

"I Refuse To Be Discouraged"

Refuse to be discouraged,
to be sad or to cry.
I Refuse to be down-hearted
and here's the reason why.
I have a GOD who's Mighty,
who's Sovereign and Supreme.
I have a GOD who loves me,
and I am on HIS team.
HE is all Wise and Powerful,
JEHOVAH IS HIS name.
Though everything is changeable,
my GOD remains the same.
My GOD knows all that's happening,
beginning to the end.
HIS Presence is my comfort,
HE is my "DEAREST FRIEND"
When sickness comes to weaken me,
to bring my head down low.
I call upon my Mighty GOD,
into HIS arms I go.
When circumstances threaten,
to rob me of my peace.
HE draws me close unto HIS breast,
where all my strivings cease.



When my heart melts within me,
and weakness takes control.
HE gathers me into HIS arms,
HE soothes my heart and soul.
The great "I AM" is with me,
my life is in HIS hand.
The "GOD OF JACOB" is my Hope,
it's in HIS strength I stand.

I Refuse to be defeated,
my eyes are on my GOD.
HE has promised to be with me,
as through this life I trod.
I'm looking past all circumstance,
to Heaven's throne above.

My prayers have reached
the heart of GOD,
I'm resting in HIS love.
I give GOD thanks in everything,
my eyes are on HIS face.
The Battle's HIS, the Victory mine,
HE'LL help me win life's race.

The Black Creek Courier

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"Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world." John 11:9

February 8, 2009

Should Christians Follow the Jewish Clock? Part 1 of 2

A Jewish day runs from sunset to sunset instead of midnight. Thus, in general terms, Jews begin their days at 6:00 PM, whereas we begin ours at 12:00 AM (the modern world having followed the Roman reckoning of time).

The Jewish day is modeled on the Creation account and is of no fixed length, except generally the day was considered to be twelve hours and the night twelve hours (John 11:9). Based on the reference to "the evening and the morning were the first day" (Gen. 1:5), the Jewish day starts in the evening instead of the middle of the night.

Accordingly, standard times and time zones have no place in the Jewish calendar. How-

ever, the steady progression of sunset around the world and seasonal changes results in gradual time changes from one day to the next based on observable astronomical phenomena (the sunset) and not on man-made laws and conventions.

Some have concluded from this that Christians may worship on Saturday nights and be as scriptural as those who worship on Sunday mornings. Is this the case?

First, let us note that the first day of the week is the Christian day of worship. Wayne Jackson points out how easily this can be seen in the Scriptures.

1. Early on, the disciples began meeting on the Lord's day
2. The church was established on Sunday, thus its first worship services were on the first day of the week (Acts 2:1). Sunday was the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, and therefore was the day the church of Christ began on earth (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-47).
3. The congregation in Troas was meeting on Sunday (Acts 20:7)

(John 20:26). Robertson says this passage "seems to mean that from the very start the disciples began to meet on the first (or eighth) day". It is interesting that the disciples were not meeting on the Sabbath as had been the Jews' custom for fifteen hundred years. Why the sudden change from Saturday to Sunday? Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday!

Black Creek Church of Christ



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Times of Worship:

Sunday Morning:
Bible Class: 10:00 AM
Worship: 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening:
Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday Evening:
Bible Class: 7:00 PM

Visit our website at:

www.blackcreekchurchofchrist.org

Works of Evangelism:

- ◆ Bible Call
- ◆ Georgia Mission (Soperton Church of Christ, Soperton, GA)
- ◆ Bible Correspondance Courses & Tracts (By Request)

Works of Benevolence:

- ◆ Hospital Benevolence Basket (Orange Park Medical Center)
- ◆ Raintree Village Children's Home (Valdosta, GA)

Works of Edification:

- ◆ The Black Creek Courier
- ◆ Black Creek Christian School
- ◆ Visitation Program
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Bible Classes For All Ages
- ◆ Keenagers Group (Over -50)

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Gospel (Matthew 7:24-27; Romans 10:14,17) → Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6) → Repent of My Sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30) → Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10) → Be Baptized (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21) → Be Faithful Unto Death (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10).



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Black Creek... This Week

when Paul visited there. During this third missionary journey, Paul was in such a hurry to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost that he did not have time to make a trip inland to Ephesus (Acts 20:16). However, he waited seven days in Troas to meet when the disciples met "to break bread" on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Why? That is when they would all be present for the worship service. Specifying the "first day of the week" implies a weekly meeting. If the text read "And at evening when we met to break bread," it would have signified daily meetings. If it said, "And on the fifteenth day of the month when we met to break bread," it would have indicated a monthly meeting. If it said, "On the first day of the new quarter when we met to break bread," it would have shown a quarterly assembly. If it said, "On the twenty-fourth day of the seventh month, when the disciples met together to break bread," it would have shown an annual meeting. Thus, this passage clearly shows that the early church worshipped each Sunday.

4. There was a regular contribution into the church treasury "every first day of the week" (1 Cor. 16:2; Greek Text).
5. For the first several centuries of the church's existence, the written testimony is uniform that Christians met for worship on Sunday. "All Christians were unanimous in setting apart the first day of the week, on which the triumphant Savior arose from the dead, for the solemn celebration of public worship." In the Didache the injunction is given: "On the Lord's Day come together and break bread. And give thanks (offer the Eucharist), after confessing your sins that your sacrifice may be pure." Ignatius speaks on Christians as "no longer observing the Sabbath, but living in the observance of the Lord's Day, on which also Our Life rose again." The Epistle of Barnabas reads: "Wherefore, also, we keep the eighth day with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose again from the dead." Although Sunday was a workday in the ancient world, the disciples set it apart for worship. It became known as "the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10).

Second, a strict observance of following the Jewish example would require adjusting our clocks to Middle Eastern time.

When it is 6:00 PM in Saturday night in Jerusalem, it is 10:00 AM on Saturday here. And, of course, it could vary up to twelve hours depending on where one is on the globe. Jesus recognized this truth relative to His second coming: It will be both day and night when He comes back in the twinkling of an eye (Matthew 24:40-41; Luke 17:34). If one is going to adjust to Jewish time and worship on Saturdays at 6:00 PM, then he is obligated to adjust to Jerusalem time as well. Again, we see the wisdom of God saying only to worship on the first day of the week, and allowing each to understand that phrase within his own world.

~ Allen Webster

(Part 2 will be in next weeks bulletin).



"Messianic Jews"

A group of people in the State of Israel today call themselves "Messianic Jews." According to a popular Israeli dictionary, Messianic Jews are "a sect of Jews who have declared themselves as Jews in their nationality and for their faithfulness to the State of Israel and as Christians in their religious expression." In conversations with many of these people, I was told that the word "Christian" is actually an expression of their particular Messianic faith and hope. Their faith and hope is centered in Jesus as the Messiah, but they identify with Jewish people and claim that they are still Jewish.

Servants For the Month of February

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry Russell	Larry Russell
Scripture Reading	Gordon Richau	Gordon Richau
Song Leader	Sam Sipper	Steve Atnip, Jr.
Opening Prayer	Tim Gotkiewicz	Sam Sipper
Lord's Table	Don Miller	Don Miller
Assistant	Justin Workman	
Assistant	Stephen Hedgecock	
Assistant	Frazier Blair	
Assistant	Gordon Richau	
Sermon	Steve Atnip, Sr.	Steve Atnip, Sr.
Closing Prayer		
Prepare Communion (For Feb.)	Sally G. (Mar.)	Cindy Copeland
Cleaning the Building (For Feb.)	Sally G. (Mar.)	Gordon & CupCup



Prayer Requests

Black Creek Family:

Tim Gotkiewicz, Cindy Copeland, Eula Morgan, Malissa Dasher, Gloria & Valerie Shaw, Sonny Best, Ann Grace, John Moore, the Dennard family, Wanda Cheek, Herbert & Marie Dix, Norman & Marsha Thompson, Kay Van Horn, Gary & Gloria Evans, family of Vernon Newsome, and Ann Maloy.

Away:

Cindy Anderson, James Smith, Kay Taylor, Dorothy Wilson, Eileen Lacy, Amy McCrea, Jean Odom, Donald Petteway, Robert Vaughn, Gerri West, Terry Thompson, Gary Bartlett, Sloan Hunter, Bob Melson, Denny



We are so happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us, please remain a bit after services so we can become acquainted and let you know how special you are to us. Also, if you have any questions concerning anything you saw in our services today, please ask any one of us here today. We will be more than happy to answer any of your questions.

Announcements

Volunteer Work Lists: There is a list on the bulletin board for anyone who could volunteer to watch the little ones during service if the need is present. Also, there is a list for doing the communion and building cleanup. If you could spare some time and could help us out, please sign up to do so.

Mailboxes: Please remember to check your mailboxes weekly.

Hospital Basket: We need to restock our snacks for the Hospital basket. If anyone can contribute, please see Billy Smith or Mary Register.

Spring Break: Larry and Sam are still looking for ideas and fun things for the kids to do during spring break. If you can help them out, please speak with them.

Volunteers Needed: The Summer Games & Special Olympics are seeking volunteers to help with this special event. The event takes place on March 6th at Ridgeview High School. For more information, see the bulletin board.



Ladies Day: Dean Road Church of Christ is holding a ladies day on March 14, 2009. For more information, see the bulletin board.

Kids Fun Day: Sam & Larry are planning a kids fun day on March 28th here at the building. There will also be a cookout. They are looking for suggestions for the kids for fun activities. If you can help them out with this, please speak with either one of them with your ideas.

Work Day: We will be having a work day here at the church building on April 18th. All are encouraged to attend. The last work day, even the kids helped. There is something for all ages to do.

FSOP Class: The class that Steve is teaching is still going on at Wesconnett Church of Christ. For more information, see Steve Atnip. It is not too late to join their class.

Sympathy: Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to the family of Vernon Newsome. He passed away at 12:30 AM on February 4th. Please keep his family in your prayers.