

To use this text as proof of regular Sunday-keeping by all the early Christians, or as legislation for Sunday observance by all future Christians, in all lands, for all time, is to go far beyond the evidence contained in the text.

This exhausts the eight New Testament references to the "first day of the week". We will now consider the lone reference to "the Lord's day" which some regard as the key-witness for Sunday sacredness.

THE NINTH TEXT — REV. 1 : 10

This passage refers to a literal person—John; a literal place—the isle of Patmos; a literal condition—"in the Spirit", and a literal time—"the Lord's day".

It proves beyond question that in the Christian age, God still has a day which He claims as His own. However, no number, such as first, second, third, etc., is linked with the "Lord's day" in this text. Nor is it safe for us to guess which day of the week it was. The Bible alone must be allowed to decide this question. To discover which day of the week God claims as His own, we must turn to other Scriptures, such as Ex. 20 : 8-11; Isa. 58 : 13, 14; Ezek. 20 : 12, 20; Mark 2 : 27, 28. These passages show that the only day of the week which the Lord has ever claimed as His special property is the seventh day! If we are resolved to let the Bible and the Bible only settle this question, then the Sabbath alone qualifies as the true "Lord's day."

*(Remove flap of pillars with texts, and reveal pillars bearing the word
"T-R-A-D-I-T-I-O-N")*

Conclusion We now have positive proof that Sunday sacredness had no place whatever in the example or teachings of Jesus, nor was it part of "the faith once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). The time-honoured custom of Sunday observance is thus shown to be without one particle of Scriptural foundation! The only foundation it has ever had is "Tradition", which is another name for "the commandments of men"! (Matt. 15 : 6, 9).

This conclusion will come as a great shock to many conscientious Sunday-keepers. How shall we relate ourselves to this challenging situation?

Only two courses are open to us:

Matt. 12 : 30: "He that is not with Me is against Me."

(See Chart No. 28—Truth or Tradition?)

The only safe position is to stand where Jesus stands on this question. It is always safe to follow where Jesus leads the way!

John 8 : 12: "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."