



I WAS IN THE SPIRIT
ON THE LORDS DAY

O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness,
Most beautiful, most bright.

The Lord's Day.

ON what foundation is the Christian church built?

“And are built upon the *foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone.*” Eph. 2 : 20. Christ, then, is the corner-stone of both apostles and prophets, one as much as the other.

2. By whom were all things created?

“Which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, *who created all things by Jesus Christ.*” Eph. 3 : 9.

3. When was the creation finished?

“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.*” Gen. 1 : 31 ; 2 : 1.

4. What did the Creator do on the seventh day?

“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made ; and *he rested on the seventh day* from all his work which he had made.” Gen. 2 : 2. If all things were made by Jesus Christ (John 1 : 3, 10 ; Col. 1 : 16), then he rested on the first seventh day from his labor of the creation of the world, just the same as did the Father.

5. After resting from his creative work on that seventh day, what did the Creator do?

“And God *blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it ; because that in it he had rested* from all his work which God created and made.” Gen. 2 : 3. John 1 : 3, 10, says that not only was the world made by Christ, but that *without him was not ANYTHING made that was made.*

6. For whom did Christ say the Sabbath was made?

"And he said unto them, the Sabbath was made *for man*. The word "man" is here used in its generic sense, including all men. The Sabbath was given to Adam as the federal head of the whole human family; and therefore was not a Jewish institution, to be confined to that nation.

7. What is Christ's relation to the Sabbath?

"Therefore the Son of man is *Lord* also of the Sabbath." Mark 2:28.

8. How much honor is due to Christ?

"All men should honor the Son, *even as they honor the Father*." John 5:23. Christ should be honored equally with the Father in the matter of the Sabbath. It was through Christ that God made the world (John 1:3), Christ is declared to be the word of God (Rev. 19:13), and evidently it was through Christ that the seventh day was blessed and sanctified in Eden.

9. Did Christ keep the Sabbath?

"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, *as his custom was*, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read." Luke 4:16. "I have kept my Father's commandments." John 15:10.

10. When the Saviour predicted the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, and the consequent flight of the disciples from all Judea, how did he urge them to regard the Sabbath in that flight?

"But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, *neither on the Sabbath day*." Matt. 24:20.

NOTES. — Nothing is more certain than that at the time of the Roman invasion (A. D. 70) here referred to by the Saviour, the Sabbath was in his mind, and he commanded his disciples to pray to be saved from fleeing on that day. And yet that flight was to be so sudden that no one was to stop to take anything from his house. But even though this was the case, he would have them regard the sacredness of the Sabbath. That flight occurred thirty-nine years after the crucifixion of Christ. If the day was sacred then, it can be no less so in this year of grace.

11. Did the followers of Christ keep the Sabbath after his death?

"And they returned and prepared spices and ointments; *and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment*." Luke 23:56.

12. What did they do on the next day? and what day of the week was it?

"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them." Luke 24:1. Then the Sabbath "according to the commandment," which was kept by Christ and his disciples, was the day next preceding the first day, or Sunday.

13. What day does the commandment say is the Sabbath?

"But *the seventh day is the Sabbath* of the Lord thy God." Ex. 20:10.

14. How enduring are the commandments ?

“The works of his hands are verity and judgment ; all his commandments are sure. *They stand fast forever* and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” Ps. 111 : 7, 8.

15. What did Christ say of the commandments ?

It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.” Luke 16 : 17.

16. What was Christ to do to the law when he came ?

“The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake : *he will magnify the law and make it honorable.*” Isa. 42 : 21. The Sabbath, as a part of that law, must also have been magnified and made honorable by the Saviour. To magnify anything is to make it appear in all its fullness.

17. What did the Saviour say about the Sabbath ?

“Wherefore *it is lawful to do well* on the Sabbath days.” Matt. 12 : 12. “It is lawful ;” that is, according to the law, or in harmony with it.

18. How did the apostle Paul use the Sabbath days ?

“And Paul, *as his manner was*, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days *reasoned with them out of the Scriptures.*” Acts 17 : 2. With reference to his manner, or custom, see Acts 13 : 14, 42, 44 ; 16 : 13 ; 18 : 1-4, 11.

19. On what day was John in the Spirit ?

“I was in the Spirit *on the Lord's day.*” Rev. 1 : 10. In view of what the Saviour has said of being Lord of the Sabbath day, there can be no reasonable doubt that the Sabbath made by Christ in Eden, which he blessed and sanctified for man, and which he kept during his life, and commanded his disciples to keep even in their hasty flight from Judea, is the Lord's day, and the true Christian Sabbath.

