

Redeeming Our Sundays: How to Make the Lord's Day Truly the Lord's

July 18, 2010

- I. Introduction
 - A. Genesis 2:1-3; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 14:12-25.
 - B. Present Series (Redeeming Our Lives)
 - Goal: to help us recover some basic aspects of faithful New Testament Christian faith that we are in danger of losing in our present times due to the pressures and squeeze of this present evil age and the weaknesses of our flesh.
- II. Redeeming Our Sundays: How to Make the Lord's Day Truly the Lord's
 - A. Defining what a biblical practice of the Lord's Day looks like:
 - Healthy Sunday observance involves a deliberate and disciplined rest from life's normal pressures, tasks, and distractions to devote one day in seven: (1) to gather with your local church for worship, (2) to spend time hearing and carefully applying God's Word preached (corporately and individually), and (3) to engage in intentional activities which refresh our own, and others' souls and bodies for the labors and battles of the week to come.
 - B. Here are 11-12 reasons to make Sunday worship in your local church and intentional spiritual exercise throughout the Lord's Day your weekly practice unless "provisionally hindered".
 1. Because Sabbath rest and Lord's Day worship are God's gifts to us!
 - Mark 2:27—"...the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath"
 2. Because God does epic things on Sundays!
 3. Because God lives where his people gather.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Corinthians 14:23-25; 1 Timothy 3:14, 15; Psalm 84:1-4, 10
 4. Because the Spirit falls upon and fills the gathered church.
 - 1 Corinthians 14; Acts 2:1ff; 4:23-31; 10:44; 19:6; 1 Samuel 10:5-13; Ephesians 5
 5. Because a meal missed is a means of grace neglected.
 - a) Weekly self-examination before participation (1 Corinthians 11:27-32).
 - b) Consistent fellowship as one body (by sharing cup and loaf) at the foot of the cross. Communion keeps us visibly a cross-centered church (1 Corinthians 10:17).
 - c) The special fellowshiping presence of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16—"participation" means fellowship).
 - d) Weekly renewal of our covenant with God ("the new covenant in my blood")..
- III. Conclusion