

## Preacher's Pen points

# A Special Day!



Today is a very special day; and we have come together to remember a very special event. You can see that are many others who also think it is a special day and they are gathering to remember a very special event. Perhaps you've noticed the ads in the media for special services today. For many, this day is the culmination of months of planning for a special service. Do you know what that day is? Do you know what that event is?

In many places today that question would be answered quite differently from the way I'm going to answer it. For many people, this is a special day because it is Easter and the special event that many are remembering is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. May I suggest however that this is a special day simply because it is the first day of the week!

### Every first day was special to the church of Christ in the first century.

The Corinthian church, following the *traditions* Paul gave them (1 Cor. 11:1-2) met every week on this day (1 Cor. 16:1-2), as were the churches of Galatia. In a similar way we see the church at Troas also meeting on this day to *break bread* (Ac. 20:7). Clearly then we see evidence that the NT church set apart the first day of the week as a day to gather and remember the Lord's death and to proclaim it until He comes again (1 Cor. 11:26) implying an acknowledgement of His resurrection as well.

### What made the first day a special day?

- ***On this day the Lord was raised from the dead:*** *When therefore 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." (Jn. 20:19).*

- ***On this day the Holy Spirit descended to empower his church with the gospel message:*** *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance (Ac. 2:1,4).*
- ***On this day the early church gathered to partake of the Lord's supper:*** *And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. (Ac. 20:7)*

### How can we honor Jesus and celebrate His resurrection?

Today, we too can make the first day of the week special by gathering to remember Jesus' sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. We can remember Him thoughtfully in breaking bread and worship Him enthusiastically as the risen Savior! Indeed our salvation from sin is predicated on Him "*who was delivered up for our transgression and was raised because of our justification*" (Rom. 5:25).

The early church thought this day so unique that they called it "*the Lord's Day*" (Rev. 1:10). For the faithful disciple, every Sunday is a celebration of our risen Lord! Let's make this day as special as God made it and gather with the church every Sunday! —Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)