



FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

4/10/2024

**The Baptist Faith and Message
The Lord's Day**

Outline

Preface

1. The Scriptures
2. God
3. Man
4. Salvation
5. God's Purpose of Grace
6. The Church
7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- 8. The Lord's Day**
9. The Kingdom
10. Last Things
11. Evangelism and Missions
12. Education
13. Stewardship
14. Cooperation
15. The Christian and the Social Order
16. Peace and War
17. Religious Liberty
18. The Family

Preface

Revelation 1:10 (ESV):

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. . .

Sunday is the Lord's day, the day of our week celebrated as the day of resurrection. The word for Sunday, in Russian, is *воскресенье* - *voskresen'ye* meaning "*Up from the Resurrection*"

We gather on Sunday in corporate prayer and celebration. Our prayers are prayers of thanksgiving, our celebration is because of the resurrection, and we do it all with music, praise, preaching and encouragement. We gather as a body, the body of Christ, called the church, which gathers to make us ready to scatter into the world. We gather, and are reminded, that we are the church. We scatter into our separate homes and jobs, as the church, living our lives as if we are gathered together. Even though we are away from the rest of the body, we are still the church, praying, giving thanks, celebrating, and encouraging.

James K. A. Smith described how this works: "*The church—the body of Christ—is ... where God invites us to renew our loves, reorient our desires, and restrain our appetites ... Christian worship is the feast where we acquire new hungers—for God and for what God desires—and are then sent into his creation to act accordingly.*"

When we gather corporately, we are to submit our desires to the Lord together and prepare to exit into the world with our love fixed solely on God. Our corporate gathering should prepare us to love God and people well throughout the week. Then, we should be regularly engaging one another in preparation for the next all-inclusive gathering, where we will again reorient our love toward God."

8. The Lord's Day

BFM: *The first day of the week is the Lord's Day.*

It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

1. The Purpose of Meeting Each Lord's Day:

Each week that we come together, we are reminded of the greatest event that has ever occurred on this earth: A man gave his life so that others could live. The marvelous thing about this day is that man did not stay dead. According to scripture, God raised him from death and exalted him above all others, and it is on his resurrection day that we celebrate God's great victory over sin and death.

According to Jared Lockhart and Adam McClendon, *“The corporate gathering prepares us to be the church. We go out together from the weekly worship service to be the church to the world before returning to prepare again.”*

This God-given design is extremely helpful—essential, even. Here is one of the many passages that point to the expectation of the corporate gathering.

Acts 20:7 (ESV): 7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

This passage is not just descriptive of what the church did back then, but is a model for us to follow today. The way Luke wrote the story is instructional.

Luke explained, *“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with those gathered, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”* The first day of the week was their regular appointed gathering time in honor of the resurrected Lord, and this time was strategic for believers. From the very beginning of the church, the “Lord’s Day” (Sunday, since that is when Jesus was resurrected) has been the Christian day of intentional gathering. This does not mean that believers cannot have other days for gathering corporately.

4

Romans 14:5 (ESV): *5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.*

There are some who refuse to worship on Sunday, holding us who do in contempt. We should not judge those who do not worship on Sundays, but rather, look to see if any claiming Christ refuse to worship on any day of the week.

Due to the size of the gathering and other practical restrictions, such as work schedules, some people cannot meet on Sunday. While we believe it is instructive that they choose to meet on the day the Lord was resurrected, we also acknowledge the key principle communicated in this text: the church met weekly as a unified corporate body to worship God together.

As long as we are meeting, worshipping, encouraging, teaching and exhorting, we are doing the will of God. The day isn't as important to him as it may be to some of us.

2. The Practice of Meeting Each Lord's Day:

God wants us to meet regularly to practice certain disciplines in our Christian walk.

A. Growth and maturity through the Teaching of God's Word.

Acts 2:42a (ESV): 42a *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching. . .*

B. Fellowship and Accountability

Acts 2:42b-44 (ESV): 42b . . . *and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.*

C. Encouragement to continue Walking with the Lord

Acts 2:44–46 (ESV): 44 *And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,*

D. Celebration through Song and Prayer

Acts 2:47 (ESV): 47 *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Look back at verse 42, *they devoted themselves to prayer.*

This is engagement with God and God's people. God did not design a church gathering to be a place merely to receive; instead, he intended it to be a place of engagement, sharing, and loving one another.

It is where each person could use his, or her, personality, gifts, and passions for the glory of God in meeting with the saints to publicly acknowledge Jesus as the Christ.

Unfortunately, many believe that watching a service is the same as being in a service. There is nothing inherently wrong with watching services through media, such as the computer, television, or podcasts. Doing so is helpful, but we cannot use them as a substitute for gathering as the church. People with issues need your contribution to the body of Christ. We are self-serving when we do not gather with the body of believers and use our gifts to edify and serve others.

Our gathering should be regular and consistent. Inconsistency breeds apathy, and apathy brings mediocrity, and mediocrity leads to the church dissolving.

Let us each remember to gather with the saints each Lord's Day, and when we gather, let each of us come prepared to offer our worship through service with our talents and gifts, to offer our worship through hearts praising our Lord through songs and prayer, and grow by hearing the teaching of God's Word.

Additional Scripture:

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.