

Reasoning from the Resurrection (Part 2)

The First Day of the Week

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Introduction: The impact of the resurrection of Christ is seen in every Christian doctrine.

- A. In our previous studies we have seen how that the resurrection establishes Jesus as the Son of God. **(Rom 1:3-4)**
 - 1. Men and women were presented facts, testimony and scripture to establish the great truth.
 - 2. From this teaching we have learned how God expects us to reason.
- B. The resurrection of Jesus identifies Jesus as our Lord. **(Lk 6:46)**
 - 1. Jesus was raised to a position of authority over all men! **(Acts 2:33-36; 5:30-32)**
 - 2. We are to so focus on Jesus that our very thoughts are transformed. **(Col 3:1)**
 - 3. How are we to handle the words of God? Let us let Jesus teach us.

I. How did Jesus handle the words of God?

- A. Jesus taught that the Old Testament was the very words of God!
 - 1. He claimed the writers were moved by the Holy Spirit. **(Mark 12:36)**
 - 2. He claimed the word of God is without contradiction. **(John 10:34-35)**
 - 3. Man was to live by every word from God! **(Matt 4:4, 7, 10)**
- B. Jesus showed how God's words are to be respected.
 - 1. Jesus would only do those things that He saw the Father do. **(Jn 5:19-20, 30)**
 - 2. Jesus wanted His followers to understand authority and to follow the Father just like He did. **(Jn 7:16-17)**
 - 3. The respect for the words of God would lead Jesus only to act when the Father gives Him instruction. This stand would lead Jesus to the cross and us to be free from sin! **(Jn 8:28-32)**
 - 4. Jesus showed how we must empty ourselves and follow Him. When we do as Jesus did then we will honor the Father. **(Jn 12:25-28)**
 - 5. Jesus disciples will be characterized by the willingness to abide only in what is authorized by His words. **(Jn 12:48-50)**
 - 6. Whatever form God gives his word (historical narrative, poetry, prophecy, epistle) it is the very words of God and thus authoritative!
- C. It is these attitudes towards the words of God (authority) that Jesus proclaimed would be taught after He was raised from the dead. **(Mt 28:18-20)**
 - 1. When men are converted to Christ the rest of their lives as disciples are indented by this attitude.
 - 2. We take what God has revealed and we only teach and practice what we are given. **(1 Pt 4:11)**
 - 3. If it is not given by God, it is not to be taught or practiced! **(1 Tim 1:3-4)**

II. How does the resurrection instruct us about the 1st day of the week?

- A. The significance of the first day of the week is found in the apostle's teachings. **(Acts 2:41-42)**
 - 1. We will learn from historical narrative, epistle and the life of Christ.
 - 2. We will see the example of the apostles and their instructions. **(1 Cor 11:1; 14:37)**

B. Jesus was raised on the first day of the week.

1. Sunday was the completion of “three days and three nights!” (**Mt 12:40; 26:61**)
2. The scriptures are very specific on this. (**Mt 28:1-4**)
3. The early church did not keep the Sabbath, but the 1st day of the week was their time to assemble.

C. The church was established on the first day of the week.

1. Jesus wanted a strong anticipation of this in His disciples. (**Mk 9:1**)
2. He gave very specific instructions concerning their waiting in Jerusalem. (**Lk 24:46-49; Acts 1:4-8**)
3. These things were fulfilled in the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ!
4. The baptism of Christ was first preached on this day! (**Acts 2:38-39**)
5. Pentecost always occurs on the first day of the week. (**Lev 23:15-16**)

D. Churches were to take up a collection on the first day of the week.

1. Paul gave great emphasis to this day when he instructed Corinth and other churches concerning a specific contribution. (**1 Cor 16:1-3**)
2. The NASV properly gives the emphasis of the Greek text.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NASB) ²On 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.

3. This necessitates action surrounding the assembly so that no collections be made when Paul comes.

E. The Lord’s supper was observed on the first day of the week.

1. The apostles instructed Christians to be steadfast in this. (**Acts 2:42**)
2. The term “breaking of bread” can describe the Lord’s supper. (**1 Cor 10:15-17**)
 - a. It was to be partaken in the assembly by the whole church. (**1 Cor 11:20-22**)
 - b. There is great spiritual significance attached to this feast! (**1 Cor 5:8**)
3. There are some verses where the “breaking of bread” describes a common meal. (**Acts 2:46; Acts 20:11**)
 - a. When this is done in homes rather than the assembly.
 - b. When only one individual is described rather than an assembly.
4. The early Christians partook of the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week. (**Acts 20:6-7**)

F. Are we making human laws from historical narrative?

1. Paul so noted that his writings to Corinth contained the will of God that all churches were to obey. (**1 Cor 4:17; 7:17; 11:16; 14:33-37**)
2. In both the contribution and the Lord’s Supper, those who respect the scriptures as Jesus did have a clear path to follow.

Conclusion: Do you have a heart that is willing to abide in the Apostle’s Doctrine alone?