



# The Lord's Day

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Matthew 26:28-29

# God's Memorial Days

- **Sabbath**

- (Exodus 31:13-16) "But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'You shall surely observe My **sabbaths**; for *this* is a sign between **Me** and you throughout your generations, that **you may know** that I am the LORD who sanctifies **you**. 14 'Therefore **you** are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to **you**...15 'For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death. 16 The **Israelites** are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant."

# God's Past Memorial Days

- **Sabbath**

- “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.”  
(Deuteronomy 5:15)

# God's Past Memorial Days

- Three National Holy Days (Feasts) [Lev. 23; Deut. 16]
  - Passover - Feast of Unleavened Bread
  - Pentecost - Feast of Weeks (Lev.23:16) “day after seventh”
  - Day of Atonement – Feast of Tabernacles

# First Day of the Week

- Which day is the “first day”?
  - According to **Matthew 28:1**, the first day of the week is the day after the Sabbath. The Sabbath is what we call Saturday, Sunday is the first day of the week.

# First Day of the Week

- Is the first day significant?
  - All four Gospels mention explicitly that Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week!
  - The first day of the week had special meaning for the first Christians because Jesus rose from the dead on that day!

# First Day of the Week

- Resurrection day:
  - "Now after the Sabbath, **as the first day of the week began to dawn**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb (**Matthew 28:1**).
  - "Now when the **Sabbath was past**, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, **on the first day of the week**, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. (**Mark 16:1-2**).



# First Day of the Week

- Resurrection day:
  - "Now on the **first day of the week**, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared." (Luke 24:1).
  - "On the **first day of the week** Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb." (John 20:1)



# Assembling on the First Day

- "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight" (Acts 20:7).
- The passive voice form “were gathered together,” or “brought together” (Acts 20:7), reflects the fact that the assembly was initiated by an independent source beyond the disciples themselves—doubtless by divine authority. (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 4:17)



# Financial Giving on First Day

- "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have **given orders** to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **On the first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come" (**1 Corinthians 16:1, 2**).
- The expression '**on the first day of the week**' here has the inherent meaning 'on the first day of every week'. This was not just a local arrangement. The same orders were given to every other church. (**1 Cor. 4:17**)

# Lord's Day – First Day

- In Revelation 1:10 John says: "I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day."
- The only other place in the New Testament where the possessive form of "Lord" is used is in **1 Corinthians 11:20** in connection with "the Lord's supper."
- This distinctive expression "The Lord's day" is found in early church history as a designation for the first day of the week.



# Extra – Biblical References

- **Barnabas (+/- 100), Epistle, Chapter 15**
  - "Wherefore, also, we **keep the 8th day** with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose again from the dead."



# Extra – Biblical References

- **Justin Martyr (110-165)**
  - Apology, Chapter 67 - "And on that day called **Sunday**, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place. ... Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on **the same day rose from the dead.**"

# Extra – Biblical References

- **Justin Martyr (110-165)**

- In the Dialogue of Justin Martyr with Trypho the Jew, Trypho writes: "But this is what we are most at a loss about: that you, professing to be pious, ...in that you **observe no festivals or sabbaths**, and do not have the rite of circumcision" (Chapter 10).

# Extra – Biblical References

- **Pliny, letter to Emperor Trajan (112 AD)**
  - (he) “made them curse Christ, which a genuine Christian cannot be induced to do.” ... “ They affirmed, however, that the whole of their guilt, or their error, was, that they were in the habit of *meeting on a certain fixed day* before it was light, when they sang in alternate verse a hymn to Christ as to a god, and bound themselves to a solemn oath, not to do any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft, adultery, never to falsify their word, not to deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up.” (*Epistles X, 96*) (Pliny, the Younger, Governor of Bithynia in Asia Minor {112 A.D.} during reign of emperor Trajan.)

# Extra – Biblical References

- **Bardesanes (154-227)**

- "And what shall we say of the new race of us **Christians**, whom Christ at His advent planted in every country and in every region? for, lo! wherever we are, we are all called after the **one name of Christ -- Christians**. On one day, the first of the week, we assemble ourselves together."

# Extra – Biblical References

- **Emeritus (304)**

- In North Africa, Emeritus, a reader and keeper of the Scriptures in the local church, was arrested with 48 others for **observing the Lord's Supper on Sunday in 304 AD.**
- Philip Comfort reports that when he (Emeritus) was ordered to give up his copy of the Scriptures, he refused by saying "the Scriptures were engraved on his heart."
- None recanted their faith or disclosed where their copies of the Scriptures were hidden. All 49 were therefore killed.

# Is the First Day a *Holy Day*?

Although the first day of the week has special meaning for Christians, and we assemble to break bread on that day, it is not a 'sabbath'.

“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or **sabbaths**, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.” (Col. 2:16, 17)



# Assembly is not to be Neglected

- Hebrews 10:23 – 27
- Christians come together on the first day of each week to encourage one another and to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.



# Memorial Day

- (2 Cor. 5:14 – 15) “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if **One died for all**, then all died; 15 and **He died for all**, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

