

WHAT GOD WILL YOU WORSHIP ON SUNDAY?

1. **The god of EASE?** "Had a hard week: got to get some rest."
2. **The god of MAMMON?** "Need the day for another dollar!"
3. **The god of POPULARITY?** "Folks came; must entertain."
4. **The god of RECREATION?** "This is my only day off. I need some time for myself".
5. **The god of SELF-PRIDE?** "They didn't do me right."
6. **The GOD OF HEAVEN?** "I love GOD and His SON and will be present for every service."

When you absent yourself from the gathering of the saints upon the first Day of each week, you are sending a message to God and the world that the Father in heaven is not your Master. *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey; his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness"* (Eph. 6:16).

COME UNTO ME

Often we quote Matthew 11:28-30 and point out how it is Jesus that made the command to come unto Him and note the blessings that one will receive as a result of heeding His call. However, we wish to put emphasis on one aspect of those first three words, "come unto me".

First note that this is a command! It is not a suggestion or a request, but a command. Though there is great reason to do what the Lord said in the form of benefits offered, no other reason need exist than that the Lord commanded people to come unto Him.

Secondly, and this is the purpose of this brief article, the command is for man to come to Him, not the other way around. It is man that *goes astray and leaves the proper relationship that exists between man and God* by way of his or her sins. Sin separates man from God (Isa. 59:1-2; I Pet. 3:12). Sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). Thus, man is the sinner when he disobeys God, making him the one who has left God rather than God leaving man. The old joke about the elderly man and woman riding down the road in the car, he driving and she sitting next to the passenger side door and saying, "do you remember when we used to sit so close together when traveling down the road?"; To which the man replied, "I haven't moved", serves to show the separation rests on the shoulders of man who has left the Lord. It is therefore incumbent upon man to come back to the Lord.

Many in this world would have us pray, wait and beg for the Lord or the Holy Spirit to come to us. It is man that must come to the Lord. Man is the offender and must be reconciled to God. Paul wrote, "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation...we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (II Cor. 5:18-20). The gospel of Christ calls man to put away the sinful life, obey the gospel and live in harmony with the word that we might be reconciled to God resulting in the blessings that the Lord spoke of so briefly in Matt. 11:28-30. We are called by the gospel (II Thess. 2:14) and all the righteousness of God (which are all God's commandments, Psalm 119:172) are revealed in it (Rom. 1:17). Jesus said, "Come unto me...". Do it!

Robert