

“The Bible Doesn’t Command Us To Worship On Sunday Evening”

Gary McDade

“The Bible doesn’t command us to worship on Sunday evening” is a sentiment by practice held by more than half the members of the church today according to published attendance records.¹ While it is true the Lord’s Supper (Acts 2:42; 20:7) and taking up the collection (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) are authorized only “upon the first day of the week,” New Testament Christianity is not a one-day-a-week religion. Evidence in this regard from the New Testament use of the word “daily” will show this to be the case.

An all-encompassing passage that establishes the Lord’s will in this connection is Luke 9:23 which reads, “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross *daily*, and follow me” (emphasis added). Self-denial is not something to be done on an annual, monthly, or weekly basis but *daily*.

The daily practices of properly taught Christians in the first century included: teaching and preaching the gospel (Acts 2:46; 5:42), becoming established and increasing in the faith (Acts 16:5), searching the Scriptures (Acts 17:11), disputing (reasoning, NKJV, ASV; from *διαλέγομαι*—debating, addressing, speaking), caring about the church (2 Corinthians 11:28), exhorting others to faithfulness (Hebrews 3:13), and caring for those in need (James 2:15). With all this daily activity it is no wonder the church grew so rapidly (Acts 6:1, 7; 9:31; 16:5; 12:24; 19:20). When we become as active as they were in the first century, we will see the church grow again. Obviously, we cannot restore the first century church by replacing their zeal with today’s apathy.

A unique appreciation is gained regarding daily practices when Acts 2:46-47 is consulted. Luke wrote, “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church *daily* such as should be saved” (emphasis added). Those outside the church were (and are lost) because all the saved are added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47; 5:14; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23). Unless the Lord added the saved to the church *daily*, those who died Monday through Saturday would have perished forever in hell (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 14:11). After we die (no matter what day of the week it is) the next event on God’s calendar for us is the Judgment (Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11). Since we can all be glad the Lord does His work of salvation *daily*, shouldn’t we follow His example and teaching and “take up our cross *daily* and follow Him”?

You never read in your Bible where Sunday is the Lord’s *hour*; it is always referenced as the Lord’s *day*! (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 10:25; Revelation 1:10). Would it help the church or hurt the church for every member to say with the Psalmist, “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord”? (Psalm 122:1).

¹Estimate only, from an assortment of church bulletins across the country; not a scientific polling.