

THE LORD'S DAY

1. Text: Revelation 1:8-10
2. We often speak of the Lord's Day. When is it and why is it so important?

I. The Inference

1. The only time the Lord's Day is found is in Revelation 1:10. When is that?
2. Inference: taking the information available and drawing a conclusion.
3. Which day could it be? Go through them. Only one day is mentioned with any significance: the first day of the week or Sunday.
4. Mentioned: Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2,9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19 (26); Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2.
5. Conclusion: The Lord's Day was the first day of the week or Sunday.
6. Ignatius (35-107) said, "Some who were brought up in the ancient order of things have come to a new hope and no longer observe the Sabbath but observe the Lord's Day.
7. In Israel: Friday (Muslim); Saturday (Jewish); Sunday (Christianity)

II. The Importance

1. Why Lord's Day? All four gospels above say He arose on the first day; so it became a weekly memorial of the resurrection, the heart of the gospel.
2. The church began on the first day of the week. See Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-16)
3. Most of the appearances to the disciples were on this day. See Luke 24:13,36; John 20:1,19.
4. Day of assembly for early church: I Corinthians 16:2; Acts 20:7.
5. Nothing early church said made Sunday a substitute or continuation for the Sabbath; it was a totally new institution.
6. The Lord's Day means "belonging to the Lord" like the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:20)

III. The Issues

1. There should be a sharp distinction with the Sabbath. "Christian Sabbath" is terribly misleading and wrong.
2. Sunday from Latin, "Dies Solis" or "Day of Sun" from Roman calendar. Is it wrong to use term? Christians used Sun of Righteousness in Malachi 4:2 to refer it to Christ.
3. What about Paul and others meeting with Jews on Sabbath? Acts 16:13
4. Sabbath was no issue at conference in Jerusalem. Acts 15:20, 28-29
5. We should not mix Sabbath ideas with Sunday. Day of rest?
6. Jewish Christians could observe the Sabbath if it was in realm of opinion and not doctrine. See Romans 14:5-6; Colossians 2:16-17
7. Was it a good idea to force Sunday observance on non-believers by secular legislation? Remember the "Blue Laws."
8. Some religious groups say the Sabbath should be our day of worship. Answer: Genesis 2:2-3 God blessed seventh day; Exodus 16:22ff has next mention as Sabbath is given to Jews; Exodus 20:8 Keep Sabbath holy; Romans 7:4-6 We died to law; II Corinthians 3:6-11 New covenant took place of ministry of condemnation written on tables of stone; Galatians 3:24-25 We are no longer under the old law.

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Morning, September 11, 2005

