

THE LORD'S DAY

Every day belongs to God. God created day (Gen. 1:5) and by Him all things continue to exist (Col. 1:17). We should remember this and live every day for the Master and Creator who grants us each breath of life. We are commanded to present our lives as “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God” (Rom. 12:1). To be a living sacrifice, we must do all things by the authority of Christ (Col. 3:17), and do so everyday. With this in mind, there is still only one day of the week referred to as “the Lord’s day” in the Bible. The apostle John states that it was on the Lord’s day when he began receiving the Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:10). This is the only verse in the Bible where the phrase, “the Lord’s day,” can be found. The Greek word translated, “Lord’s,” is only found in one other passage of Scripture and it is in reference to the Lord’s supper (1 Cor. 11:20). This memorial feast was to be partaken on each first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Many early church historians and post-apostolic writers referred to Sunday as “the Lord’s day.” Though not inspired by God, these writings prove that it was understood by those then living that Sunday belonged to God, for it was the Lord’s day. “In Asia Minor, where the churches to which John wrote were situated, the pagans celebrated the first day of each month as the Emperor’s Day. Some scholars also believe that a day of the week was also called by this name. When the early Christians called the first day of the week the Lord’s Day, this was a direct challenge to the emperor worship to which John refers so often in the Book of Revelation. Such a bold and fearless testimony by the early Christians proclaimed that the Lord’s Day belonged to the Lord Jesus Christ and not the emperor Caesar” (Nelson’s Bible Dictionary).

Sadly today, by most people’s definition, Sunday has become less and less a day that belongs to God and more and more a day that belongs to men. Rather than being honored as the day that Jesus was raised from the dead (Luke 24:1-6) and the day set aside by God for man to worship Him (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2), Sunday has become known as “race day,” “family day,” “picture day,” “picnic day,” and a host of other delineations. Though there is nothing inherently wrong with watching an NFL game or stock car race, these are not the things for which we should be excited when Sunday rolls around. Similarly, there is nothing sinful about looking forward to some fried chicken and a Sunday meal with family, but this should not be the foremost thing on our minds. We should be eager for Sunday because we get to assemble with the saints (Heb. 10:25), be provoked to love and good works (10:24), and receive exhortation from faithful brethren in Christ (10:25). God wants us to enjoy our lives here on earth, but let us seek to honor and respect the first day of each week as it is so earnestly deserving – as the Lord’s day.

- *Brad Green*