

Improving our Participation in the Lord's Day

JULY 14, 2023

Ground Rules

- ▶ I am not a theologian
- ▶ Ask questions...but remember the first rule
- ▶ Be a Berean (Acts 17 → examine the scriptures to see if these things are so)
- ▶ Challenge yourself: wisdom vs knowledge



Our Culture

HISTORY

- ▶ **17th century**
 - ▶ First General Assembly of Virginia (1619)
- ▶ **18th century**
 - ▶ Blue Laws (1755)
- ▶ **19th century**
 - ▶ Pittsburgh - RPCNA covenant (1871)
- ▶ **20th century**
 - ▶ Sporting events (1900s)
 - ▶ Commercial activities (1960s)
- ▶ **21st century**

Before Christ

HISTORY

▶ **5th century B.C.**

- ▶ Neh. 10:29b, 31
- ▶ Neh. 13:15-18

▶ **8th century B.C.**

- ▶ Isaiah 56:6-7
- ▶ Isaiah 58:13

▶ **15th century B.C.**

- ▶ Exodus 20:8-11 (giving of the Law)
- ▶ Exodus 16:23-30 (before the Law)

▶ **19th century B.C.**

- ▶ Genesis 26:4-5 (before the Law)

Before Christ

HISTORY

- ▶ **Genesis 2:2-3** “...God finished his work that he had done, and **he rested** on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and **made it holy**...”

Before Christ


HISTORY

- ▶ **The Sabbath is a divine ordinance. It signifies:**
 - ▶ God's grace, by sanctifying His people
 - ▶ God's holiness, by devoting the day to Him
 - ▶ God's authority, by a commandment that must be obeyed
- ▶ **Exodus 31:12-17**
- ▶ **The Sabbath is both vertical & horizontal**

After Christ

HISTORY

- ▶ **The Sabbath has not been abolished**
 - ▶ Mark 2:28
 - ▶ Matthew 5:17-19
 - ▶ Matthew 21:12-13
 - ▶ Luke 23:56b
- ▶ **The Sabbath is now the Lord's Day, celebrated on Sunday**
 - ▶ Rev. 1:10, Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-2

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- ▶ Shadow of the past?
 - ▶ Meant only for the Jews?
 - ▶ Freedom in Christ?
 - ▶ Others?

Objections

**OBJECTIONS
& REPLIES**



Permanent & Universal Obligation

- ▶ Nature & date of origin
- ▶ Inclusion in decalogue
- ▶ Christ's authentication

Reply

**OBJECTIONS
& REPLIES**

Available
Helps

APPLICATION

- ▶ **The Sabbath is meant to be kept sacred and holy**
- ▶ **Keeping the Sabbath is not simply an external affair**
- ▶ **The Sabbath was not given to be a burden**

What can
be done to
improve?

APPLICATION

1. Prepare to sanctify the Lord's Day
2. Attend every worship activity your church offers, Lord's Day morning and evening
3. Devote the rest of the day to reading the Word, praying, resting, singing, fellowship with believers, acts of mercy, and acts of necessity

What can
be done to
improve?

APPLICATION

1. Rest from worldly media & entertainment
2. Rest from errands, shopping, & eating out
3. Rest from worldly activities & recreations
4. Rest from your work

What can
be done to
improve?

APPLICATION

- ▶ **Isaiah 58:13** “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the Lord”