Testament Israel. - Deuteronomy 5:1-3,12-15; Nehemiah 9:13-14
 - B. Jesus removed the Sabbath along with the Old Testament. - Colossians 2:13-17
 1. The Sabbatarians are wrong; the seventh day Sabbath has been removed.
 2. The Catholics and Protestants are also wrong. The Lord didn't change the seventh day Sabbath to the first day; He abolished it.
- II. What is "the Lord's day"? - Revelation 1:10
- A. The accompanying phrase "in the spirit" is found three other times in Revelation and always refers to a vision. - 4:2; 17:3; 21:10; cf. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
 - B. Thus, this appears to be its meaning here rather than an attitude of worship. - cf. John 4:23
(The prepositional phrases "in the spirit" [Revelation 1:10] and "in spirit" [John 4:23-24] are identical in the Greek; the translators supplied the article "the" in Revelation 1:10.)
 - C. This is the only biblical occurrence of the phrase "the Lord's day."
 - D. Some contend this is another way of saying "the day of the Lord" and refers to the day of judgment of Revelation.
 1. The phrase "day of the Lord" is found 23 times in the Bible and uniformly refers to a day of judgment.
 - a. judgment of ancient nations - e.g., Isaiah 13:6
 - b. Old Testament judgment of Israel - e.g., Amos 5:18
 - c. Old Testament judgment of Jerusalem - e.g., Ezekiel 13:5
 - d. AD 70 judgment of Judah - e.g., Joel 2:31; Acts 2:20
 - e. final judgment - e.g., 2 Peter 3:10
 2. However, there is no proof the phrases "day of the Lord" and "Lord's day" are meant to be identical.
 3. If John had meant to say "the day of the Lord," he could have used that very phrase, which is a formula for a day of judgment, but he did not.
 - E. Rather, this seems to be parallel to 1 Corinthians 11:20.
 1. The "Lord's supper" is the supper that peculiarly belongs to the Lord, in that it is eaten in memory of Him. - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 2. The "Lord's day" is the day that peculiarly belongs to the Lord, in that we remember Him on this day.
 - F. The disciples remembered the Lord on the first day of the week. - Acts 20:7
 - G. The Lord's day is the first day of the week.

III. What is the significance of this day?

- A. The Lord arose from the dead on the first day of the week. - Mark 16:9
- B. The first day of the week was the beginning of:
 - 1. the kingdom of Christ, -
 - a. The kingdom was to come with power during that generation. - Mark 9:1
 - b. The kingdom and power were to come with the Holy Spirit. - Acts 1:6-8
 - c. The Holy Spirit and power came on the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection. - Acts 2:1-4
 - d. Thereafter, the kingdom is spoken of as an historical reality. - Colossians 1:13
 - 2. the reign of Christ, - Acts 2:29-36
 - 3. the preaching of the gospel of the risen Lord, - Acts 2:32,36,38,40
 - 4. salvation in Christ, - Acts 2:40
 - 5. the church of Christ,
 - a. The church of Christ and the kingdom of Christ are the same. - Matthew 16:18-19
 - b. After Pentecost the church is an historical reality. - Acts 2:47; 5:11
 - 6. and the New Testament.
 - a. The New Testament came into force after the death of Christ. - Hebrews 9:15-17
 - b. It was first proclaimed from Jerusalem on Pentecost. - Luke 24:46-49

IV. What are Christians to do on the first day of the week?

- A. We are to come together to remember Christ by eating the Lord's Supper. - Acts 20:7
- B. We are also to take the collection for the church on this day. - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- C. These are the only peculiar demands the Lord makes of us concerning the first day of the week.
 - 1. The New Testament does not bind a day of rest.
 - 2. We may engage in other acts of worship on any day of the week, including the first day.
 - a. preaching and teaching - Acts 5:42
 - b. praying - James 5:13
 - c. singing - Ibid

Conclusion:

- A. The Sabbath has been abolished as a day of rest and worship.
- B. The Lord's day is the first day of the week.
- C. On this day we are to remember the Lord's death for us by eating the supper that honors Him.
- D. We are also to take the collection for the church on this day.
- E. We may engage in other acts of worship on any day of the week.