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**CELEBRATE THE LORD’S DAY**

**Selected Texts**

One Sunday in Milford, CT during the early 1800’s, Deacon Samuel Higby stopped the coach of Vice-President Aaron Burr from riding through town “on the Sabbath” and “compelled him to remain in Milford until sunset.” Was Mr. Higby right? If Sunday is the “Christian Sabbath” and the Fourth Commandment and Sabbath laws of the Old Testament apply to us much as they did to the Jews, then yes, he was right. On the other hand, if you say he was wrong, aren’t you implying that Sunday is just like any other day or day off, except that it has a religious meeting or two thrown in? If we are *not* strictly under the Fourth Commandment to “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy” (Exo. 20:8), then nothing’s wrong with mowing the yard, going to a movie, shopping at the mall, etc., on Sunday. If Sunday *is* some kind of “Christian Sabbath,” then these things are wrong and so is watching television, eating out, and reading the paper. To be Biblical, does Sunday have to be as dreaded as a trip to the dentist? Or can we do just about anything on Sunday as long as we go to church? Are these the only two options? To answer these questions, we begin with . . .

1. **THE MEANING OF THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT AND THE JEWISH SABBATH**

 Resting from work and worshiping God in prescribed ways on the Sabbath (Saturday) was a sign of God’s covenant with the Jews (Exo. 31:16-17). But it isn’t a sign of the New Covenant, and the Old Covenant Sabbath isn’t for New Covenant believers (Gal. 4:9-11). The Sabbath was a symbol, a “shadow . . . but the substance belongs to Christ” (Col. 2:16-17). Jesus Christ and His work is the fulfillment of the Sabbath. A person now enters the Sabbath rest by resting from trying to work his way to God and trusting in Christ’s work (Heb. 4:9-10). Thus we should read the Fourth Commandment with New Covenant, Christ-focused eyes.

1. **THE TRANSITION FROM SABBATH DAY TO LORD’S DAY**

 The first Christians, who were Jewish, began worshiping on the first day of the week instead of the seventh, the day God ordained for worship under the Old Covenant. Nothing was more clear to Jews than that they were to worship on the Sabbath; it took a clear sign from God to change. They switched days because God had inaugurated a New Covenant with the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and that happened on the first day of the week. Thereafter Christ’s followers met on the first day of the week in commemoration of Jesus’ resurrection. Many other significant New Covenant events happened on the first day of the week as well.

1. **HOW SHOULD WE SPEND THE LORD’S DAY?**

 Old Covenant Sabbath regulations are obsolete. On the Lord’s Day, Christians should:

1. **Make worship with other believers the priority (see Heb. 10:25).**

1. **Observe it as a day uniquely for the Lord, remembering that it is the *Lord’s* Day (Rev. 1:10) and evaluating every activity by that fact.**

***MORE APPLICATION***

1. ***Does your typical use of time on the Lord’s Day rob you of the joy and blessing that might be yours the first day of every week?***
2. ***Will you begin today to make every change necessary in order for the Lord’s Day to always be the* Lord’s *Day in your life?***

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