

**A
GUIDE**

**To
Positive
Action
To
Strengthen
LORD'S
DAY
Observance**



A GUIDE TO POSITIVE ACTION TO STRENGTHEN LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE

The fulfilling and exhilarating pattern for abundant joyful living today is clearly indicated in Scripture. Over against the overwhelming and distressing evidence of the mutually destructive decline of respect for the authority of Biblical teaching and the practical observance of the Lord's Day is a new seeking for the presence and help of God to face the personal and family tragedies in so much of life in America today.

The Creation Story, the Fourth Commandment, the warning and promises of the Prophets, the teaching and example of Christ and the practice of the early Church all show we can expect such sad results from the ignoring of the Biblical imperatives, honoring God's clearly expressed concerns for His place and time in the lives of His people.

The first priority of The Lord's Day Alliance's basic strategy as it enters the second century of its mission is the *Biblical emphasis on observing the Lord's Day* as a matter of faith and practice.

This honors God's setting aside of one day in seven for spiritual, emotional and physical refreshing and the strengthening of God's relationship to all people.

- It is a day of personal, family and corporate worship.
- It is a day of reflection, thanksgiving and prayer.
- It is a day of study and fellowship.
- It is a day set free for proclaiming the love of God in Christ in word and deed.
- It is a day of spiritual refreshment in contrast to the worldly demands upon time, thought and effort.

It is, therefore, a personal and family day of worship, re-creation and relaxation which allows the stresses and tensions of modern life to be released and the cultivation of the soul

and spirit to be expanded.

The Lord's Day Alliance seeks to help communities and churches promote Lord's Day Observance in the following ways:

- I. **By encouraging Biblical preaching, emphasizing God's relationship to man and man's relation to God in such Biblical references as are found in:**
 1. The Creation Story — Genesis 2:1-3
 2. The Fourth Commandment — Exodus 20: 8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Exodus 31: 14-17.
 3. The Warnings and Promises of the Prophets — Nehemiah 13: 15-22; Isaiah 58: 13, 14; 56: 2; Jeremiah 17: 21-27; Ezekiel 20: 13-20; 22:8; Amos 8:4-8; Psalm 37: 1-7; 118: 24.
 4. The Teaching and Example of Jesus Christ — Mark 6: 2; Matthew 12: 12; Luke 6: 1-11; John 5: 8-16; Acts 16: 13; 17: 2; Mark 16: 9; Luke 24: 13-15; John 20:19.
 5. The Teaching and Practice of the Early Church — Acts 13:13; Acts 16: 13; 17: 2; I Corinthians 16: 2; Acts 20: 7; Revelation 1: 10-11; Acts 13: 14; Hebrews 10: 24, 25.
- II. **Through stressing positive Lord's Day education in the Sunday School, Church Schools and Youth Groups —**

Acts 16: 13; 17: 2; Deuteronomy 6: 1-13; 8: 1-18.
- III. **By urging Christians as individuals and in concert with the business and professional communities to join in appeals for protecting our people's Sunday freedom of conscience from economic or political penalty —**
 1. Through Merchant Associations
 2. Through enlisting merchant and community petitions for the protection of their employees to:
 - (1) City Councils
 - (2) Boards of Aldermen
 - (3) County Supervisors
 - (4) Television and Radio Stations

3. Through letters to the Editor on Sunday Observance
 4. Through enlisting articles from editors, ministers and others highlighting the importance and advantages of Sunday Observance.
 5. Through seeking to utilize and to encourage the media to develop positive attitudes toward Lord's Day Observance.
- IV. **Through asking that we take Sunday time to reflect on the suffering of those in need and also plan specific help to feed the hungry.**
- V. **By providing model samples of legislation to protect the freedom of conscience of the individual who refuses to work on Sunday from economic or political penalty.**
- VI. **Through opposing legislation which would erode the observance of the Lord's Day.**

The Lord's Day Alliance is concerned to make every effort to strengthen the observance of the Lord's Day. We appreciate your undertaking to do this in your territory and will provide every help possible.

Dwelling in the house of God (Psalm 27:4) does not mean spending every day in Church. To dwell in His house constantly is to be conscious of His nearness, always possessing God-consciousness.

Let the Lord's Day be your special day, a day set aside for refreshing your spirit and renewing your purposes and commitments to Christ. For that you need to spend time in God's House of worship, among fellow believers. Those who live for God each day but do not use the special day He gives will find it exceedingly difficult to be radiant disciples under all circumstances (Matthew 5: 16).



The Lord's Day Alliance will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in Washington, D.C. October 1988.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES February 7, 1985 meeting in Stone Mountain, Georgia, one of its distinguished members, Counsel Julius B. Poppinga of New Jersey, made a motion that the Executive Committee in consultation with such other committees as it may deem advisable study the basic strategy of The Lord's Day Alliance as it enters upon the 2nd century of its mission with particular regard to the relative priority to be given to appeals to government action as a matter of law, as over against appeals for voluntary observation as a matter of faith.

The following members of the Board of Managers were appointed by President Charles A. Platt to work with the Executive Committee: Timothy E. Bird, C. Grier Davis, Searcy S. Garrison, W. Frank Harrington, Julius B. Poppinga. Members of the Executive Committee are: Charles A. Platt, Chairman; Joe M. Abbott, Andrew R. Bird, Jr., Floyd A. Craig, Paul J. Craven, Jr., E. Larry Eidson, Charles L. Holland, Jr., John A. Nix, Donald R. Pepper, and John H. Schaal.

Dr. Andrew R. Bird, Jr. of Sterling, Virginia, was asked to prepare the findings of the Committee and later by Board action asked to prepare this pamphlet for publication. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Bird, the Strategy Committee named above, the Executive Committee and our Board of Managers for this pamphlet.

Copies may be obtained by writing or phoning
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