

## **Church and the Lord's Day: A Pure Offering unto the LORD (Hebrews 10:19-25; Colossians 3:12-17; Malachi 1:11)**

### **Introduction**

Christians have been blessed with a very special provision from the Lord, that is, God appointing one day of the week as a day of rest. In the Old Testament it was the Sabbath Day, and in the New Testament it is the Lord's Day.

Last Lord's Day we meditated on the corporate worship, that is, the Lord's Day worship, as one of the spiritual disciplines.

- It is a calling for us to gather together as the body of believers (Hebrews 10:19-25).

Christians need a much disciplined commitment to honor the Lord's Day. We should not follow the Lord's Day as a ritual as many Christians do. Why the Lord expects a disciplined commitment from us?

### **The Lord's Day Replaces the OT Sabbath (Hebrews 10:25)**

Following the Old Testament custom of the Sabbath Day, Christians in the New Testament started gathering together on Sundays (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

- The Christians did that because the Lord rose from the dead on Sunday.
- Hence, the Sunday was called "the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10).

This did not mean that the Sabbath laws were transferred to the Sunday. The Sabbath laws were very rigid and part of the Old Testament system, and as such we Christians are not bound to follow them. Because we are under the dispensation of grace.

- This means that Christ became the fulfillment of the Sabbath for us.
- Hence, following the Lord's Day is no more a burden for us but it is a great delight for every child of God.

### **The Lord's Day Provides Rest for the Soul (Isaiah 44:21-23; 30:15)**

The moral or the spiritual element of the Sabbath focuses on rest as the word Sabbath itself means "rest."

- In Genesis 2:2-3 we read, "And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made; and God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it."
- God's rest did not mean that He was idle, but it meant His enjoyment of Himself!
- This is the spiritual meaning that is applicable to Christians in the New Testament as they honor the Lord's Day (Isaiah 30:15; 44:21-23).
- This commitment would help the sanctification of His people—Exodus 31:12-17—Sabbath was a sign of relationship between God and His people.
- Psalms 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."
- Although Christians are free from the ceremonial requirements of the Sabbath Day, they are not free from the moral requirements of the Sabbath Day.
- Notice, cease from our normal daily routine on the Lord's Day is a moral commitment toward God.
- That was the reason the instruction to keep the Sabbath Day became part of the Ten Commandments.

- This was the reason though Jesus condemned the legalism of the Pharisees on Sabbath, He was never against the observance of the spiritual meaning of the Sabbath.

### **The Lord's Day Calls for Christian Commitment (Colossians 3:12-17)**

Christians should honor the Lord's Day as it is that one day of the week that the Lord, in His great wisdom and providence, set apart as holy.

Ask, "How can we use the Lord's day for the most spiritual profit?"

- We will benefit spiritually if our habit is normally to spend the Lord's Day meeting with the saints for worship, instruction, fellowship, the Lord's Supper, and prayer.

#### It Is a Day:

1. To refrain from normal engagements—the things we normally do the other six days of the week.
2. To honor and revere God—a day of worship.
3. To offer to God—giving ourselves wholly unto God, a day of consecration.

What does our commitment to God cost us?

- 2 Samuel 24:24, "And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it from you for a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
- Malachi 1:8, 11—offer unto the LORD a pure offering, which is our life!

### **Conclusion**

Every Lord's Day is an offering that we offer unto the LORD. Let us not do it as a mere ritual, but let us do it with our whole heart, giving our very best to the LORD, who gave His all to us!