

## The Lord's Day?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

*"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).*

Throughout the Old Testament there are many times when God rebuked Israel for their misuse of the Sabbath day. We may wonder why it was so important to the Lord to have Israel remember and observe this special day. More than just a day of rest, it was a day to remember the Lord and what God had done for them. The way that they thought of it, and their observance of it, showed the condition of their relationship with God.

Just as the body needed to rest, so did the spirit. Jesus said in **Mark**

**2:27**, "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." God knew that man needed to rest from his labors, both physically, and spiritually. The sabbath was a time to think of the Lord and the blessings of God. It was a time to rest from the stress and toils of working and to spend the day in worship. The call, or command, to honor the Lord by keeping the sabbath was repeated many times in the Old Testament. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 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, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it," (**Exodus 20:8-11**).

"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. 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," (**Exodus 31:13-14**).

If they didn't like to keep the sabbath, it was because they liked the things of the world better. The lure to work, to buy and sell, was strong for those who loved riches. As they trusted in their wealth, the trust in God suffered for it. They, like we, had to make a choice as to who they trusted in, themselves, or in God. Could God really provide for them? I have seen those who farmed, but didn't let crops, or the threat of rain keep them from church. Did they lose by putting God first? No, rather than lose, they prospered.

A person might say that we are not under the law and do not have to keep the sabbath. True, but we still need to rest and to learn God's Word. It is usually easy to spot those who put the world before the Lord. They are not strong in faith, or obedience to the Lord. To them faith is a strange idea.

When work is not the problem, play often is. People will skip church for sports, or some other thing that they like. I think that we can see from the scriptures, Old Testament and New Testament, that God was not joking when he commanded that we put him first in our lives.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

### MOSES AND PLAGUES OF EGYPT

IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE PLAGUES FROM EGYPT, PHARAOH HAS AGREED TO LET THE ISRAELITES GO INTO THE WILDERNESS TO WORSHIP GOD - BUT NO SOONER THAN THE PLAGUES END, PHARAOH, REFUSES TO LET THE PEOPLE GO.



AND MOSES STANDS BEFORE PHARAOH, ONCE AGAIN...

BEHOLD, THE LORD HATH SAID: ALL THE CATTLE OF EGYPT SHALL BE DESTROYED!



BUT OF THE CATTLE OF THE ISRAELITES, NONE SHALL DIE!



AND ON THE MORROW ALL OF THE EGYPTIAN CATTLE DIE - BUT THE ISRAELITES' CATTLE ARE UNHARMED!



JOHN LEHTI

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