

The Baptist Faith and Message **Article 8 – The Lord’s Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.

Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

I want you to think about something I just recently read. It will make you tired just listening to it, but think about it. There are 365 days in the year, but you take weekends off, so you have to subtract 104 days. That leaves you with 261 working days, but you only work 8 hours a day; the other 16 you are either sleeping or tending to your own business, so you have to subtract 174 days. That leaves 87, but wait, we are not through subtracting yet. You eat lunch every day and although lunch hours vary, it is estimated that the average worker consumes 45 days per year at lunch. Coffee breaks? Figure 21 days over the course of the year. Take those 21 days from the 42 left from the last calculation and that leaves you 21 days to get your work done. From those 21 days you have to subtract your two weeks vacation - 10 work days. Continuing the subtraction, 10 from 21 leaves only 11 actual full work days in the entire year, but of course, you do not work on Christmas, New Year's, Independence Day or Thanksgiving. Most firms now allow 10 paid holidays per year. After subtracting the 10 paid holidays from the 11 days remaining - you've got 1 full work day to your credit and you want to take that day off? Forget it!

I. The Description of the Lord’s Day

A. The time (*The first day of the week*)

There are 2 extreme positions regarding Sunday worship.

1. Seventh-Day Adventists believe it is the mark of the beast.
Some Primitive Baptists split over whether or not Sunday was the 7th day or the first day.

We are talking about Sunday. You don't have to change the numbers of the days of the week.

2. Some view it as any other day; nothing special at all.

B. The title (*is the Lord's Day*)

Revelation 1:10

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet.

Historians tell us this was on a Sunday.

II. The Explanation of the Lord’s Day (*Exodus 20:8-11*)

8"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9"Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

10but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.

11"For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

How can you use a commandment regarding the Sabbath as a basis for the Lord's Day?

Verse 8 uses the word "sabbath" but it is not a proper name, only a descriptive name. Of major Bible translations, only the NIV capitalizes the word "Sabbath."

As a verb it means "to rest, repose, or cease exertion."

As a noun it means, "intermission."

A. The Father's Sabbath (*Genesis 2:1-2*)

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Why did God rest? Was He tired?

No He was establishing an example for us.

When a rest occurs in music, what is it there for? So the musician can take a break? No, but it's a point of reflection. God rested not that he needed to take a break, but it was simply as a reflection on his work.

B. The Fading Sabbath

Exodus 31:12-17 that the strict observance of the Sabbath was a covenant sign between God and the nation of Israel.

12The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

13"But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

14'Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. 15'For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death.

16'So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.'

17"It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed."

Jesus was constantly criticized for working on the Sabbath.

Did Jesus sin?

So this 4th commandment apparently does not mean what legalists and Pharisees say that it means.

Talk about a revelation and a revolution to these people - remember this was a 24/7 culture. They had just come out of Egypt and they were slaves. There were no holidays, coffee breaks, vacations, or weekends. God had to teach them literally to take a day off and the reason why it was so important for them to do this was - when you take one day out of seven off and devote it to the Lord, you show God that you trust Him for the other six

In the NT, only 9 of the 10 commandments were repeated. *No other Gods, no Idols, Lord's name in vain, honor your father and mother, no murder, no adultery, no stealing, bearing false witness, no coveting*

In Revelation 2-3 Jesus reprimands 6 of the 7 churches. None of them are rebuked for failing to observe Saturday worship.

C. The Festival Sabbath

Leviticus 23:23-26

23 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

24 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

25 'You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD.'"

The Feast of Trumpets was to begin with a Sabbath on the 1st day of the 7th month. It also included a 2nd Sabbath on the 10th day of the 7th month. A 3rd Sabbath marked the Feast of Tabernacles on the 15th.

They are all called "Sabbaths" by God but they cannot all be on a Saturday!

So every Saturday was a sabbath. But not every sabbath was a Saturday.

D. The Farming Sabbath

In Leviticus 25 God instructs the nation of Israel to leave the land uncultivated every 7th year. Dirt needs rest too!

E. The Faith Sabbath

Matthew 11:28 – *"Come unto Me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."*

Hebrews 4 – We'll look at more closely in a moment

F. The Future Sabbath

Hebrews 4:9-10 says that we can enter into a sabbath because of the finished work of Christ.

Revelation 14:13 – *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on so that they may rest from their labors."*

POINT: The word "sabbath" simply means a time of rest and intermission.

It would later come to connote a certain day of the week (Sabado)

III. The Transformation of the Lord's Day

A. From SHADOW to SUBSTANCE

Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. Colossians 2:16-17

Shadow on the pavement...Sonogram pictures...OT types portrayed in festivals and feasts

B. From SATURDAY to SUNDAY

But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. Acts 8:12

➤ Jesus was **RAISED** on the first day of the week

Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. Mark 16:2

➤ The church **GATHERED** on the first day of the week

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. Acts 20:7

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 16:1-3

IV. The Application of the Lord's Day

A. Regarding our work (Exodus 20:8-11)

8"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9"Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. 11"For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

1. Our labor

Verse 9 says "6 days you shall work..."

There is no such thing as retirement from work.

2. Our leisure

God knows we need a day of rest.

What is different about Sunday for you and your family?

Technology has lied to us. Technology told us, "We will make your life less cluttered, less controlled and less confusing." Let me ask you just one question - Has the cell phone done that? In this day when we have been given so many technological devices to save time - the computer, the calculator, the cell phone, the fax machine... why do we have so little time for things that really matter? Someone has said that it seems with all this technology about all we have really added is speed and noise.

B. Regarding our worship

1. Worship in a customary way

There is nothing wrong with being disciplined about worship attendance.

2. Worship in a corporate way

Hebrews 10:23-25

23Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.