

A Special Day!



Today is a very special day; and we have come together to remember a very special event. Do you know what that day is? Do you know what that event is? In many places today that question would be answered quite differently from the way I'm going to answer it. For many people, this is a special day because it is "Christmas" and the special event that many are remembering is the birth of Jesus. May I suggest however that this is a special day simply because it is the first day of the week!

Every first day was special to the church of Christ in the first century.

The Corinthian church, following the *traditions* Paul gave them (1 Cor. 11:1-2) met every week on this day (1 Cor. 16:1-2), as did the churches of Galatia. In a similar way the church at Troas also met on this day to *break bread* (Ac. 20:7). Clearly then we see evidence that the apostles directed the NT church to consecrate the first day of the week as a day to gather and remember the Lord's death and to proclaim it until He comes again (1 Cor. 11:26). The joyous announcements of His coming into the world by angels and prophets simply pointed to the peace and salvation He would bring through His death, resurrection, and second coming.

What made the first day a special day?

- **On this day the Lord was raised from the dead:** *When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and *said to them, "Peace be*

with you." (Jn. 20:19).

- **On this day the Holy Spirit descended to empower his church with the gospel message:** *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance (Ac. 2:1,4).*
- **On this day the early church gathered to partake of the Lord's supper:** *And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. (Ac. 20:7)*

It's Still Special!

We honor Jesus and celebrate His coming by gathering each first day to remember that He "came...to give His life a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:28), that He "died for our sins...and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4), and that He "shall appear a second time for salvation" (Heb. 9:28).

The early church thought this day so unique that they called it "*the Lord's Day*" (Rev. 1:10). They would not have thought of canceling the commanded worship of the Lord's Day to do something else. Instead they would have made it a priority to meet on this day every Sunday to remember His death and resurrection, the reasons for which He came! In that spirit we have gathered today and will gather until He comes again!

—Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)