

THE LORD'S DAY
Text: Revelation 1:10

INTRO: Our text shows that there is a day that is to be considered the Lord's day. In this lesson, we will look at the evidence that the Lord's day of Revelation 1:10 is the first day of the week--Sunday.

I. SOME INTERESTING & IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE
FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK.

A. God began His work of creation on this day.

READ GENESIS 1:1-5.

B. Jesus was resurrected from the dead on that day.

Now when He rose early on the 1st day of the week He
appeared to Mary Magdalene... (Mark 16:9).

NOTE: The importance of Jesus' resurrection could
scarcely be overemphasized.

1. It proved Him to be the Son of God, Rom. 1:5.

2. It made possible our redemption when we obey the
gospel, 1 Peter 3:21.

3. It qualified Jesus as King of the whole wide world,

READ ACTS 2:29-36.

4. It established Jesus as the foundation stone of the
heavenly kingdom. READ ACTS 4:11-12.

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I
lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried
stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure founda-
tion... (Isaiah 28:16).

C. Later, on the same day that Jesus rose from the dead, His
disciples were assembled on the 1st day of the week &
He appeared among them, John 20:19 [Apr 9, 30 A.D]

D. A week later, on the next 1st day of the week, again they

assembled & again Jesus appeared, John 20:26.

E. Seven weeks from the day Jesus rose from the dead, on another 1st day of the week, the events of Pentecost (Acts 2) transpired. Pentecost always fell on the 1st day of the week, the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week, Lev. 23:15-16.

Let us note some of the important events that occurred on the Pentecost of Acts 2, seven weeks from the resurrection of Jesus--May 28, 30 A.D.

1. The promise of the H.S. was fulfilled.
John 16:13; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4

2. The church or kingdom of God was established in Jerusalem & people from all nations began to flow into it. MT 16:18-19; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 41, 47.

3. The conditions for forgiveness of sins were publicly announced for the 1st time. MK 16:15-16.
READ LUKE 24:46-49; Acts 2:36ff.

F. As Christianity spread throughout the world, Jesus' followers continued to meet on the 1st day of the week. The Lord's supper was the focal point of their 1st day assemblies, Acts 20:7.

G. As they assembled to observe the memorial supper, they utilized the opportunity to give into a common treasury such as that mentioned in 1 Cor. 16:1-3.

H. Finally, it was on the Lord's day that John received the series of visions recorded in the book of revelation, Rev. 1:10.

II. LET US LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT THE PRACTICE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CONGREGATIONS.

A. The church in Troas, Acts 20:7.

1. When? 1st day of the week.
2. Why? to break bread, L.S.

B. The church in Corinth, 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

1. When? 1st day of the week.
2. What? gather contribution so that it would not be necessary to gather it after Paul arrived.

- NOTE:
1. lay by on 1st day.
 2. no gatherings when I come.
 3. therefore, gathered on 1st day.

3. Primary purpose, focal point of assembly?
READ I COR 11:20-26, 33

C. Churches of Galatia, 1 Cor. 16:1-3.

III. THE EVIDENCE OF HISTORY.

A. The Didache (120). "On Sunday, the Lord's own day, come together, break bread & give thanks..."

B. Ignatius (between 98-117): "Those who walked in ancient practices attained unto newness of hope, no longer observing Sabbaths but fashioning their lives after the Lord's day, on which our life also arose thru Him & thru His death we may be found disciples of Jesus Christ, our only teacher."

C. Theodoret (about 133), speaking of a group called the Ebionites]: "They also observe the Sabbath & other disciplines of the Jews, just like them, but on the other hand, they also celebrate the Lord's days very much like us, in commemoration of His resurrection."

D. Justin Martyr (about 140): "On the day which is called Sunday, all who dwell either in town or country come together to one place. The memoirs of the apostles & the writings of the prophets are read for a certain time... And then the distribution of the bread & wine, over which the thanksgivings have been offered, is made to

all present, and all partake of it..."

E. Others who have written similar testimonies re the importance of the 1st day of the week to early Christians, include Pliny (62-113), Tertullian (150-230), Dionysius (about 175), Chrysostom (unknown date) and Melito (about 170).

CONCLUSION: A study of the Scriptures and/or all supporting evidences should overwhelmingly convince the serious Bible student of the importance of 1st day of the week worship in the practice of N.T. Christianity. Early Christians assembled to pray, praise & study at various times & places. They didn't always wait till Sunday to preach & teach God's word, but the 1st day of the week was always especially significant to them. It should be special to us as well. It is the "Lord's own day."

Cox Springs, TX, August 7, 1966

Jonestown, TX, May 3, 1970

Springhill, LA, February 28, 1971

La Porte, TX, January 1, 1978

La Porte, TX, May 8, 1983

Wrightsville, PA, July 16, 1995 (meeting)

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 22, 1996