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INTRODUCTION

Christianity is a lifestyle. It is a worldview. It is a way of life. Disciples of the Master Teacher, Jesus Christ, live and function in a world that is largely opposed to the Savior and His followers. Conversion has changed our status from being in the world to now being “in Christ” (Ephesians 1:7; Galatians 3:27). By continuing to live in the world, we have an obligation to worship God faithfully each Sunday, the first day of the week. We are also called to live a daily life of submission and obedience to Christ in all things.

ORIGINAL INTENT

The early Christians’ example of dedication to observe the Lord’s Day each week and daily live by faith, despite persecution, was due to having walked in the footsteps of the One who died for them. In other words, they lived the Christian life between Sundays.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day,

attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Should we not be as close, unified and dedicated as the early church? Do you remember your conversion to Christ? This is the pivotal point in one's life; making the decision to make Christ our Lord and Master. Post conversion finds that the concept of ownership has changed. It is no longer "my will" but "His Will." Christ's sacrifice purchased us from the slavery of sin and freed us from captivity to make us servants of righteousness (Romans 6:15-19).

To many, the concept of "church" is the building. The term "sanctuaryism" denotes the idea of a sacred place. Application is made today by relating our Christian faith to what takes place inside the building on Sunday. However, the church is the people, not the building or meeting place.

What has caused this misunderstanding?

1. Membership mentality: Now that I am a member, I can show up now and then and everything is all right. My name is in The Book of Life (Revelation 21:27), I am secure; now I can relax and take it easy.
2. The Sunday morning only syndrome: In some places, a significant portion of the attendance Sunday morning is that of individuals who are not fully committed to Christ and His Church. Have we been guilty of patronizing this crowd only to allow them to feel secure in their relationship with God?
3. The tendency to compartmentalize our "church life" and our "daily life" (work, family, school, social, community involvement). We deceive ourselves into thinking Sunday fulfills our obligation for the other six days.

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The truth is, God demands our complete attention, devotion, our ALL! C. S. Lewis illustrated this when he wrote:

Christ says, Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. I don't want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, but to have it out. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked – the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours.¹

Let us give God our whole being every moment of every day of the week.

CHAPTER SYNOPSIS

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:12-16

1. C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: Touchstone Book, 1996), 169.

Paul encouraged the saints at Philippi to persevere in living the Christian life every day by working “out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Christianity is to be lived out between Sundays. Chapter one presents the importance of the Lord’s Day in Christianity. Sunday has fallen upon hard times in our current culture and we are reminded in its observance how God desires it be utilized.

Chapter two highlights our living daily by faith which is practiced in obedience to God and results in good works.

Chapter three serves to remind us to continually study the Bible. Tragically, God’s Word is being neglected, and we should be like the Bereans who examined the Scriptures daily.

Chapter four develops the teaching of the two great commandments requiring us to love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength, and also love our neighbor as our self.

Chapter five uncovers the Christian’s duty between Sundays to be salt, light and leaven, which refers to our daily example.

Chapter six examines how the Christian is a slave of Christ and in turn a servant to all.

Chapter seven explores the words of Christ when He said: “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

Chapter eight calls us to live holy lives and be aware of the dangers of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Chapter nine reviews the role of labor in man’s existence and looks at the Christian’s position in the workplace and touches upon five of the challenges we face in our culture.

Chapter ten is an appeal for the servants of God to be balanced in the activities of their daily lives. Busyness is sometimes viewed as being productive and this false view is exposed.

Chapter eleven relays the importance of prayer by examining the attributes of God and how the more we know Him, the more beneficial our prayer life will be.

Chapter twelve in *Between Sundays* discusses God’s plan and role for the home in society. We need to know and fulfill our individual roles. The chapter further examines marriage as God ordained and originated it is the only authorized arrangement.

Chapter thirteen provides a Scriptural prospectus for the Christian as a member of the body of Christ, the church for which Jesus died, and highlights some challenges and solutions that permeate the church today.

The chapters in *Between Sundays* remind us of the lifestyle that follows Christ in every way, all the time. Christians do not take vacations from their faith. Being a Christian is who we are *Between Sundays*.