

October 2nd, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 2 – Badman’s Wicked Behaviour In Childhood - Part 3 (page 22 - 23)

Church, the Sabbath, the Lord's Day; these titles depict Sunday to Christians. Mr. Badman had great distaste for going to church as a child, which we'll elaborate on today. First, I'd like to share this short, light-hearted video that we showed. It's entitled, [Sunday Morning](#) and probably exemplifies thousands of homes where people are getting ready to go to church.

In North America, Sunday has morphed into any other day of the week. The days are gone in which businesses, bars and sporting events shut down and everyone makes it a priority to attend church. But the purpose of coming together as the Body of Christ is clear in **Romans 12:3-8** in the Amplified Bible where it says; "*For by the grace [of God] given to me I say to everyone of you not to think more highly of himself [and of his importance and ability] than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has apportioned to each a degree of faith [and a purpose designed for service]. For just as in one [physical] body we have many parts, and these parts do not all have the same function or special use, so we, who are many, are [nevertheless just] one body in Christ, and individually [we are] parts one of another [mutually dependent on each other]. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them accordingly: if [someone has the gift of] prophecy, [let him speak a new message from God to His people] in proportion to the faith possessed; if service, in the act of serving; or he who teaches, in the act of teaching; or he who encourages, in the act of encouragement; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy [in caring for others], with cheerfulness.*" Our gifts, which are more than those mentioned in this text, that God has given to us are to be shared with fellow believers and when you're not congregating at church, it handicaps the church, because a part of the body is missing. [1 Corinthians 12:12-31](#) is expressly clear when it talks about the unity and diversity of each of us who together make up the body of Christ.

Acts 2:46-47 says; "*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*" The birth of church brought such power, love and anticipation of what God was doing, that it says they got together every day! Wouldn't that be awesome to see in the last days, that people couldn't wait to get to church on a daily basis to pray, fellowship and evangelise the lost! **Hebrews 10:24-25** says; "*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*" We see and hear a clear admonition from the Bible to not miss out on church, coming together with fellow Christians.

The New Testament Christians did not do away with the Sabbath as was commanded by God in the Ten Commandments given to Moses where it says in **Exodus 20:8**; "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*" However, instead of meeting on Saturday which is the Jewish Sabbath, we'll see clearly that the early Christians and apostles met together on the first day of the week, which falls on Sunday.

- As Christians, we are no longer under the Old Testament Law but under the new covenant that Jesus made for us. [Galatians 3:24-25](#)
- Jesus was raised from the dead on the first day of the week, [Matthew 28:1](#); he appeared again to his disciples who were gathered together on Sunday in [John 20:19-20](#)
- The early church Christians met regularly on Sundays; **Acts 20:7**; "*Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*" **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** also says; "*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*"

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees in **Mark 2:27** as they had distorted the Sabbath; "*And He said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.'*" The Sabbath wasn't to enslave people but to be a benefit to them. This attitude continued into the New Testament as rest and worship. It's very similar to what we talked about last week regarding tithes. God asks us only to give Him 10% of all the 100% that he's given to us freely, graciously and without withholding. In the same way, when we give him the first day of the week, Sunday, the rest of the week is sanctified and will be a blessed. Jesus said in the sermon on the mount in **Matthew 6:31-33**; "*Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all*

these things shall be added to you." If we come together as the family of God, the body of Christ and corporately seek his kingdom...everything else will be added. If we set Sunday apart as holy and worship to God, every other day of the week will be holy and filled with worship.

Wiseman says regarding those who don't go to church that their true heart is being revealed; "*WISEMAN. Yes, doubtless. A man reveals his heart and his life in what they are more by one Lord's Day than by all the other days of the week. And the reason for this is because on the Lord's Day there is a special restraint laid on men as to thoughts and life more than on other days of the week. Also, men are encouraged on that day to observe a stricter performance of holy duties, and a restriction on worldly business than upon other days. If their hearts are not inclined naturally to good, they will now reveal it, for it shows them up for what they are. The Lord's Day is a kind of emblem of the heavenly Sabbath above, making clear how the heart stands in relation to the perpetuity of holiness, even more than in passing duties.*" A little further on he continues by saying; "*Therefore, God puts a great difference between those who truly call this day holy, and walk in it, and count it honourable, to provide them with the opportunity to show how they delight to honour God, in that they have not only an hour, but a whole day, to show it. (Is. 58:13) I say, he puts a great difference between these, and the other sort who say, "When will the Sabbath be gone, that we may be at our worldly business?" (Amos 8:5). The first he calls a blessed man, but brands the other an unsanctified worldling. And, indeed, to delight ourselves in God's service on his holy days gives a better proof of a sanctified nature than to grudge their coming, and be weary of holy duties of such days, as Mr. Badman did.*" Pretty powerful isn't it. **Isaiah 58:13-14** as mentioned above says this; "*If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.*" Here we see the priority of honoring the Lord's day!

Attentive goes on to say the following; "*They pretend to love God, and yet have no love for his holy day, and have no desire to spend that day in one continual act of holiness for the Lord. They had better say nothing than call him "Lord, Lord" and not do whatever he says. And this Mr. Badman was just like that; he could not stand the day, nor any of the duties that went with it. Indeed, when he could get away from his friends, and spend it in all manner of idleness and profaneness, then he was pleased well enough.*" **Leviticus 19:3** says; "*Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.*" Also **Exodus 31:16** says; "*Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.*" We're interchanging the Old and New Testaments here, but the early church believers still held fast to the first day of the week as a day of rest and fellowship. Anything less than this would be considered to have a rebellious heart or being disobedient and as Paul says in **Ephesians 5:6**, "*Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*" I really don't want to fall under God's wrath because I'm not obeying Him. Do you?

Whatever you sow to, that is what you will reap. So if you sow to fleshly things on the Lord's Day, you'll reap fleshly things, not the Lord's peace and blessing. This isn't meant to be legalistic but to show what you're missing by not attending church. I know this is an extremely 'hot potato' or 'hot button' issue. So many things have crowded into our Sundays haven't they.

- Sporting events have become centre stage for all day entertainment to ensure that you either can't miss going to it, taking your children to it or watching it on TV
- Retailers have made it very easy now that you can shop on Sunday's - ultimately it's money gain for them.
- Charities have capitalized on marathons, fund-raisers and the like to pull you away from church, but to make you 'feel good' that you're participating in an honorable social event.
- Weather - summertime fun! Your flesh may feel good for a while but has it reaped eternal value.
- As Mr. Badman, your children manifest on you, throw temper tantrums, pick fights with their siblings, and if you're not strong and discerning, you give in and miss church.
- Health is also a big one, but wouldn't it be great that if you could still make it to church, you'd have the elders lay hands on you for healing, or if you were too ill and in bed or in the hospital, they could come and pray the prayer of faith and see you be healed!
- Jobs - some industries push the limits and require working on Sundays. I would suggest that if that is what they would require, if your conviction is firm that it is the Lord's day, God will open another place of employment that won't require you from working on Sunday.

- You wake up with depression, hopelessness and despair and can't roll out of bed! That's a sure sign that you need to be in church to receive prayer.

On top of all of these, the devil absolutely and unequivocally hates Sunday and people going to church where they will be built up, edified sitting under the preaching of God's Word and corporately worshipping God. So the more obstacles and distractions he can make to keep you away from God's rest, he will do it! It's spiritual warfare. Our adversary wants to set snares for you to fall into and because God said he wants you to rest and fellowship with other Christians on Sunday, to grow in your calling, election and gifts that he has given you, mark my word, the devil will distract and dissuade you at all costs!

Now your flesh may 'feel good' that you've been thoroughly entertained, or you got the deal of the century, or that your child came in first place in the race or whatever the case...but has your spirit man been built up and edified? You haven't given to the body in your gifts and talents that God wants you to do. Self-justification is huge but it isn't obedience to God's word is it?

You know I'm amazed when I read or hear stories about persecuted believers around the world. In the midst of their very lives and families lives being in danger, they don't think twice about not gathering together with their fellow Christians! Now that should make everyone stop in their tracks and examine their hearts shouldn't it? The Bible says in **Matthew 18:20**; "*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*" Just as the early church gathered in houses for fellowship, so the same is going on around the world today, from 2 people to thousands of people, the church is gathering. Please don't fall victim to the lies of the devil that would make you think it's not important to go to church or that you don't have gifts or calling on your life. Don't let society, family, work, entertainment, sports etc pull you away from contributing your part to the body of Christ. The cost of discipleship is great. Jesus says in **Luke 9:62**; "*But Jesus said to him, 'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'*" Your life isn't your own now as a Christian, you belong to Jesus Christ and the heavenly Father! He requires obedience

So much is taught on the church and we've only skimmed the surface. Our prayer is that you take to heart what you've read from the story of Mr. Badman and this review. Don't be a lone ranger thinking you can make it on your own without your fellow Christians on Sundays. You need them and they need you!