

## *The Lord's Day*

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Colossians 2:14)

### **What Day is the Lord's Day?**

The religious significance of the Jewish Sabbath is gone. The only other day of the week where importance is placed is the first day of the week. The first day of the week has a unique relationship to Christ as set forth in the following points.

### **Jesus Resurrected on the First Day of the Week**

The first day belongs to, and pertains to, the Lord because he was resurrected on the first day of the week. The importance of the resurrection of Christ cannot be overstated. The resurrection of Christ is called, “the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe” (Eph. 1:19).

Mark 16:9 - Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

This passage should settle the question as to what day Jesus was raised from the dead. Luke offers absolute proof that Jesus was raised on the first day. Jesus stated he would be raised on the third day following his crucifixion (Luke 24:46). While walking on the road to Emmaus, Cleopas told Christ, “today is the third day,” since Jesus was delivered, condemned to death, and crucified (Luke 24:13-21). Verse 13 declares the journey to Emmaus was on the same day the women went to the tomb. Therefore, Jesus was raised the day the women went to the tomb, the same day Cleopas went to Emmaus, which was the third day since Jesus died. Luke 24:1 says the women went to the tomb on the first day of the week. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week.

### **The Church Began on the First Day of the Week**

According to Acts 2:1-4, the baptism of the Holy Ghost came upon the 12 apostles just as Jesus promised (Acts 1:2-9). This was on the first Pentecost day after the resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost literally means "fiftieth", found only in the New Testament (Acts 2:1; 20:16; 1 Cor. 16:8). The festival so named is first spoken of in Ex. 23:16 as "the feast of harvest," and again in Ex. 34:22 as "the day of the firstfruits" (Num. 28:26). From the sixteenth of the month of Nisan (the second day of the Passover), seven complete weeks, i.e., forty-nine days, were to be reckoned, and this feast was held on the fiftieth day. It is significant that Christ saw fit to send the Holy Ghost to the apostles on the first day of the week.

When the Jews heard preaching of Peter and the other apostles on the day of Pentecost, 3000 people responded in repentance and baptism and the Lord added to the church those that should be saved (Acts 2:36-47). This is the first time in the new testament that the word church is used in the existing sense. Previous to this time you will find the word church mentioned in the future tense, such as "upon this rock I will build my church," (Matthew 16:18). The church started on the first day of the week when the Jews obeyed the gospel.

### **First Day Worship**

The first day of the week is also distinguished from other days of the week in as much as Christians are taught to assemble for the communion on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7, First Corinthian 11:23-39, and Hebrews 10:25). It should be remembered that as the Lord's Supper pertains to the Lord, the Lord's Day also pertains to and belongs to the Lord.

Paul commanded a collection to be taken on the first day of the week (First Corinthians 16:1-3). The first day is distinguished by this act of giving in the assembly on each first day of the week.