

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried,



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The First Day Of The Week

In the New Testament we read of the early church gathering together on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Now, as then, faithful brethren continue to assemble as the scriptures direct upon the first day of the week to worship almighty God. In fact, it is on this day and this day only that the church observes the Lord's Supper and takes up a collection from its members. But why? What is the significance of the first day of the week?

The scripture is replete with references to the first day of the week. Even under the mosaic economy, the Jews celebrated the feast of weeks or Pentecost on the first day of the week

(Leviticus 23: 15-16). This day will become even more significant under the New Covenant, for this is the day on which the Lord's Church began (Acts 2). Even the psalmist spoke of the Lord's Day (Psalms 118:22-24). And the apostle John received his revelation on the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10). This distinction signifies a day that has special reference to Christ, but why is the first day significant to Christ?

It is the day of his resurrection (Mark 16:1-9; Matthew 28:1-7), the day Jesus was declared to be the son of God (Romans 1:4). Consider when the Lord appeared to the disciples following

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Remember Who You Are

I remember leaving the house one night to go out with friends from school. As I was leaving my mother said, “Bryan, remember who you are”. This admonition that my mother sent me away with was constructed to remind me who I was when I was in the world and when I wasn’t under the protection of her and my father. You see, under my parent’s roof, it was very seldom when I could fall into temptation, or get myself into something that I ought not to.

Yet, when I left the house—my parents weren’t there watching me, they weren’t there to say, ‘turn that questionable movie or television show off’, ‘don’t talk like that, don’t act that way, don’t do this or do that’—I was free. Free to do whatever. My parents weren’t around. No one was watching me, or so I thought.

The wisdom that my mother instilled in this little idiom became quite apparent when I would leave the house to hang out with friends, or do things around town. It caused me to have a conscience about what I

was doing and how I was behaving with my friends. When I look back now, she was saying, “remember who you are”, but she meant, “You decided to become a Christian, now don’t forget to act like one”. When I think of it that way, it puts a whole other perspective on my mother’s warning and I believe that it rings true for a lot of Christians.

When we decide to put on Christ through baptism, we have decided to fully obey Him and to deny worldliness and to follow Christ. Ultimately, we’ve become a child of God as the apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:1. However, there comes a point in our journey as a child of God that we need to be reminded who we are. We need to be reminded that we have made a decision to commit our entire identity over to Christ.

The apostle Peter obviously felt that this remembrance was important for he himself stated in 1 Peter 1:12-13, “For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know

and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you”. Though our parents aren’t watching when we leave their home, there is someone watching—that is the world, and more importantly, our Father up in Heaven. I’m convinced that many Christians forget this simple truth. God is watching me. God is watching you. Hebrews 4:13 reads, “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account.” We must remember who we are—and most importantly who we decided to become—a Christian. – Bryan Garlock

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the resurrection. Upon the first day of the week, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9). It was the same day that Jesus appeared to two disciples as they traveled to Emmaus (Lk. 24:13-35; Mk. 16:12) and then to the rest of the disciples save Thomas (John 20:19). A week later, upon the first day of the week Jesus appeared to the eleven apostles (John

20:26-29). It was on the first day of the week, the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles (Acts 2:1-4). And it was the first day of the week, Sunday, that the first gospel sermon was preached (Acts 2:14-42), the establishment of the Church that Jesus promised (Matthew 16:18)!

Thus we see the local churches gathering to-

gether upon this day, the Lord's Day, to remember the Lord's death by keeping the memorial He instituted (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25) and by giving of their means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Truly the first day of the week is a day for the saint to rejoice each and every week! Do you honor the Lord on Sunday, the first day of the week? – Phillip Stuckey

Standing Alone

"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge." (2 Tim. 4:16)

In the battle for right, one should stand alone if necessary. But it should not be necessary. Paul recalls his encounter with the copper-smith. He relates, without bitterness, how

he was left to fight the battle alone. Yet, he was not really alone. The Lord stood with him. (v. 17) How discouraging the absence of the brethren must have been. But, how encouraging was the fact that the Lord stood with him!

Standing for truth is bound to produce enemies. Jesus said so much: "Think not that I

am come to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." (Mt. 10:34-36)

Standing for the truth should produce friends as well. We should openly stand for Christ. A Christian cannot help

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being encouraged by knowing that he has the support of good brethren in his spiritual warfare. If I had to stand alone, as Paul did, I wonder how strong I would be. I pray I shall not have to be put to the test. The moral support of good brethren in the Lord's work is priceless.

Before taking a stand with any person, one should distinguish between personality and principle. One need not feel obligated to support a brother in a purely personal dispute. In such matters both parties are usually wrong. One cannot afford to be a party to such partisanship.

However, principles are held and advanced by persons. Ideas are not just loose in the air, they are in people. Doctrines are not promoted by things they are taught and defended by personalities. It is too easy to dismiss every dispute in religion as a "personality clash" between the disputants. It avoids the effort of determining who, if anyone, is right. It avoids having to make the painful decision to stand with those who are right. It may be the easy way out, but is it the right way?

People often privately admire those who take a firm stand for truth. They may even say so privately. Yet, if it comes to open identification with those people, then forget it! It might cost too much in worldly friendships.

Let us learn not to stand with any person above principle. That is cheap partisanship. But let us not be afraid to be identified with persons of principle. They should not have to stand alone - even if they are willing to.—Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

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Anvil Sparks

A paradox: God is never far from us, but we are sometimes very far from him.—R.L. Whiteside

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What Must One Do To Be Saved?

Hear – Matthew 17:5; Romans 10:17

Believe – John 8:24; Romans 10:9

Repent – Luke 13.3; Acts 2.38

Confess– Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37

Baptized– Mark 16.16; Acts 2:38

Live Faithfully – Revelation 2.10; 1 Corinthians 15:58