

DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

“AND WHEN THE SABBATH WAS PAST...”

by the Rev. Lorentz R. Soneson

“And when the Sabbath was past...”

Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome were careful to obey the laws of their church. They knew that Jewish laws strictly forbade doing any work of any kind on the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. The Third Commandment said to “rest.” They understood that to mean no work of any kind. They could not even fix food, or walk very far. For this reason, they could not bring the spices to anoint the Lord’s body on that day.

But because of their great love of the Lord, they were anxious to go the minute the Sabbath was over. That was when the sun began to rise on the first day of the week. It was then that they found the great stone rolled away. An angel was there to tell them the Lord had risen, as He said He would.

We celebrate Easter every year remembering that wonderful day. We share with others the gladness and joy of the Lord’s rising. This miracle of miracles amazed all the disciples. It proved that He, Who was crucified, had power over the heavens and also power over the hells. He even ruled over death itself.

On Easter, you sing about these glad tidings. You show your joy by putting beautiful flowers on the altar. We all celebrate because the Lord arose from the grave. And we celebrate His whole life on earth: His birth at Christmas; His miracles of healing the sick and crippled; His wonderful teachings to the people who followed Him to learn about heaven; and finally His rising from the grave and going up into heaven. Also, as New Churchmen, we include in our celebration the Lord’s Coming again to us through the Writings of our Church. It is through these teachings we now can see that the Lord came into the world to fight against the hells. He did this to protect us from their evil attacks. It was only after all these events, that He returned to heaven.

Things were different in the world because of His Coming, more than you know now. Your way to heaven is forever protected. No longer do you need to worship a mysterious Jehovah God. No longer, either, is there mystery about who rose from the grave. It was the Lord Himself. Now you are free to see the Lord as He really is, because He has opened a view to Himself, through the Word. Through the Word He speaks words of truth, and shows us His love.

His birth, life, and final rising is marked by a new understanding of the Third Commandment. “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” The Jewish Church still keeps this Commandment by resting on the seventh day (our Saturday), as Mary Magdalene and the other women honored it. Today, we are told how to keep this Commandment in a *new* way. Our lesson explained that the Sabbath day is one of rest from our labors. But it is also a day of instruction. It is a day to

think about the Lord, and about ways we can show love to our neighbors. We can remember this change because we celebrate the Lord's resurrection as the Sabbath day. It is now the *first* day of the week when we worship the Lord; not the seventh. We should keep the first day holy, by learning, by worshipping, and by quiet thoughts about heaven.

To keep the Lord first in our thoughts, in our loves, and in our daily life is to really keep the Third Commandment. And doing this will keep the joy of Easter in every day of our lives. *Amen.*

Texts: Mark 16: 1-6; *True Christian Religion* 301