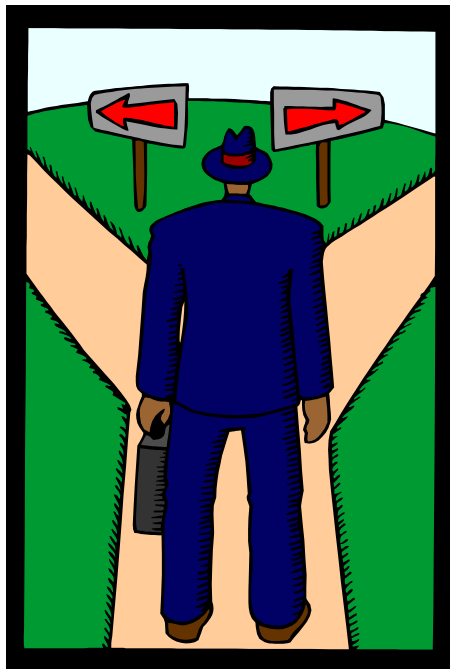


Learn Your Bible

Lesson #9

In the last lesson, we studied authority in the New Testament. As we continue building the church that Jesus built, from Jesus' book, these principles will become increasingly important. The worship that a church offers to God is one of the ways of identifying it, either as Christ's church, or as man's.

As has been brought out before in this series, Jesus identifies "vain worship" as that worship offered according to the doctrines (teachings or ideas) of men, rather than of God (Matthew 15:1-9). He



further warned that the majority of those worshipping him would follow men's doctrines rather than God's. In other words, the majority would follow the "broad road" (Matthew 7:13) with only a few following the "small and narrow" way of truth. Those following the broad road are labeled as workers of lawlessness (Matthew 7:23).

Because of the prophecies of Jesus, we should expect just what we find today... 300 denominations each following different men's precepts (remember the study of names.)

The warnings are clear enough... "the true worshipers will worship the

Father in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). How may we know that we are "walking in the light," (I John 1:7)? Jesus, in a prayer to His father, identified the word of God as "truth" with the power to "sanctify" (John 17:17). The obvious conclusion is that we must do everything the Word of God tells us to do, without changing or adding to anything he has commanded. Then and only then, do we know we are abiding "in the teaching of Christ" (II John 9).

One important area to study is the "Lord's Day." Christians today are to worship on the first day of the week. The only place in the Bible that the term "Lord's day" is used is in Revelation 1:10. The context gives no clue as to which day is meant.

Why do we today worship on the first day rather than the Sabbath (7th day)? The nature of the Sabbath needs to be understood in order to properly answer this.

The first Sabbath was a "test" Sabbath in Exodus 16:16-30; it became law in Exodus 20. The children of Israel were totally ignorant of the Sabbath (see 16:13). They were given a trial run before it became binding on them. Nothing happened to those breaking the "test Sabbath", but after it became law, those profaning it were punished by stoning (see Numbers 15:32-36). It seems harsh for example, to stone a man for "just" picking up sticks, but God's laws are not to be taken lightly!

This Sabbath was to remind the Jews that they were "resting" from Egyptian bondage (Deuteronomy 15:13-15). They were to rest, like God did on the seventh day, after the creation of the world (Exodus 20:11). It was to serve as a "sign" between God and His nation (Exodus 31:16,17).

What would this reminder of Egyptian bondage have to do with

you and I today? Nothing... our bondage was to sin. Jesus conquered this on the first day of the week when he came back from the dead. They remembered deliverance from carnal bondage, likewise, we remember deliverance from carnality!

The first gospel sermon was preached on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), not to mention the first 3000 souls being added to the church (Acts 2:47). The day of

Pentecost, one of the Old Law's shadows, always fell on the first day of the week.

On the first day of the week, we have our only "time example" of partaking of the Lord's supper. The apostle Paul commands that on the first day of the week we take a collection (I Corinthians 16:1,2) so that the church doesn't have special collections, etc.

Like its shadow in the Old Testament, the Christian has a definite obligation on the Lord's Day... to assemble with the saints. The Hebrew author, after a discussion on the importance of the blood of Christ, sets forth in no uncertain terms that forsaking the assembly



is sinning willfully, treading underfoot the Son of God, etc.... (Hebrews 10:24-31).

LET US "SET ASIDE" THE LORD'S DAY FOR THE LORD!

1) From Matthew 15:1-9 describe the importance of proper worship. _____

2) From Matthew 7:13-14 what should we expect the majority of the "religious" people's worship to be (see also vs. 21-23)? _____

3) To be acceptable to God, our worship must be in _____ and in _____ (John 4:24) which is to say _____ (I John 1:7) or abiding in the _____ (II John 9)

4) What allows us to know whether our worship is the above (read John 6:53-63)? _____

5) What passage is the only place the "Lord's Day" is found? _____

6) In what passage is the first Jewish Sabbath found? _____

7) What was the difference between the effect of breaking the first Sabbath and breaking it after it had become law? (see Numbers 15:32-36) _____

8) What did the Sabbath remind the Jews of? _____

9) How were they to observe it? (Exodus 20:10,11) _____



10) What do we remember today? _____

11) Read Luke 24 and underline vs. 1, 7, 13 and 21. Now build an "un-get-around-able" argument that Jesus rose the first day of the week, which was His 3rd day in the grave:



CAUSE & EFFECT

12) Read Hebrews 10:24-31 List 5 things that forsaking the assembly is described as, or parallel to: _____

13) List 4 consequences to us (judgment, etc.) _____

14) What difference do you see in the result of profaning the Sabbath (Old Testament) and forsaking the assembly (New Testament)?

15) How is the church to be financed?

I Corinthians 16:1-2 _____



16) Read vs. 2 carefully. What is Paul's (inspired) attitude towards "special collections"? _____

17) What does this verse do to "passing the plate" at revivals all week long, church garage sales, pie/cake sales, churches in business, etc.?

Can you find a scripture where the apostles had a church garage sale?



18) Read II Corinthians 9:6,7 What about the Old Testament tithing?



The Lord's church was never meant to be a big business, nor a beggar; but to be financed only by freewill offerings...

Let's be a part of Christ's church!

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