

Foreword

The very early church was Jewish. Within a very short time, forced out of the synagogue, these new believers began meeting in one another's homes – but not on Saturday, as one might expect. Instead, they met the next day, on first day of the week. Think about that! Their lives, as Jews, were already ordered so that Saturday was a special day, free from work. It would have been the traditional and easiest day for them to meet as a church. Instead, they went out of their way to assemble on a day that was, for them, much less convenient: Sunday. Since Sunday was a work day, they had no choice but to come together in the evening, after work.

The theological ramifications of this change are profound. It flags a seismic shift from Moses to Jesus, old to new, law to grace, shadow to fulfilment, and sabbath day to Lord's day.

With great insight, brother David brings to life various passages of Scripture that reveal the attitude the New Testament church had towards Saturday sabbaths. He also demonstrates that being free from the law did not mean indifference regarding the day on which the church gathered. It is very clear that the early church met by design on Sunday, a day they called the Lord's day. Why did they change from Saturday to Sunday? Why did they meet consistently on Sunday as opposed to any other day? What made Sunday the Lord's day? Did the apostles intend Sunday to be a new Christian-sabbath day? If the Lord's day is not a sabbath day, then what is it? Such are the questions David deals with.

Brothers holding to covenant theology promote Sunday as the new sabbath. Others, perhaps in over-reaction, insist that not only is there no Christian sabbath, but also that there is no special day in Christ of any kind, not even the Lord's day. They claim that any day will do for corporate worship.

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Brother David presents the case that there is indeed something special about the Lord's day, and that observing it is an apostolic practice that we dare not ignore due to its new-covenant theological significance.

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