

Why We Worship On Sunday

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Are there any valid reasons for our worshiping on the first day of the week? Does it really matter which day we hold to? Is Sunday a day adopted by early Christianity, or is it the day ordained of God that we are to set aside for His worship? These are questions faced today by the majority of Christianity. We believe they are important questions that need to be honestly answered, especially since Seventh Day Adventism declares worshiping on Sunday to be the mark of the beast (The Great Controversy, page 449). We believe Sunday to be the Lord's Day by Divine appointment for the following reasons:

1. It was the day Christ and His disciples hallowed. In John 20:19-29, we find Jesus appearing twice to His assembled disciples. Verse 19 states that it was on the first day of the week. Verse 26 states that After eight days, or the next Sunday night following, they met again. Lest any think they were assembled here only for the purpose of hiding from the authorities and not for the purpose of worship, let him look up the etymology of the word "assembled." The word synagogue comes from it.

In Acts 20:7, we are told that the disciples came together and Paul preached to them. The context shows us Paul is returning from his journey to Macedonia. In verse six, after sailing from Philippi, they arrived at Troas. In "five days." It is then stated that they tarried full seven days before he preached to them the gospel. It is obvious that he waited seven days (verse 6) until the time the disciples were to come together (verse 7) on the first day of the week. He did not preach to them on the seventh day (Saturday), because they did not meet on that day. Paul was in a hurry and would not have waited unless it was necessary. This can be easily seen by reading Acts 20:16. "For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia; for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost." The words in the above verse should establish that Paul, in such a hurry as he was, waited until the little church at Troas met, on the divinely appointed day (Sunday), that he might preach to them.

I Corinthians 16:1-2, shows us two things: (1) At this early date in history the Corinthian Church received the collection on the first day of the week (Sunday). (2) That the churches of Galatia were doing the same thing. This is store-house tithing and was practiced on Sunday.

2. The context of Hebrews 4:411 teaches we are to observe the first day of the week (Sunday). The context seems to teach that God rested after He created the world and appointed the seventh day to be kept in commemoration of creation.. The prophets foretold of "another day" instead of the seventh to commemorate a greater work than creation. Psalms 95:11 is quoted. Joshua (verse 8) never led Israel into that greater rest, so there still remains a sabbath keeping (verse 9, Greek) for God's people Verse ten tells of Christ, after He finished the work of redemption, resting from that work in the same way God rested after creation It is to be

noted that God finished His work of creation on the sixth day and rested the next, which was the seventh He then commanded that day to be observed. Jesus Christ finished His work of redemption on the seventh day, being in the tomb, and arose on the first day to His rest (verse 10). We are commanded to rest in Christ's work of redemption on His day of rest (another day, verse 8) The Old Testament sabbath had a view to creation. The New Testament Lord's Day has a view to redemption. They fall on different days, because they are separate and different acts of the Godhead!

Anyone desiring to keep the Old Testament sabbath (Saturday) should read Colossians 2:14-17. Among the things called shadows in verse sixteen is the sabbath. The Old Testament sabbath lost its significance when the object casting the shadow, namely Christ, arrived and completed His redemptive work! He is the body (verse 17).

Hebrews is written to show the Jews that everything concerning Christianity was greater than the old economy, including the sabbath; Sunday is better than Saturday.

3. The prophecy of Psalms 118:22-24 establishes Sunday as our day of worship "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner This is the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." In these verses both the Lord's death and resurrection are in view. He was the rejected stone, proven by His death. He was the Headstone of the Corner through His resurrection. The resurrection was to take place on a certain day determined by the Lord, and that day was to be celebrated with joy and gladness.

In Acts 4:10-11, we have a commentary on Psalms 118:22-24. "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doeth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders which is become the head of the corner." The builders are said to be Israel. The Stone is Christ. The refusing is the crucifixion and becoming the headstone of the corner is said to be the resurrection. The day the Lord appointed for the rejected Stone to become the Cornerstone, was the day of the resurrection (first day of the week). In that day men are to "rejoice and be glad."

4. Typology demands that we worship on Sunday. We are aware that doctrine is not to be proved by typology; however, we may support doctrine with typology. Man is to rest on the seventh day after his work is completed in six days. In type, this points to a man's doing good in order to receive the blessing from God. Under law, six days of labor was followed by one day of rest. Under grace, the first day of the week is typical of the believer's position in Christ by grace. He begins with a day of blessing before any works are wrought. The first day of the week points to the covenant of grace while the seventh day points to the covenant of law.
5. Surely God has sanctioned the first day of the week. Since the resurrection of Christ, the more devout of the believers have worshiped on that day. All of the Church Fathers (men in Christianity's early days) who wrote, all defended and advocated worship on Sunday.

Missionaries and martyrs alike have assembled on the resurrection day of the Son of God to worship Him. I should hope for you to give some serious thought before you accuse them of heresy. God has blessed them to spend lifetimes on foreign soils or to give their lives to the stake or wild animals while singing praises to His name.

Conclusion: It may still be objected by some that there is no absolute command to worship, on Sunday. To them we would say that God has absolutely commanded that we do not observe the Sabbath day (Galatians 4:9-10 and Colossians 2:14-17). If we are not to observe the Sabbath (Saturday), then which day shall we observe? We think the best evidence is for the first day of the week. We go even further—we think the evidence commands the first day of the week.