



April 2, 2006

The Day After The Sabbath

Last week we went out to eat and on the way home my daughter, planning ahead, as her eight year old brain will do, asked a question about an upcoming event. I reminded her that the third Sunday was **Easter**, and schedules were changed due to this. She asked, “Well, why can’t they move that to Saturday?” As soon as I heard the question bells went off in my mind. Why don’t they move Easter to Saturday? Everyone knows the answer to that. The word Easter means Passover. This represents the day that God delivered the Hebrews from Egyptian bondage after 430 years (**Ex 12**) triumphing over evil by taking the lives of the firstborn of Egypt. This is the day that God triumphed over evil by raising his son from the dead (**Matt 28**). It was Passover, or better yet, **the day after the Sabbath**, the first day of the week. Following the resurrection of Christ, the church was established on the day of Pentecost, **the day after the Sabbath**. Christians continued to honor Christ by meeting on the first day of the week (**Acts 20.7**). On this day, **the day after the Sabbath**, Christians met to sing, pray, commune with the lord by taking the Lord’s supper, and lay by in store as they had been prospered (**1 Cor 16.1-2**). What is so hard to understand about that? We don’t have Easter on Saturday because Easter is not the Sabbath, **it is the day after the Sabbath**. It is the **first** day of the week! We certainly would not want to insult our Jewish neighbors by attempting to change the day they recognize as the Passover, but we are willing, after Easter, to continue blurring the line between what belongs to God and what is ours. God told the Jews they were not to work on the Sabbath. They were given six days to do their work and therefore God demanded one day, just one, to be remembered by them for all that he had done for them (**Ex 20.8-11**). Why do people want to change the day? Sunday has been regarded as the “Christian Sabbath”. This concept, like the sinners prayer, is not found in the scriptures. Folks are confused. Although we should understand the cyclical nature of the calendar, many have slipped into a bad habit of regarding Sunday as part of the “weekend”. That is a problem. The seventh day of the week, the day that God rested, the day that God commanded his children to observe as a day of remembrance and reverence toward him was the **last** day of the week. We have seen that Sunday is the day after the Sabbath, there are seven days in the week, and since Sunday is the day after the Sabbath, the seventh day, Sunday **must** be the **first** day of the week. It is not the weekend. It is the week **beginning**. Why has there been a shift? Some want another day to relax and get ready for the next workweek. Others are so disinterested in spiritual things and don’t “**go to church**”. It just takes too long to get the boat out of the water, the beer out of one’s mind and “dress up” to go to church! That can really get in the way of a good “weekend”. That is nothing more than selfishness. God gives us life, breath, prosperity and all things that we could imagine that are good. He sees us through trial and hardship and we expect him to be there when we, or our loved ones, are sick, dying, or dead, but we can’t seem to give him one day out of the week to thank him. My guess is He is not getting the other six either! Between ignorance and selfishness, humans expect more out of God than we expect of ourselves. I thank God for this eight year old wonder and her childish wisdom that has taught me many lessons and reminded me that as for me and my house we will serve the Lord. I refuse to buy a calendar that does not have an **S** in the first day position, and proudly tell my computer software that Sunday is my first day of the week. As for the rest of the world, maybe we’ll see you on Easter (**the day after the Sabbath**). Oh, and just one more thought. Christ rose as it began to **dawn**, not after 6 p.m. on the Sabbath. At Haynes Street we meet on the first day of the week as the Lord would have us do.

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