

## What Does God's Word Say About...

### "Is Sunday Just Another Day?"

by Michael R. Baggett

Many people in our society treat Sunday as just another day. Sunday, or the first day of the week, is important for several Biblical reasons. It was on Sunday that Jesus came forth from the grave. The gospel of Mark clearly says that Jesus rose early on the first day of the week (Mark 16:9). Jesus died for the sins of mankind on the cruel cross of Calvary. He was buried. The greatest event in human history is the fact that Jesus rose again from the grave on the third day (Mark 9:31). When Jesus came forth out of that tomb, He became the first one to be raised from the dead and never die again. Jesus paved the way for those who would come to God through Him for the forgiveness of sins so that they, too, could be resurrected to eternal life never to die again. This certainly makes Sunday a day that stands out above the rest of the days of the week. Jesus rose from the grave on Sunday.

It was on the first day of the week that disciples met to break the bread. We see this first in Acts 2:42 when the newly born church of Christ worshiped for the first time. The church was established in Acts chapter 2 and this was on the first day of the week. The church was established during the Jewish feast of Pentecost which always fell on Sunday (Leviticus 23:15-21). The newly born church observed the Lord's Supper with the apostles (Acts 2:42). In Acts 20:7, we see where Paul, an apostle, along with his company waited for seven days to meet with the local church at Troas. We learn the main reason for this meeting in Acts 20:7: "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread..." (Acts 20:7). Paul and his company waited to worship with the church at Troas and, just what day of the week did they meet? On the first day of the week. What was the primary reason for their coming together? To break the bread. Breaking the bread is a phrase that means observing the Lord's Supper in memory of the death of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). A pattern is noted when we consider the use of the adverb when used to denote time. It was an established ordinance for the local churches that upon the first day of the week the disciples came together to break bread. This makes the Lord's day different than any other day of the week! The resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the observance of the Lord's Supper on Sunday means that Sunday is not just another day of the week.

It was also upon the first day of the week the local churches throughout Bible lands were ordered by an apostle of Christ to give their contributions for the work of the Lord. "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be not gatherings when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2). Again, Sunday is set aside to carry out a special work for the Lord. The reader must certainly notice a pattern. It was not only one local church to give on the Lord's day, but we see that orders had been given to the churches of Galatia as well. It should be understood as a principle of understanding in the epistles of the apostles, that whatever one apostle taught in one locality, the same doctrine was taught in every local church (note 1 Corinthians 4:16, 17; 7:17; 11:16;

14:33; 16:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:14). What the apostles taught was to be accepted with the same force as the verbal teaching of Jesus Christ (see 1 Corinthians 14:37). The apostles of Christ were inspired and directly guided by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; Ephesians 3:1-5). As Christians, it is important that we willingly lay aside a portion of our income as God has prospered us to give to the work of the local church, of which we are a member, each Lord's day. This important duty of giving, along with the Lord's resurrection and the observance of the Lord's Supper, makes the first day of the week a very important day. Sunday is not just another day.

Lastly, it was upon this day that the apostle John saw the risen Christ and received the Revelation. John tells us, "I was in the spirit on the Lord's day (Revelation 1:10) . What do you suppose is the Lord's day John is referring to here? It would be far-fetched after studying all the important events that took place on Sunday to conclude it is any other day besides Sunday. John was in the spirit on the Lord's day. We too should worship in spirit and in truth upon the Lord's day (John 4:23, 24). We are commanded to not forsake the assembling of ourselves for worship (Hebrew 10:25-27). I certainly would not consider the Lord's day just an average day. What do you think about this matter after studying everything special about Sunday?

In conclusion, Sunday should not be viewed as just another day so we can go fishing or boating on Sunday morning, but like Paul and the early disciples we should see this as an opportunity to remember the Lord's death by observing the Lord's Supper (Mark 16:9; Acts 20:7); by giving of our means to support the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2); and pray, sing and hear the word of God taught (Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16). Like John the apostle, we should be in the spirit of worship on the Lord's day (Revelation 1:10).