

# Why the First Day of the Week?

061117AM

## Acts 20:7-12

- Many think of the first day of the week (Sunday) as no different from the other days.
- New Christians may need to alter habits in order to meet with the saints on the Lord's Day.
- Some long time Christians may also need to make adjustments to respect the Lord's Day.
- We should be cautious that habit, family, recreation, selfishness, neglect, etc., not rob us of the special day that the first day of the week should be for us.

## The Sabbath Law Was Changed

- A fact that modern day Sabbatarians disagree with.
- Gen. 2:1-3 (v. 3) "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."
- Exo. 20:8-11; 23:12; 31:15-17 – But keeping it was made mandatory for Israel only under the law of Moses.
- Jer. 31:31-32; Heb. 8:7-13; Heb. 7:12 "For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law."

## The Lord's Day

- Rev. 1:10 "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet"
- Acts 20:7 – For the fellowship of the Lord's Supper and to learn from God's word.
- 1 Cor. 16:1-2 – To "lay by in store" in preparation for the work and responsibilities of the church.
- The first century church habitually assembled on the first day of the week.
- Early church authors referred to the first day of the week as the "Lord's Day."

Some say the Roman emperor Constantine changed the Sabbath Law, others that the Pope changed it.

Constantine's decree: "On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed."

(Constantine, March 7, 321. Codex Justinianus lib. 3, tit. 12, 3; trans. in Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol. 3, p. 380, note 1)

Constantine created the first Sunday closure law in recognition of Christians worshipping on the first day of the week since the days of the apostles.

- Christians worshiped on the Lord's day centuries before there was anyone called a Pope.

## What Makes It Special?

- God created light on the first day of the creation week - Gen. 1:3-5.
- Of all created things, light is fittingly symbolic of God's character – 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 Jn. 1:5.
- Jesus was raised from the dead on the first day of the week – Mat. 28:1; Mk. 16:2; Lk. 24:1; Jn. 20:1, and twice appeared to His disciples the first day – Jn. 20:19, 26.
- The Lord's church was established on the first day of the week – Acts 2; compare Lev. 23:15-21.
- The day the Lord's Supper is observed – Acts 20:7. Cf. 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-29.
- The day disciples give of their means to support the Lord's work – 1 Cor. 16:1-2.
- A day of worship and singing – Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.
- A day of preaching and teaching from God's word – Acts 20:7.
- A day of spiritual edification, encouragement, and enrichment – Heb. 10:23-25.

## Decision – What Can Keep It Special?

- Prioritize it over activities that interfere – compare 2 Tim. 2:4.
- Prepare for it, pray about it, think about it, talk it up! – compare Psa. 122:1.
- Reserve it for the Lord and His people – compare Acts 20:6-7; maybe also at Tyre Acts 21:4.
- Make good memories of it for our children – compare Eph. 6:4.
- Make no excuses, set a good example, invite someone!