

☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Minister's Musings

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Imbibing On The Weekend

Well, yes, it could have to do with beer, but more properly it is to “absorb or assimilate ideas or knowledge.” This is a meditation on The Lord's Day, the First Day of the Week. The English language has retained the planet names for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. However, the names for the other days of the week have been replaced by their equivalent Norse or Germanic gods.

What is a "weekend?" Is it Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday? Is it Saturday and Sunday? From the New Testament point of view, a Weekend consists of Friday and Saturday. But why? Because from a NT view, the First Day of the Week is Sunday, or more precisely, sundown Saturday to sundown Sunday. Sunday is not the end of the week, rather the beginning of the week. What difference does that make?

The following are the relevant biblical texts. Meditate on each, and see what God is telling us.

Matthew 28:1 (NASB) *Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.*

Mark 16:9 (NASB) *Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.*

John 20:1 (NASB) *Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb.*

John 20:19 (NASB) *So when 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."*

Acts 20:7 (NASB) *On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them,*

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NASB) *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. ² On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.*

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The Pastor Reflects

A poem by Ed Saunders



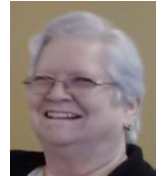
Is Jesus there? When your nights are blue. When you could cry the whole day through. When dreams have failed, when disappointments have prevailed, is Jesus there? Is he with you?
Is Jesus there? When you are glad? When you can find nothing bad? When you can find the joy of life the whole day through, is Jesus there? Is he with you?

Is Jesus there? Is he with you? My friend, is he there? I hope he is and I hope you are true.
Is Jesus there? Is he with you?

Elder Ed Saunders

The Chair Cares

Years ago I worked for Southern California Edison, in the Cash Management division of the Treasury Department. At times it seemed extremely hectic and I had a sign I put at the entrance to my cubicle:



As soon as the rush is over,
I'm going to have a nervous breakdown.
I worked for it; I owe it to myself;
and NOBODY is going to deprive me of it!!

Well, I'm not having a nervous breakdown, just a vacation! However, in thinking it over, why do I feel that I need a vacation? For me, it feels like I'm out of my "comfort zone" teaching or leading singing, but that shouldn't be. Leaving 7/26, and returning 9/20?

In **Matthew 11:28-30** Jesus says: "Come to Me, all who are weary and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

When we feel overwhelmed by what we do in serving God it means we are trying to do it on our own. We need to lay down our burdens and let God pick them up. In short, we need to have a relationship with Jesus – not practice religion.

Chairperson Marilyn Currier

Musings, continued from front page:

The people of the Old Covenant had a work of work followed by a day of rest. **Exodus 20:10 (NASB) the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.**

In contrast, the people of the New Covenant have a day of rest followed by work. Furthermore, they chose not to call it a Sabbath, but "the Lord's Day." **Revelation 1:10 (NASB) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet.** It was a day in distinction to all other days because it belonged to the Lord.

From the relevant New Testament scriptures, we can see it was a day of worship dedicated to the Lord. They gathered to break bread, to fellowship, to pray, to bring their offerings, and to hear the glorious words of the Gospel. They chose this day because it was the day our Lord emerged from the tomb.

James T. Dennison wrote his thesis at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on the Puritan concept of "the Market Day of the Soul." He describes how the years 1603-1650, saw the Lord's Day practice move from a day for the playing of sports as decreed by the monarchy to a day in which worship, rest, and deeds of necessity and mercy predominated. With this victory the battle was not won. As with any spiritual battle, the issue is one's heart. Dennison ably explains how this was an issue in the years that followed the 1650s. He says Puritan writers were convinced that the Lord's Day was the market day for one's soul. It is a special time God gives for the soul to lay up spiritual provisions that enable one to better serve God in a fallen world.

We need to give much thinking to this concept, because the Lord's Day is a day of Spiritual renewal. It is a time for the health of our souls. A well-spent day of worship on the Lord's Day is wonderful preparation for the working week that follows.