

“The Preciousness of the Lord’s Day”

Luke 24:1-35; John 20:1-23; Acts 2:1-4

“Let us never forget that our feelings about Sundays are sure tests of the state of our souls. The person who can find no pleasure in giving God one day in the week, is manifestly unfit for heaven. Heaven itself is nothing but an eternal Lord’s Day. If we cannot enjoy a few hours in God’s service once a week in this world, it is plain that we could not enjoy an eternity in His service in the world to come. . . . They shall find Christ and a blessing while they live, and Christ and glory when they die.” — (J.C. Ryle)

“We gather together on the first rather than the seventh day of the week because redemption is even a greater work than creation and more worthy of commemoration and because the rest which followed creation is far outdone by the rest which ensues upon the completion of redemption. Every first day of the week we should meditate on the rising of our Lord and seek to enter into the fellowship with Him in His risen life.” — (Charles Spurgeon)

- The Lord’s Day 101: *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet. . . .” (Revelation 1:10). “On the first day of the week when we were gathered together. . . .and he prolonged his speech until midnight” (Acts 20:7). “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come” (1 Corinthians 16:2). “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25).*
 - We celebrate the value of people and events by having special days and even in some circumstances special months. Our plans and lives are centered around these special days to show the significance and value of who/what we are celebrating. We show value by prioritizing. If this is true, how much more should we center our lives around the celebration of Christ every Sunday?
- What are we celebrating on Sunday?
 - We are celebrating His resurrection (Luke 24:1). We are celebrating our new birth (1 Peter 1:3). We are celebrating our repentance (Acts 3:19). We are celebrating our sins being forgiven (1 Corinthians 15:17). We are celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14). We are celebrating that we have been rescued from the wrath of God (1 Thessalonians 1:10). We are celebrating that God is for us and will never leave us (Romans 8:31-39). We are celebrating that our salvation is a finished work (Hebrews 7:25). We are celebrating our future resurrection (2 Corinthians 4:14). We are celebrating eternal life (John 3:16). We are celebrating His grace and mercy (Ephesians 2:4-10). We are celebrating Jesus. . . .*“Indeed, I count everything as a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ. . . .” (Philippians 3:8)*
- How do we celebrate on Sunday?
 - *Being Scripture-centric:* Command and teach the Word (1 Timothy 4:11). Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching (1 Timothy 4:13). Preach and teach the Word with patience. Reprove, rebuke, and exhort (2 Timothy 4:2). Rightly handle the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Faith comes and grows by the hearing of God’s Word (Romans 10:17).
 - *Sing, sing, sing:* *“Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . .” (Ephesians 5:19-20). “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16; cf. Revelation 5:9-10).*

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Worship: Psalm 18 (Citizens)

This Is Amazing Grace (Phil Wickham)

Be Thou My Vision (Norton Hall Band)

Closing Song: Glorious Day (Casting Crowns)

Service Times: Sundays: Pneumatology Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *The Ordinances: Baptism* is a public declaration of our faith in Christ and our allegiance to Him. It is a graphic portrayal of the death and burial of Christ, which resulted in our cleansing and forgiveness and the righteousness that is placed on us in Christ (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12). *Communion* is a grace that spiritually nourishes the church. We do this in remembrance of Christ (Luke 22:19). It reminds us of the incarnation (“This is My body”), the atonement (“this...is the new covenant in My blood”), and the return of Christ (“until the kingdom of God comes”) (Luke 22:18-20). We proclaim the Lord’s death, not our self-righteousness (1 Corinthians 11:26-29). It is a reminder that Jesus is sufficient for our salvation, and His work is everything we need to be saved (John 19:30).
- *Fellowship*: Prayer (James 5:16; Galatians 6:2), Repentance and Confession (James 5:16; Proverbs 28:13), Service/Giving (Galatians 5:13; Mark 10:43-45; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10), and this all leads to Discipleship.

The early church celebrated everyday....*“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47)*

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** We are collecting donations for Vertical 196 during the month of August. They are in need of: Disposable Razors, Travel Size Shaving Cream, Travel Size Deodorant, Men’s Boxer Briefs (Size Large), Women’s Bikini Cut Underwear (Size 7 & 8), Men’s and Women’s Ankle Socks, Dry Dog and Cat Food, Coffee, Wendy’s Gift Cards, Individually Wrapped Candy, Powdered Drink Mix, and Bleach. *NEXT Sunday will be our last day to collect these donations for Vertical 196!*

★**CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER:** Our monthly day of prayer as a church body will be NEXT Wednesday, August 31st. We ask that you set aside specific time on this day to pray for the leaders and the ministries of our church body.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Sunday, August 28th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!