

OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY

BIBLE TEXT : Exodus 20:8; 34:21; Leviticus 26:1,2; Isaiah 58:13, 14; Nehemiah 10:31;

Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:27

LESSON 268 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight" (Acts 20:7).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Exodus 20:8

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 34:21

²¹ Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in eaving time and in harvest thou shalt rest.

Leviticus 26:1-2

¹ Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up *any* image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I *am* the LORD your God.

² Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I *am* the LORD.

Isaiah 58:13-14

¹³ If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, *from* doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words:

¹⁴ Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Nehemiah 10:31

³¹ And *if* the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Keeping of the Sabbath Day

1. God commanded Israel to observe a Sabbath, Exodus 20:8; Exodus 16:23-30

²³ And he said unto them, This *is that* which the LORD hath said, To morrow *is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.*

²⁴ And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

²⁵ And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day *is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field.*

²⁶ Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, *which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.*

²⁷ And it came to pass, *that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.*

²⁸ And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

²⁹ See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

Exodus 31:12-17

¹² And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

¹³ Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it *is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.*

¹⁴ Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it *is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

¹⁵ Six days may work be done; but in the seventh *is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.*

¹⁶ Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for a perpetual covenant.*

¹⁷ It *is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*

Exodus 34:21

²¹ Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in eaving time and in harvest thou shalt rest.

Genesis 2:3

³ And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Leviticus 19:3

³ Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I *am* the LORD your God.

Leviticus 26:1-2

¹ Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up *any* image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I *am* the LORD your God.

sabbath day to sell, *that* we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and *that* we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

Matthew 12:1-8

¹ At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

² But when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

³ But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

⁴ How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

⁵ Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

⁶ But I say unto you, That in this place is *one* greater than the temple.

⁷ But if ye had known what *this* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

⁸ For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

Mark 2:27

²⁷ And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

² Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 23:3

³ Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

2. Desecration of the Sabbath was not tolerated under the Law, Exodus 31:14

¹⁴ Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth *any* work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Numbers 15:32-36

³² And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

³³ And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.

³⁴ And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

³⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.

³⁶ And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

¹² Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.

¹³ Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work:

¹⁴ But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

¹⁵ And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and *that* the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

Nehemiah 9:14

¹⁴ And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant:

Nehemiah 10:31

³¹ And *if* the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, *that* we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and *that* we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

Nehemiah 13:15

¹⁵ In those days saw I in Judah *some* treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all *manner* of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified *against* them in the day wherein they sold victuals.

Ezekiel 20:13

¹³ But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which *if* a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Ezekiel 22:8

⁸ Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths.

3. God's blessing was promised to all the Jews who kept the Sabbath,

Isaiah 56:2

² Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.

Isaiah 58:13-14

¹³ If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own words*:

¹⁴ Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Jeremiah 17:20-27

²⁰ And say unto them, Hear ye the word of the LORD, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by these gates:

²¹ Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring *it* in by the gates of Jerusalem;

²² Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.

²³ But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction.

²⁴ And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein;

²⁵ Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever.

²⁶ And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the LORD.

²⁷ But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.

Ezekiel 20:12

¹² Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I *am* the LORD that sanctify them.

Ezekiel 20:20

²⁰ And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I *am* the LORD your God.

4. The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath, Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:27;

Luke 6:1-5

¹ And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing *them* in *their* hands.

² And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?

³ And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him;

⁴ How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?

⁵ And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

II Christian Observance of the Lord's Day

1. God has placed His approval upon the observance of the first day of the week, as holy unto Him, by many revelations of Himself to His people on that day,

Matthew 28:1-2

¹ In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

John 20:17-27

¹⁷ Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

¹⁹ Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

²² And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

²³ Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you.

²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

Luke 24:1-45

¹ Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.

² And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

³ And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴ And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

⁵ And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

⁶ He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

⁷ Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

⁸ And they remembered his words,

⁹ And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary *the mother of James, and other women that were with them,* which told these things unto the apostles.

11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem *about threescore furlongs.*

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications *are* these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them.

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

35 And they told what things *were done* in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

³⁷ But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

³⁸ And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

⁴⁰ And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet.

⁴¹ And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

⁴² And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

⁴³ And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

⁴⁴ And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

⁴⁵ Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Acts 2:1-4

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 20:6-7

⁶ And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

⁷ And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1 Corinthians 16:2

² Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Revelation 1:10

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

NOTES:

The Sabbath Day Kept Holy

Since the time of the creation of the world man has known of the truth of a Sabbath. In Genesis we read the account of the first Sabbath. "On the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

God's instruction to Israel regarding their walk before Him had much to say about keeping the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, holy unto Him. Israel was required to observe the Sabbath, under penalty of death. However, Israel was not coerced into the keeping of the Sabbath as something they had to submit to by reason of force. At Mount Sinai Israel had acceded to all that God would command them. (**Exodus 19:8** ⁸ **And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD**) The Sabbath was then given to them as a

covenant between God and them, as a sign of their promise of service to Him. (**Exodus 31:17** ¹⁷ **It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed**) In the Bible much reference is made to this covenant because of Israel's failure to keep that which they had promised.

Sabbath Blessing

While Israel was left with no alternative but to observe the Sabbath, yet great blessing was promised them for obedience. For instance: "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it" (Isaiah 58:13, 14).

The First Day of the Week

With the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the worship of God under the dispensation and procedures of the Law was done away with. From that time forward the worship of God was in spirit and in truth, even as Jesus had told the woman at the well of Samaria it would be (**John 4:23-24** ²³ **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.** ²⁴ **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth**) When the worship of God through the Tabernacle sacrifices ceased, so also ended the observances of the seventh day as the Sabbath.

The Apostles a few years later wrote to the various churches regarding the matter of the keeping of the old Jewish ceremonies and Sabbaths. "Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: . . . For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well" (Acts 15:24, 28, 29).

From the founding of the New Testament Church, disciples began to observe the first day of the week a holy unto the Lord. There was more authority and authenticity to this observance also than mere custom; for God, beginning with the resurrection of Christ, placed His approval upon this day in many ways.

The resurrection of Christ lent great emphasis to the change from the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian observance of the Lord's Day. Christ arose on the first day of the week. According to Biblical accounts, Jesus emphasised worship on the first day in a special way by meeting with His people as they gathered to worship Him on the first day of the week. God does bless the worship of Him on every day, but emphatically more so on the first day. God does not bless His people with His Spirit if He is not pleased with their actions. Let any and all who say otherwise prove, by the presenting of transformed lives, that God is pleased with any other form or time of worship. Where God's blessing is, sinners are saved, and their lives transformed.

Desecration of the Sabbath

Israel was found wanting many times during their history in

that they did not respect the Sabbath. During the Dispensation of Grace it has been common for men to ignore their obligations to the Lord on the first day of the week. While capital punishment does not threaten all who do not observe the Lord's Day, yet observance is morally right; and he who defies it suffers moral condemnation and spiritual privation.

Regardless of what others do or fail to do, the Christian is morally obligated to observe the first day of the week as holy unto the Lord. The promises of the blessings of God, which were given to Israel if they would keep the Sabbath can be appropriated by the Christian today, if he will obey God in the keeping of the Lord's Day.

Of what does keeping the first day of the week holy unto God consist? Primarily it means that our day is devoted to spiritual things as much as circumstances permit. Certainly no Christian is working at secular labour if it is at all possible to do otherwise. Very seldom can a bona fide reason be given to the satisfaction of a good conscience that secular work is necessary on the Lord's Day. Other than the needs of human beings and animals for food and shelter, most commerce and business can and should cease on the first day of the week.

The Law stated: "In earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest" (Exodus 34:21). Here was the command of God for Israel to come aside from their daily labours in the busiest times of the year, and give worship to God. God is still the same, and even though we live in a more enlightened age, there is no reason to think God has taken any other attitude since. If He gave Israel the command then, we can be assured the command still stands to His people, and should be obeyed and practiced.

Holiness unto the Lord

With a little foresight, the household needs of every one can be met before the Lord's Day, and necessary duties can be held to a minimum. We do not observe this day according to our neighbour's ideas of it, but we do our best to keep in the spirit, and in a state of mind that is pleasing unto God. Much of the day is spent in the House of God in worship, or in the service of God. Many times, groups of Christians gather for early morning-prayer meetings that God will bless the day unto Himself, and unto His glory. This is an admirable way to start the first hours of the first day of the week, petitioning the Lord for His blessing for others and us through the coming days.

Modern business has become so eager for more profits that many nationwide chain stores and innumerable independent stores are open for business seven days a week. A rapidly growing practice for stores is to remain open on Sunday and close one day during the week. The general public uses Sunday for recreation and pleasure seeking to such an extent that Sunday has become the most profitable business day of the week for many concerns. The Christian should not be propagating and assisting such enterprises by his patronage on the Lord's Day. Grocery stores are the worst offenders; and people who patronise them on the Lord's Day are simply helping them desecrate the day. Ample provisions for the weekend can be bought for family needs on Saturday. A Christian would rather go without some needed item than to be a participant in desecrating the Lord's Day and a comrade of those whose motto seems to be "business first - and most of all on Sunday."

The Christian does not do secular work on the Lord's Day, and neither does he desire to make it a day of personal pleasure seeking. He desires to do that which is pleasing unto his Lord,

whether it is always pleasing to himself or not. There are those who think they have license to spend the Lord's Day at the beach, the park, on picnics, or indulging in some form of recreation without regard for the worship of God. This is a desecration of the Lord's Day! One of the indictments God brings against the generation of the last days is that they are "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (II Timothy 3:4). Such things do not go unnoticed by the Lord. The proper desires of a child of God is to be in the House of God on the Lord's Day to enjoy and to participate in the worship of God as it is carried on. His greatest joy and his very life is in the worship of God. Those who seek recreation, so-called, on the Lord's Day, without regard for the worship of God, have either lost the joy of salvation out of their heart or have never possessed it.

Travelling on the Lord's Day should not be done except for real emergencies. To deliberately leave the worship of God and the House of God to travel, is, a serious breach of conduct. God cannot be pleased with such things. Personal discomfort may sometimes be caused from delaying a journey until after worship services of the day are finished; but such delay or discomfort should be gladly accepted as a willing service and devotion to God. Every effort should be made to be in a place on Sunday where the worship of God can be participated in and enjoyed. We should stay wherever we are on the Lord's Day and not be travelling just to satisfy our own desires to be somewhere else by nightfall or morning. God's protection is needed on highways crowded with Sunday pleasures seekers. To travel without more cause than mere personal desire would seem to be presuming on the mercies of God.

The Christian is not under the bondage of force to keep the Lord's Day, the first day of the week, sanctified to the Lord; but he does so as a token of his love for God and in recognition of his moral obligation to God. The Christian desires to be drawn closer to the Lord, through the medium of worship, and the sanctifying of the first day of the week unto God is his greatest pleasures.

QUESTIONS

1. When was the first Sabbath? And who observed it?
2. What does the word Sabbath mean?
3. Why did Israel keep the Sabbath?
4. Why was the keeping of the Sabbath originally a matter of Israel's free choice?
5. When was the Jewish Sabbath done away with?
6. How do we know that God desires men today to observe the first day of the week as holy unto Him?
7. What is the proper way to observe the Lord's Day?