

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

*“The Best Day of the Week” –Part 2*

***Selected Scripture***

***March 15 – March 21, 2009***

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

**THE LORD'S DAY** –We are finally coming to an end in our small mini-series taken from Joshua Harris’ book entitled “*Stop Dating The Church –Fall In Love With The Family Of God*”. This week we review some material from *part 1* of “*The Best Day of the Week*” and finish up these thoughts with *part 2*. We will address some practical issues that relate to how we should prepare for The Lord’s Day as well as how we should conduct ourselves in it and after it. Read **Acts 20:7**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: God, teach me this week from Your Word.*

**MONDAY** – “*On Sundays, Christians go to church. Everybody knows that. Church attendance may be slipping around the world, but for a good number of us it’s still something we do. It’s a habit—like sleeping, breathing...and all the other things we do without thinking. And I suppose that’s the problem. We could do it in our sleep. Some of us do.*” (**Josh Harris “Stop Dating The Church, Chapter 6 – Rescuing Sunday- page 101**) All of us have at some point had one of the following problems on Sunday morning: Woke up late, came to church sleepy and lazy, worshipped half hearted with distraction, occasionally listened, left early, remembered very little, and applied nothing. For the Child of God “*The Lord’s Day*” is the best day of the week. Those few hours in a week of **168** have an irreplaceable, strategic, and lasting value. Why would you cheat yourself of such divine instruction and food necessary for living life to the full? Way back in the Old Testament God had set apart a day for spiritual reflection and renewal. Read **Exodus 31:16-17**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: God, help me understand the gift You have given me in “The Lord’s Day”.*

**TUESDAY** – (continued)...This we understand was a law for the Jewish people, but we find then in the New Testament that God also ordained the “*First day of the week*” as a special day for His people. This was set down first and foremost by the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on the first day of the week. This is why we like the early church call Sunday, “**The Lord’s Day**”. The following are a few quotes from **Charles Spurgeon** in relation to The Lord’s Day: “*Sunday is our best day for business,*” says somebody. *Well then, so much more opportunity is there for you to make a greater sacrifice to prove your love for Jesus.*” --“*I believe that Sunday should be spent in recreation. You are dreadfully shocked, and well you may be. But what do I mean by ‘recreation’? It means creating us new. Oh, that*

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

*everybody who talks about spending Sunday in recreation would come to be recreated, regenerated, renewed, refreshed, revived, and made to rejoice in God.”* Read these verses speaking of The Lord’s Day or “The first day of the week”: **John 20:19, Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, and Revelation 1:10.**

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help me to not only understand the significance of the first day of the week but also to receive Your blessing by honoring it as special.*

**WEDNESDAY** – Every day belongs to God. But Sunday is the Lord’s Day in a special way. From the very moment of that first “Easter” morning, the first day of the week was unique (**Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, Luke 24:1, John 20:1**). We must learn to build our week around Sunday and not the other way around. (*The following are taken from Stop Dating The Church, Chapter 6 –Rescuing Sunday*) **1. Before the Meeting** Do we really need to prepare for Sunday? Don’t expect to get out of the Sunday service the best God has for you if you don’t come prepared. No one takes an important exam without studying and no believer should come to the corporate worship service of The Almighty God without spiritual preparation. Practically speaking, don’t go to bed in the middle of the night on Saturday and expect to come to church not rested. Lay things out the night before so you are not rushed in your physical preparation for The Lord’s Day service. Watching TV is NOT the way to prepare yourself for the worship of God and to hear the preaching of His Word.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help me strive to prepare myself to come together with the people of God to worship and hear from You on The Lord’s Day.*

**THURSDAY** – The following quote is from **John Piper** on how to prepare your heart to receive God’s Word: *“It astonishes me how many Christians watch the same banal, empty, silly, trivial, titillating, suggestive, immodest TV shows that most unbelievers watch—and then wonder why their spiritual lives are weak and their worship experience is shallow with no intensity. If you really want to hear the Word of God the way He means to be heard in truth and joy and power, turn off the television on Saturday night and read something true and great and beautiful and pure and honorable and excellent and worthy of praise (see **Philippians 4:8**). Then watch your heart un-shrivel and begin to hunger for the Word of God. God means for His Word to be heard in “truth and joy and power,” but that requires a purposeful pursuit of personal holiness. **James 1:21** says, “Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the Word planted in you, which can save you.”*

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *God, help me turn off the worldly pressures and through Your Spirit prepare my heart to hear with meekness the Word which can save my soul.*

**FRIDAY** – **2. During the Meeting** When you walk into church think about what you are doing. You are not coming in to catch up on all the latest news—oops I meant gossip that you have not yet heard. You are not coming in to be “entertained” by the

choir. You are not coming in to be part of an audience. You are part of a congregation that is standing before the **AUDIENCE OF ONE**. It doesn’t matter if you don’t have a good singing voice or if you like the style of the music for the day and it certainly doesn’t matter “*how you feel*”. Come clean and lift up your voice in praise of our great God. Then when the sermon begins, pay attention for this is the **MOST IMPORTANT** part of the service. This isn’t true because a “pastor” says so. It has nothing to do with a person or personality but it has everything to do with that the sermon from God’s appointed shepherd is the proclamation of **GOD’S very WORD**. You are not hearing information from a man but God is speaking to you through His Word. So Listen! Don’t be a passive observer catching a few words in between your glances around the room checking out the new folks in the other pew. Listen to this quote from **Donald Whitney** as he explains how listening to the preaching of the Word is in fact, worship: *“We normally think of worship as something we do, and since preaching is done by the preacher [and not us], many fail to think of preaching as worship. But listening to preaching is something you do, and it is an act of worship when you listen with an eager mind and responsive heart. The reason it is an act of worship is that you are listening to God speak [through His Word].”* God is speaking and we need to listen. And when we hear the truth we are according to Jesus obligated to respond to it. (**Luke 8:18**) Listen to this quote from **Harris**: *“As my pastor C.J. Mahaney has taught me, I will be held accountable for what I have heard regardless of whether it moved me emotionally. (If you’re brave, I encourage you to read that sentence again.) God’s truth is God’s truth. It doesn’t matter if it was delivered with pizzazz or introduced with a tearjerker illustration. If I have heard God’s truth, then I am called to obey it. Period.”* Bring your Bible to church as well and take notes. You don’t need to write a book but write down things you can look at later and get pressed firmly into your mind. **Adrian Rogers** used to say that one should never study or read or listen to the Word of God without an ink pen in hand, and I agree.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help me be diligent during the worship service.*

**SATURDAY** –**3. After the Meeting** As the service closes now the time is right to apply the truths you have heard. Don’t let the Word be the proverbial “*water off the ducks back*”, but instead meditate and pray over the things you were taught and the things you have heard and then be diligent to put them into practice. (**James 1:22-25**) Just listening is not enough, even listening respectfully and attentively. According to the Word of God unless we put it into practice we are “**deceiving ourselves.**” If you are truly Born-Again, you are part of “**The Church**”. What is your commitment to the “**local church**” look like? We are all as Paul says, “*earthen vessels*” or clay pots which contain this greatest and grandest of treasures. As we have recently studied in **1 Peter** we understand that we are God’s special people. I pray you truly are His and that your desire is to love and serve Him through the local church. I close our study with one last quote from **Harris**: *“Charles Spurgeon once referred to the local church as ‘the dearest place on earth.’ You know, when I was a church dater I just wouldn’t have understood that sentiment. But now I do.”*