

THE

LORD'S DAY

**If God kept the Sabbath, and the  
Israelites kept the Sabbath, and  
Jesus kept the Sabbath...**



**Then why do Christians worship on  
Sunday?**

# THE SABBATH?

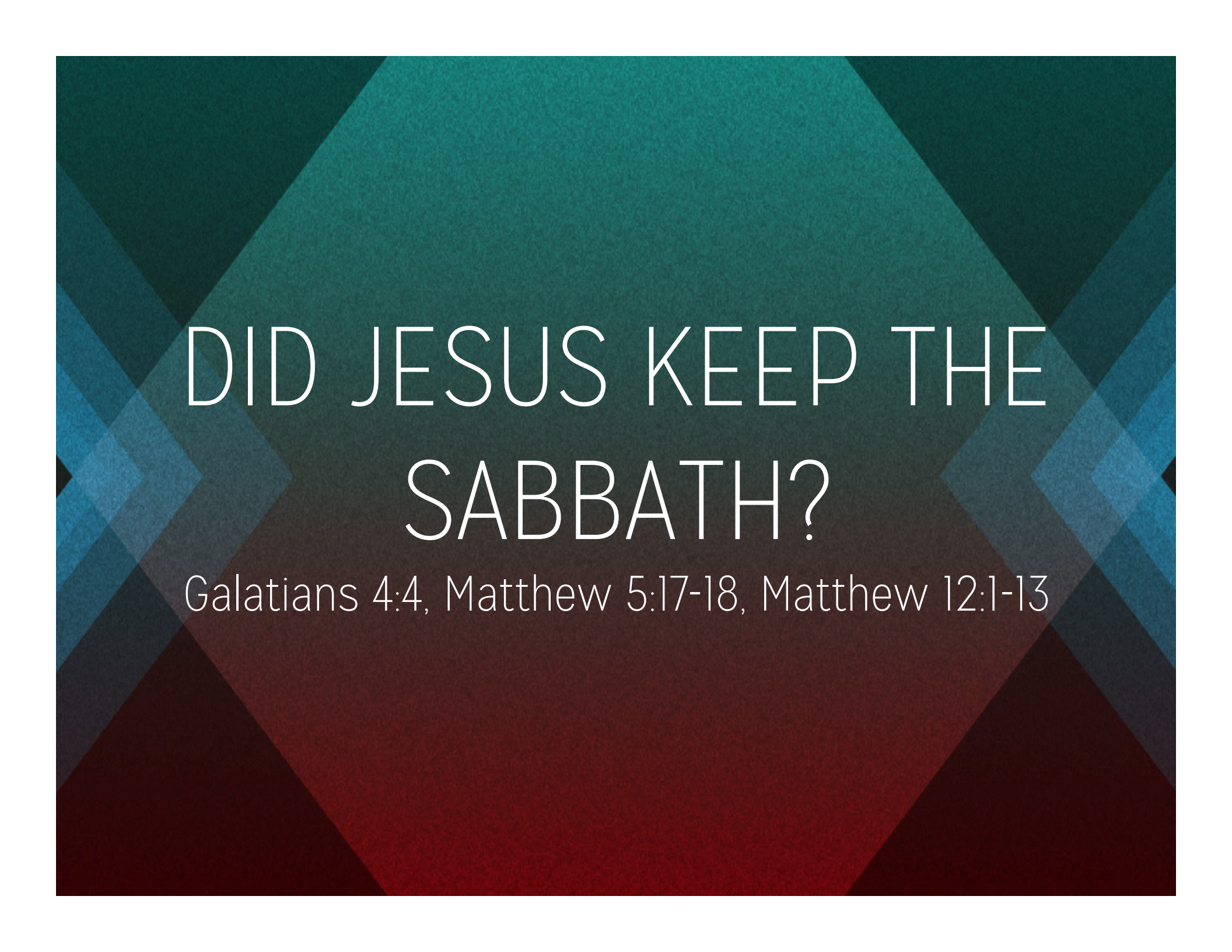
- Some have assumed that man's first model for a day of worship is found in Genesis 2:3. It was a "Sabbath", which literally means to cease or interrupt activities.
- What kind of cessation are we talking about, though? And what is its duration? See John 5:16-18.
- It cannot be overemphasized that this was God's rest, not man's, and 2,500 years of "Sabbath silence" are found until Exodus!

# “A HOLY SABBATH TO THE LORD”

- Exodus 16:23 – The first reference since creation. The Israelites were clearly unfamiliar with the practice, especially considering their treatment in Egypt.
- Nehemiah 9:13-14 – “Made known to them”
- Exodus 20:8-11 – While the connection is made between their rest and God’s, it is only symbolic, and meant as an explanation. Cessation is a “good” thing – God is not above purposeful “inactivity” (Isaiah 58:13).

“Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you..”

EXODUS 31:13-17



# DID JESUS KEEP THE SABBATH?

Galatians 4:4, Matthew 5:17-18, Matthew 12:1-13

# WHAT ABOUT PAUL?

- It should be noted that the apostle Paul frequently kept the Sabbath until Acts 18:4-6, after which the Sabbath is never mentioned again, except as something obsolete and unsubstantial (Colossians 2:13-17) and (symbolically) as a heavenly rest yet to be obtained (Hebrews 4).
- Clearly, the Sabbath was only used as a means to an end for the apostles.



# IS SUNDAY THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH?

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:8-11, Romans 14:5-6, 12:1



# NO PARALLEL

- The Sabbath was a day of inactivity for a physical nation in a covenant relationship with the LORD (Ex. 16:29, 35:1-3). It is included in the Law that is obsolete, and done away with (Heb. 8:13, Eph. 2:14-15).
- Christian worship is any time, any place (Rom. 12:1, Ac. 1:14, 2:42-47), with some specific acts commanded by example on Sundays. Sunday did not replace the Sabbath, since their functions and meaning are completely different!

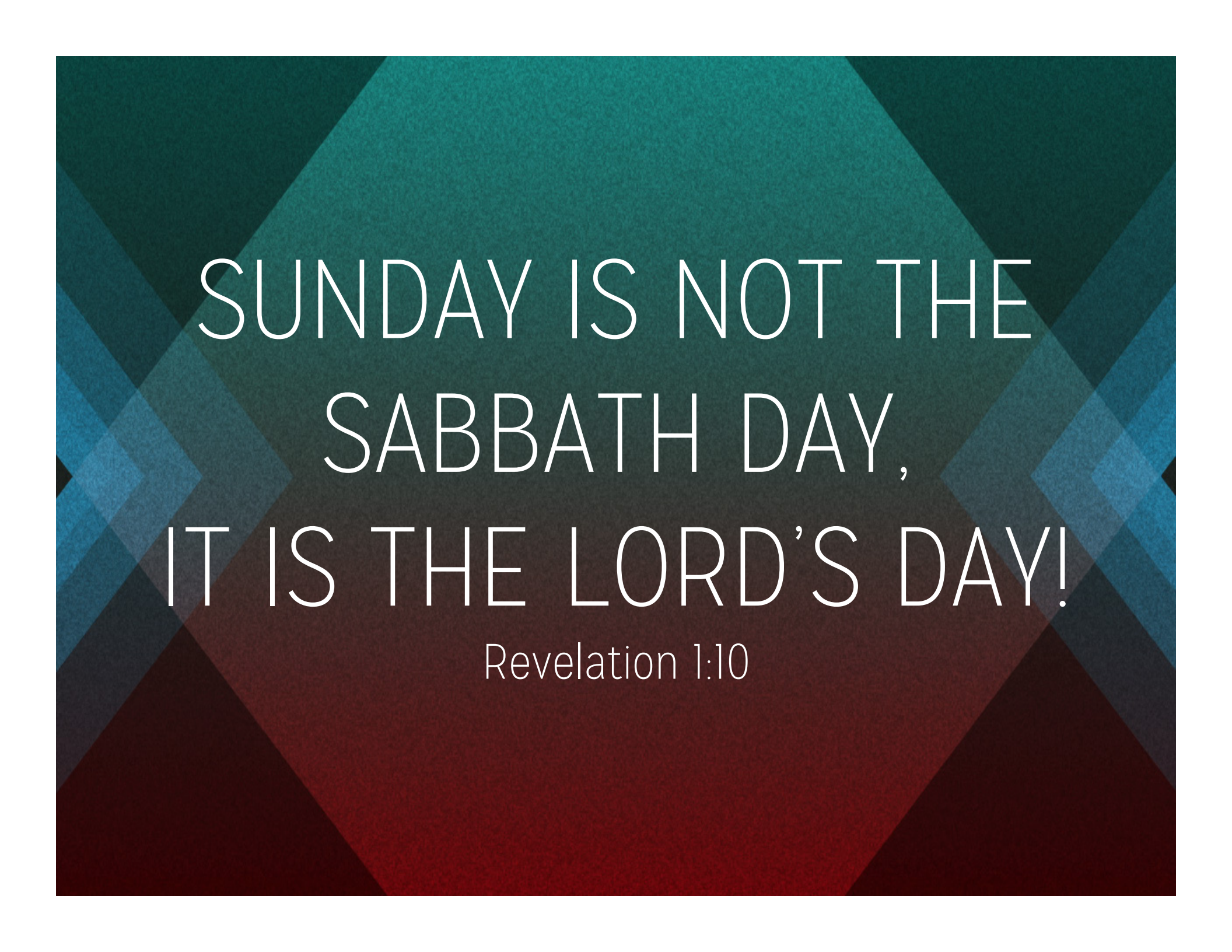
# THE LORD'S DAY

- The Sabbath was a day to rest. Sunday is the day of Christ's resurrection (John 20:1, Luke 24:1, Matt. 28:1). The Sabbath corresponds to the cessation of God's creative activity, but the first day corresponds to new things (Eph. 2:10, 4:24, 2 Cor. 5:17, Heb. 10:19-20, Luke 22:20/Ex. 24:8).
- By example, Christians are to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on Sunday (Acts 20:7), as well as participate in congregational acts of service (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

# THE LORD'S DAY

A photograph of a glass of red wine and a piece of bread on a white surface. The glass is partially filled with red wine, and the bread is a small, square, golden-brown piece. The background is a light-colored, textured surface.

Only a few years after the death of the last Apostle, Justin Martyr wrote, "But Sunday is the day which we hold our common assembly, because it is the first day of the week, and Jesus our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead".



SUNDAY IS NOT THE  
SABBATH DAY,  
IT IS THE LORD'S DAY!

Revelation 1:10