

This tract was written in Scotland in 1840. The Canadian Lord's Day Association feels that this tract is worthy of reprint for our country and the times we live in.

I LOVE THE LORD'S DAY "The Sabbath was made for man"

REASONS WHY WE LOVE THE LORD'S DAY

I. **Because it is the Lord's Day.** - "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice, and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24). "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" (Rev. 1:10). It is His, by example. It is the day on which He rested from His amazing work of redemption. Just as God rested on the seventh day from all His works, wherefore God blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it: so the Lord Jesus rested on this day from all His agony, and pain, and humiliation. "There remaineth therefore the keeping of the Sabbath to the people of God" (Heb. 4:9). The Lord's Day is His property, just as the Lord's Supper is the supper belonging to Christ. It is His table. He is the bread. He is the wine. He invites the guests. He fills them with joy and with the Holy Ghost. So it is with the Lord's Day. All the days of the year are Christ's, but He hath marked out one in seven as peculiarly His own. "He hath made it" or marked it out. Just as He planted a garden in Eden, so He hath fenced about this day and made it His own.

This is the reason we love it, and would keep it entire: We love everything that is Christ's. We love His Word. It is better to us than thousands of gold and silver. "O how we love His law! It is our study all the day." We love His house. It is our trysting place with Christ, where He meets with us and communes with us from off the mercy seat. We love His table. It is His banqueting-house, where His banner over us is love - where He looses our bonds, and anoints our eyes, and makes our hearts burn with holy joy. We love His people, because they are His, members of His body, washed in His blood, filled with His Spirit, our brothers and sisters for eternity. And we love the Lord's Day, because it is His. Every hour of it is dear to us - sweeter than honey, more precious than gold. It is the day He rose for our justification. It reminds us of His love, and His finished work, and His rest. And we may boldly say that man does not love the Lord Jesus Christ who does not love the entire Lord's Day.

Oh, Sabbath-breaker, whoever you are, you are a sacrilegious robber! When you steal the hours of the Lord's Day for business or for pleasure, you are robbing Christ of the precious hours which He claims as His own. Would you not be shocked if a plan were deliberately proposed for the breaking through the fence of the Lord's Table, and turning it into a common meal, or a feast for the profligate and the drunkard? Would not your best feelings be harrowed to see the silver cup of communion made a cup of revelry in the hands of the drunkard? **"The Lord's Day" is as much His day as "the Lord's Table" is His table.** Surely we may well say, in the words of Dr. Love, the eminent servant of Christ, now gone to the Sabbath above, "Cursed is that gain, cursed is that recreation, cursed is that health, which is gained by criminal encroachments on his sacred day."

II. **Because it is a relic or paradise and type of heaven.** - The first Sabbath dawned on the bowers of a sinless paradise. When Adam was created in the image of his Maker, he was put into the garden to dress it and to keep it. No doubt this called forth all

cf. Lev. 23:15, 16). That beginning of all spiritual blessings, that first revival of the Christian Church, was on the Lord's Day. It was on the same day that the beloved John, and exile on the sea girt isle of Patmos, far away from the assembly of the saints, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and received his heavenly revelation.

So that in all ages, from the beginning of the world, and in every place where there is a believer, the Sabbath has been a day of double blessing. It is so still, and will be, though all God's enemies should gnash their teeth in it. True, God is a God of free grace, and confines His working to no time or place: but it is equally true, and all the scoffs of the infidel cannot alter it, that it pleases Him to bless His Word most on the Lord's Day. All God's faithful ministers in every land can bear witness that sinners are converted most frequently on the Lord's Day - that Jesus comes in and shows Himself through the lattices of ordinances oftenest on His own day. Saints, like John, are filled with the Spirit of the Lord's Day, and enjoy calm, deep views into eternity.

Unhappy men, who are striving to rob our beloved Scotland of this day of double blessing, "ye know not what you do." You would wrest from our dear countrymen the day when God opens the windows of heaven and pours down a blessing. You want to make the heavens over Scotland like brass, and the hearts of our people like iron. It is the sound of the golden bells of our ever-living High Priest on the mountains of our land, and the breathing of His Holy Spirit over so many of our parishes, that has roused up your satanic exertions to drown the sweet sound of mercy by the deafening roar of railway carriages? Is it the returning vigor of the revived and chastened Church of Scotland that has opened the torrents of blasphemy which you pour forth against the Lord of the Sabbath? Have your own withered souls no need of a drop from heaven? May it not be the case that some of you are blaspheming the very day on which your own soul might have been saved? Is it not possible that some of you may remember, with tears of anguish in hell, the exertions which you are now making, against light and against warning, to bring down a withering blight on your own souls and the religion of Scotland?

To those who are God's children in this land, I would now, in the name of our common Saviour, who is the Lord of the Sabbath Day, address

A WORD OF EXHORTATION

I. Prize the Lord's Day. - The more that others despise and trample on it, love you it all the more. The louder the storm of blasphemy howls around you, sit the closer at the feet of Jesus. "He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet." Diligently improve all holy time. It should be the busiest day of the seven; but only in the business of eternity. Avoid sin on that holy day. God's children should avoid sin every day, but most of all on the Lord's day. It is a day of double cursing, as well as double blessing. The world will have to answer dreadfully for sins committed in holy time. Spend the Lord's day in the Lord's presence. Spend it as a day in heaven. Spend much of it in praise and in works of mercy, as Jesus did.

II. Defend the Lord's Day. - Lift up a calm, undaunted testimony against all the profanations of the Lord's Day. Use all your influence, whether as a statesman, a magistrate, a master, a father, or a friend both publicly and privately, to defend the entire Lord's Day. This duty is laid upon you in the Fourth Commandment. Never see the Sabbath broken without reproving the breaker of it. Even worldly men, with all their pride

his energies. To train the luxuriant vine, to gather the fruit trees and flowers, required all his time and all his skill. Man was never made to be idle. Still, when the Sabbath Day comes round, his rural implements were all laid aside: the garden no longer was his care. His calm, pure mind looked beyond things seen into the world of eternal realities. He walked with God in the garden, seeking deeper knowledge of Jehovah and His ways, his heart burning more and more with holy love, and his lips overflowing with seraphic praise. **Even in paradise man needed a Sabbath.** Without it Eden itself would have been incomplete. How little they know the joys of Eden, the delight of a close and holy walk with God, who would wrest from Scotland this relic of a sinless world!

It is also the type of heaven. When a believer lays aside his pen or loom, brushes aside his worldly cares, leaving them behind with his weekday clothes, and comes up to the House of God, it is like the morning of the resurrection, the day when we shall come out of great tribulation into the presence of God and the Lamb. When he sits under the preached Word, and hears the voice of the shepherd leading and feeding his soul, it reminds him to the day when the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall feed him and lead him to living fountains of waters. When he joins in the psalm of praise it reminds him of the day when his hands shall strike the harp of God -

"Where congregations ne'er break up,
And Sabbaths have no end."

When he retires, and meets with God in secret in his closet, or, like Isaac, in some favourite spot near his dwelling, it reminds him of the day when "he shall be a pillar in the house of our God, and go no more out."

This is the reason we love the Lord's Day. This is the reason we "call the Sabbath a delight." A well-spent Sabbath we feel to be a day of heaven upon earth. For this reason we wish our Sabbaths to be wholly given to God. We love to spend the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. We love to rise early on that morning, and to sit up late, that we may have long day with God.

How many know from this that they will never be in heaven! A straw on the surface can tell which way the stream is flowing. Do you abhor a holy Sabbath? Is it a kind of hell to you to be with those who are in strict keeping with the Lord's Day? The writer of these lines once felt as you do. You are restless and uneasy. You say, "Behold, what a weariness is it!" "When will the Sabbath be gone, that we may sell corn?" Ah! soon, very soon, and you will be in hell. Hell is the only place for you. Heaven is one long, never-ending Sabbath day. There are no Sabbaths in hell.

III. Because it is a day of blessings. - When God instituted the Sabbath in paradise, it is said, "God blessed the Sabbath day, and sanctified it" (Gen. 2:3). He not only set it apart as a sacred day, but he made it a day of blessing. Again, when the Lord Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week before dawn, He revealed Himself the same day to two disciples going to Emmaus, and made their hearts burn within them (Luke 24:13). The same evening He came and stood in the midst of the disciples, and said "Peace be unto you"; and he breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:19). Again, after eight days, that is, **the next Lord's Day;** Jesus came and stood in the midst, and revealed Himself with unspeakable grace to unbelieving Thomas (John 20:26). It was on the Lord's Day, also, that the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost (Acts 2:1;

and contempt for us, cannot endure to be convicted of Sabbath breaking. Always remember God and the Bible are on your side, and that you will soon see these men cursing their own sin and folly when too late.

Christian countrymen, awake! and, filled with the same spirit that delivered our country from the dark superstitions of Rome, let us beat back the incoming tide of infidelity and enmity to the Sabbath.

Guilty men who, under Satan, are leading on the deep, dark phalanx of Sabbath-breakers, yours is a solemn position. You are **robbers**. You rob God of His holy day. You are **murderers**. You murder the souls of your servants. God said, "Thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy servant"; but you compel your servants to break God's law, and to sell their souls for gain. You are **sinners against light**. Your Bible and your catechism, the words of Godly parents, perhaps now in the Sabbath above and the loud remonstrances of God-fearing men, are ringing in your ears, while you perpetrate this deed of shame, and glory in it. You are **traitors to your country**. The law of your country declares that you should "observe a holy rest all that day from your own words, works and thoughts"; and yet you flout it as an antiquated superstition. Was it not Sabbath-breaking that made God cast away Israel? And yet you would bring that same curse on Scotland now. You are **moral suicides**, stabbing your own souls, proclaiming to the world that you are not the Lord's people, and hurrying on your souls to meet the Sabbath-breakers doom.

In conclusion, I propose, for the calm consideration of all sober-minded men, the following

SERIOUS QUESTIONS:

1. Can you name one Godly minister of any denomination in all Scotland, who does not hold the duty of the entire sanctification of the Lord's Day?
2. Did you ever meet with a lively believer in any country under heaven - one who loved Christ, and lived a holy life - who did not delight in keeping holy to God the entire Lord's Day?
3. Is it wise to take the interpretation of God's will concerning the Lord's Day from "men of the world," from infidels, scoffers, men of unholy lives, men who are sand-blind in all divine things, men who are the enemies of all righteousness, who quote scripture freely, as Satan did, to deceive and betray?
4. If, in opposition to the uniform testimony of God's wisest and holiest servants, against the plain warnings of God's Word, against the very word of your catechism, learned beside your mother's knee, and against the voice of your outraged conscience, you join the ranks of the Sabbath-breakers, will not this be a **sin against light**, will it not lie heavy on your soul upon your deathbed, will it not meet you in the judgement day?

I am praying that these words of truth and soberness may be owned of God, and carried home to your hearts with divine power.

I remain, dear fellow countrymen, your soul's well-wisher,

Robert Murray McCheyne

Dundee

December 18, 1841.

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Dundee,

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