

**GOOD SUNDAYS MAKE BETTER MONDAYS**  
**October 8, 2017 Morning Service**  
**Isaiah 58:13-14**

We're going to read two verses out loud all together so if you'd find your place or look up on the screen. We are in this five week series of I Love Sundays. I'm glad we could meet today and gather here. We're a little shy of what we normally have in this service of course but I'm glad you're here. Don't worry about who's not here. Just thank God He's here. Amen.

He is in our midst and I want you to invite some friends to join us, especially two weeks from today. Pick up one of these little cards out there on the welcome desk. Get you a handful of those and invite somebody you know that needs to know the Lord for the 22<sup>nd</sup> to join us on that great day when we're going to be really focusing in on an evangelistic thrust for that day and a baptismal day.

Today we're looking at "Good Sundays Make Better Mondays." We live in a never stop culture of pressure where we have to meet deadlines, make ends meet, and rush to get it done but God gave us the Sabbath. He gave us that day, this day, to refuel, to be refreshed, and to refocus. We set that day aside. Every man, woman, boy, and child needs a Sabbath every week. There's 52 of them. Seven and a half weeks of your life every year set aside to come before the Lord and rest and refocus and refuel, and see God do amazing things with you.

So I encourage you. I Love Sundays. So we're focusing in. Next week we look at: It Makes Great Families When We Have Good Sundays. But today it makes a better Monday. Do you ever say, "I hate Monday"? Everybody asks preachers that. Boy, don't you just hate Monday? I said, "Well I'm kind of tired." People often ask me, they say, "You take off on Monday?" I said, "Oh no, no. I wouldn't feel like I'm going to feel tomorrow on my time for nothing. I'm going to be on church time when I feel like that." I take a different day.

We all think about it. You know, Monday can be just a tough day. There's pressure. It's good for us to come aside and have a Sabbath, a rest. Isaiah 58, the old prophet speaks to us about it. Read aloud with me verses 13 and 14.

*"If because of the sabbath, you turn your foot  
From doing your own pleasure on My holy day,  
And call the sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable,  
And honor it, desisting from your own ways,  
From seeking your own pleasure  
And speaking your own word,  
Then you will take delight in the Lord,  
And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;  
And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,*

*For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”<sup>1</sup>*

Did you see that? When we honor that Sabbath, He makes some promises to us. You will ride on the heights of the earth. The King James says with victory. Amen. We should be victorious people. Having a Sabbath is part of that. I was asked today, “Pastor, why did you have church today?” Well I had two reasons. Number one. It goes back to when I was an 11<sup>th</sup> grade boy. Paul Cooley was my high school basketball coach and they had forecast snow on the mountain. I asked Coach, I said, “Will we practice tomorrow if it snows?” I’ll never forget it. He pointed up to the windows that were up over the bleachers. It had to be at least 25 or 30 feet high. He said, “Son, if it snows over those windows where we can’t crawl in, you can take off tomorrow but if you can crawl in that window you better be at practice.” I said, “Yes, sir. I’ll be right there.”

So that’s in me but I know we have to be wise and think about people out on the road and so we have canceled before but it just looked like the right thing to do so we made a good call this time and it was a good thing to come together with God’s people.

The other reason is because of this emphasis we’re making this month on I Love Sundays. I just didn’t want to miss unless we just really, really, really had to. So I made a call. I heard Dr. Lewis out in the foyer. Somebody said, “Why didn’t the pastor close?” He said, “Well he doesn’t start praying about it until it’s a category 4 hurricane.” Well I’m glad you’re here today. You encourage me by being in this place on the Lord’s Day and I’m praying that this good Sunday will make a better Monday for you.

Father, speak now to us. Save those that are lost. Build the church. I pray that you would refresh the saints today from being in this place and putting their focus on you. I give you praise and ask God for you to use me now in Jesus’ name. Amen.

We welcome all of you that are watching on television, listening by radio, Facebook live, livestream. Many people are tuning in today. Many on the radio that are listening our way and we are delighted that you are with us. This is the pastor and we’re bringing this message “Good Sundays Make Better Mondays” from Isaiah 58, verses 13 and 14. Two things I want you to see out of this text about the Sabbath day.

First of all I want you to see the principle of the Sabbath and then secondly I want you to see the promise, the promise coming with Sabbath. So number one is the principle of Sabbath. In Genesis 2, verses 1, 2, and 3, hear the word of the Lord where God said: *Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.* [Then verse 2 says] *By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed* [don’t miss that, God blessed] *the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

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<sup>1</sup> Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

I want you to look at the principle now of the Sabbath. Isaiah speaks of the Sabbath. Because of the Sabbath and calling the Sabbath delight and we hear about the beginning of the Sabbath in Genesis chapter 2. There are several things here, five, six, seven items I just want to give you about this day of the Sabbath.

Number one. It's a day of rest. When God completed His work, He rested. Friend, hear me. You need rest. God doesn't need to rest but you need to rest. I have people all the time tell me, "I haven't had a day off in six months." That's a sin against God. Everybody needs to rest. God built you that way. He built your muscles that way. You use them and then they rest. Even people involved in strenuous athletics, they know that the time of being down and rehydrating and letting a muscle rebuild is very important. Let me tell you, you're made that way. God made you that way. Some of you are so grumpy because you won't rest.

Sabbath. Sunday for us and we're going to talk about why it's Sunday in a moment. You need a Sabbath rest. It's a day of rest. Number two it's a day of blessing. God said that He rested on that day and He blessed it. Let me tell you, this is a blessed day. It's a day that God blesses when you Sabbath, when you rest. We want the blessing of God. Amen? I'm telling you, you ought to be a part of God's principle living and there is blessing. It's a day of rest. It's a day of blessing.

Thirdly, it's a day of separation. The Bible says He sanctified it. Come apart and be ye separate says the lord. We need to come aside, rest, separate ourselves. God sanctified this day.

Number four, not only is it a day of rest and a day of blessing, a day of separation, it's a day – don't miss this. When I found this this week, my eyes got really wide. I'd never thought of this before. It is a day of grace. Now what do I mean by that? God created man on which day? The sixth day. Man's first day was a Sabbath. The first day we showed up was a Sabbath day. He didn't create us and send us in the field. When God created man then came the seventh day. God graced man the first day He was alive. You see, the Sabbath was made for man. Man was not made for the Sabbath according to the word of Jesus in Mark 2 and verse 27. God made the Sabbath. He made it for you. It's a day of grace. It's a day of rest. It's a day of blessing. It's a day of separation. Amen. Yes, sir. It is a marvelous, marvelous day. You ought to love Sundays because of the grace of God that comes unto you.

It's a day of rest. It's a day of blessing. It's a day of separation, a day of grace. Number five. It's a day of delight. Notice what he said in Isaiah 58, verse 13: And call the Sabbath a delight. A delight. You ought to take great joy in the Sabbath. Now dads that are here that are the heads of your families, spiritual, saved men, you should work to make the Sabbath a delight. Yes. It's your charge. Do some great things on the Sabbath. Church and small groups certainly but there's some things in the afternoon and resting that you do and having engagement with your family. It's a great day to make it a delight. Friend, you've got to learn to delight in the Lord or you'll never delight

in your family. Bring your life, dad, before God. Ask Him to touch you and make you a holy man.

It's a day of rest, a day of blessing, a day of separation, a day of grace. It's a day of delight. Number next, it is a day of faith. A day of faith. Yes. He says right here in verse 13. *Call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable* and you shall honor it and desist, stop from your own ways. Stop from seeking your own pleasure. Stop from speaking your own word. Listen to God. Pleasure in God. Find it as a day of faith. Honor it. Remember the Sabbath day. Honor that day. Keep it holy. Remember the Sabbath day. Exodus 20, verses 8, 9, and 10. *“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.”*

Make it a day of faith where you honor it, where you remember it, but now hear the principle of the Sabbath. We need this day but now listen. Hear me. Tomorrow is the Lord's Day. Tuesday is the Lord's Day. You as a believer in this dispensation of Christ, you are to live in the pleasure of God's rest every day you breathe. You come aside that one day and it's different but now look in Hebrews 4. I'm going to read the first ten verses to you. Listen to this. Don't miss it in Hebrews 4. The old writer of Hebrews, Barnabas – we all know Barnabas wrote Hebrews. Not an Amen in the church. I'll declare. We don't know who wrote Hebrews but I know Barnabas wrote it so here we go. Hebrews 4.

*Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, “As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; and again in this passage, “They shall not enter My rest.” Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” [today, today] saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.*

You say, “Preacher, what in the world is that talking about?” He's talking about when you enter into Christ you rest in the fullness of Jesus. Friend, you don't need to work better or do better. What you need is Jesus if you're going to be a Christian. Christianity is a person and you rest in His sufficiency. You ain't sufficient. That ain't good English but you ain't sufficient. Only Jesus is sufficient. We must enter His rest.

Why couldn't they go into the rest? Unbelief. As in the wilderness, they did not enter the rest of God because of disobedience. We do not enter into the peace that passes all worldly understanding because of our disobedience. You must obey God to enter into His rest and claim everything that Jesus has promised you and you enter into his rest.

The way you practice that is on the first day of the week, Sunday, our Sabbath. I'm going to prove it to you why we do that in just a moment in point two. We must learn to take serious our rest in Christ and we must take serious the practice of it one day a week.

The year was 1924. The Scotsman was hoping to win the gold medal in the 100 meters in the Paris Olympics. He ran under the British flag because of Scotland being a part of that. When it was announced that the 100 would be run on a Sunday, Eric Liddell said, "Won't be running. Won't be running." They said, "What?" He said, "Jesus is my Lord and I do not run on the Lord's Day." They made an appeal to the Olympic committee and they said, "No. The 100 is set and scheduled to run on Sunday."

He had several weeks after this announcement came out and when he saw that the 400 and the 200 would be run on a different day, though he had never run in those races much, Liddell began to train for the 400. He was not a man to run long. He was swift, quick. He would later say, "God made me fast."

He went to Paris and did not run on Sunday but when they lined up for the 400 Eric Liddell had the gold medal hanging around his neck. Then he lined up for the 200 and finished third and got a bronze. He would later die in China, a missionary to people who had never heard the gospel. He ran the race. Not for gold or bronze but for well done. He lived by the principle of the Sabbath. "I simply will not run on Sunday," said Eric Liddell.

If you've never seen the movie about him, check out "Chariots of Fire" sometime. It's wonderful. They filmed that on beaches that I walked last year. You sent me on a trip for my anniversary. We walked those beaches were they ran and filmed Chariots of Fire. What a testimony. He got serious about the Lord's Day and some of us, because we are serious about the gospel and about God's principle, should get more serious about the Lord's Day because good Sundays will make better Mondays. We see the principle of the Sabbath.

Secondly I want you to see with me quickly the promise, the promise of the Sabbath. It's found here in this Isaiah 58 passage. Notice what he says. In the verse after speaking he says, "Then, after you take this principle, then you will take delight in the Lord and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth and I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." What is the promise? If we take serious being in God's rest and we take serious the Lord's Day, God promises three things. Number one, he promises us our delight will be in Christ alone. He speaks of that in verse number 1. Then you will take delight in the Lord.

Why do we have our Sabbath on Sunday? Why have we moved from Saturday to Sunday worship? Why don't we with our Seventh Day Adventist friends go back to Saturday? Why don't we with the Messianic Jew go back to Saturday? Well we worship on Sunday for three reasons. Number one. It is the day the Lord rose from the dead. We shifted from a Saturday Sabbath to a Sunday Sabbath because of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not in the grave. He is risen from the dead and we acknowledge that every time we come together. Now as I said, we have worship services on different days of the week but we keep that high, holy day as a day of resurrection.

Number two. We worship on Sunday because that was the day that the spirit came on the first Pentecost, Sunday, the first day of the week when they were in that upper room. It was the first day of the week. When the wind blew and the fiery tongues came and sat on the church it was on that first day. We acknowledge Jesus getting up from the grave. We acknowledge the Spirit coming down from heaven and we pray that every time we come together, we'll know the risen Christ and we'll know the flame of the power of God.

Thirdly, we have moved from a Saturday Sabbath to a Sunday Sabbath not only because of resurrection, not only because of Pentecost and the Spirit coming but thirdly because of the New Testament precedent that is set for us. We find in Acts 20:7 that they came apart and worshipped on the first day of the week, on the Lord's Day. We find that all through the book of Acts. Chapter 20 and verse 7 is one and then when you get to Revelation chapter 1 and verse 10 you find again that they were in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. The first day. It was New Testament precedent. What our forefathers did, we do. They delight. They took their delight in Christ and in the Spirit of God there came the fellowship of God's people all around on the first day. There's something about the first day fellowship that's just different than any other time. It's good for us to come together as God's people and see that we delight in Him.

So, number one, the first promise is that His delight is among us. Number two is that we will ride on the heights of victory. There are many a person who walk in this room in a mess and they walk out in the peace of God. Notice what he said right here in verse 14. I will make you ride on the heights of the earth. He's going to raise us up. Now there are some half-brained Alabama fans that take that verse and think they know Hebrew because the word there for ride on heights of victory is the Hebrew B-A-M-A-A-H. That's that word. They're all fine with that until they get beat. Let me tell you, God never loses. We ride on the *bamaah*, the victory march of the Lord Jesus.

Do you want to be an overcomer? Delight in God and I'm here to tell you, He'll cause you to ride on the heights of victory. There are people in here that carry a burden today. You roll that burden over on God and He gives the victory unto you. I saw an old boy that had been out there. He's been through Waterfront and he's been here and he's been in and out. He came in today and hugged my neck. I was glad to see him again. I hugged him. I said, "Are you clean?" He said, "I am." Victory.

Ya'll remember Jacque Johnson that used to be one of our first ladies over here in the Charis House. She now works in a cocaine addiction house in Los Angeles. I love sweet Jacque. The first Sunday – I remember. I bet I've used this story a hundred times. She'd sit over here with the Charis House girls. The first Sunday she came – she was a sweet African American girl. She had a hat on this big. I thought a flying saucer had come in. She had a big hat. I don't know why but that Sunday I just kind of got in a froth preaching about, you know, I look forward to seeing drunks saved and, you know, I threw out the word prostitute. Prostitutes get saved.

I was standing right here. I was standing right here on this top step. Jacque came walking by. I said, "Good morning. How are you doing?" She reached over and got my hand and she came over and hugged me. She kissed me right here on this cheek. I had to kind of get under that hat. She kissed me and she stepped away. She said, "Pastor, you can quit praying that whore prayer. God's already done that." I said, "What?" She said, "Before Miss Debbe led me to faith in Jesus, there was a crack house right out here next to the Olive Baptist property. I went over and sold myself for \$50 in the house behind it and went there and bought my crack in the house next to it." I said, "Right here on this property?" She said, "Yes, sir." That's when I called Ronnie McNesby when he was the sheriff and he and Larry took care of that. Amen. We cleaned that place up out there. It's just like going to heaven. It's who knows you. Amen. That's what you do. I couldn't believe that was right but she told me that.

I got a call from her the other day. I can always tell when she wants something. She lapses into black lingo. I'm no longer her pastor I'm her pastuh and when I'm the pastuh I'm in trouble. She asked me. She said, "Pastuh, I'm wanting to come home. Do you think there'd be a place for me at Olive if I came home and I could serve God?" She said, "I'm clean. I've been clean." She told me how long. She said, "I'm good to go. I just sense I want to come home." Riding on victory. That's that story. Amen. What God did for Jacque Johnson he'd do for you if you'd trust him with all your heart. You'll ride up on victory.

Some of you have walked here and laid a spouse to rest. It's hard. You need comfort. I'm telling you, ride up on victory. Amen. God doesn't leave you alone. He's with you. Take your delight in Him and He causes victory. That's why you ought to be in God's house. You never know when the Spirit of God's going to fall and meet your need. I hope you're not absent today. God calls your name at Olive. We all have things that take us away, legitimate things, but many of us have some illegitimate things that take us away and if we're looking for the favor and the blessing of God, we need to come under the principle.

You say, "Preacher, are you just being legalistic?" No, I'm just trying to be biblical with you today. It's a Bible principle that you should prioritize the day of the Lord in your life. He promises delight, the ride in victory, but then lastly, look at this very quickly. In verse 14 he said, "And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob, your father. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." You see, when you come together on the

Lord's Day, God feeds you. He feeds you. You go to a church where the man of God doesn't stand up with the book of God and give the message of God, you ought to find another place to go because it's God that feeds you with His word.

Now if this is all you eat you're going to be a skinny Christian. You've got to eat every day but I go out every now and then. When you come on Sunday, you go out. Somebody serves with you in a small group, in a large group like this. You get together. It's a special time and God feeds you from His mouth and from the heritage of Jacob, your father. You remember Jacob, don't you? Jacob and Esau. That's right. You've got it. Jacob and Esau. Jacob's name was heel catcher but God changed his name to Israel. God prevails.

That's what He gives you. He gives you the word on Sunday when you're here. The mouth of God speaks to you of your heritage that God will prevail. You cannot find a Canaanite. You can't find a Hittite but you can find a Jew. Why? Because the word of God prevails. When every American's dead and gone there'll still be Jews on the planet. You say, "I don't believe it." You don't have to believe that. You can be dead wrong if you want to. I'm just here to tell you, that generation, that *genos*, the Bible says, Jesus said that *genos* will never pass away. It's the heritage. It's the everlastingness of God. Amen. When you come you are walking in the heritage of your father Jacob and God speaks to you and he feeds you from his own mouth which is the word of God.

I just finished, because you gave money to the Adrian Rogers Preaching Foundation in my name, our leaders did that for New Orleans Seminary. They sent me Doc's biography and I finished reading it the other day. In there, Dr. Rogers was talking when we had the liberal conservative war in our convention. One man, and I'd heard the story but I'd never heard it where he wrote it down, one man came to him and said, "Adrian, if you don't compromise a little bit we're never going to get along." I'd heard it said of him but I'd never read it where he said, "Let me tell you, I will never compromise the veracity of the word of God." He said, "I do not have to be a Baptist. The Southern Baptist Convention does not have to exist. Bellevue Baptist Church doesn't have to exist but I, Adrian Rogers, must obey the voice of Almighty God." He said, "I will not compromise that." That's the kind of word you need when you come on a Sunday, that the word of God does not hiccup or stutter. It speaks straight, rightly dividing the truth of God.

So the Sabbath day. Let me just give you two or three things and we're done. When I get done, Jon's going to sing and we're going to depart. Out there at the table, some of you are going to go to next steps and join this church but some of you are going to walk right down here and take me by the hand on a stormy weekend to say, "Pastor, trusting Christ. Pastor, joining this church." How do you prioritize and honor and remember the Sabbath day?

Number one. Remembering the Sabbath day is a Saturday night decision. It's a Saturday night decision. Next Saturday night you're going to decide before you go to

bed if you're coming on Sunday. You've got to decide. Last night I had to decide and I knew I was going to be here. We'd made the call. We're going to have church. So I was up kind of late and the wind got to howling about midnight. Man, it was whistling around the corner. I said, "Lord, I've done a dumb thing." Then I looked and it looked like it was going to push on.

So I put on my CPAP machine that changed my life two years ago where I can sleep and I went to sleep. At 1:00 I woke up and I thought I was going to have to go to West Florida Hospital. I thought I was dying. The power had gone off. Sucking air through that hose liked to kill me. I reached over and grabbed Liz. I said, "The power's off." She said, "Yeah, it happened about 30 minutes ago." I thought, you're going to let me lay over here and die.

So I flipped and flopped and got up about 4:00. I'd never been to church so early in my life. It was hot at my house. I came over here before 6:00 to cool off this morning. I went to my office and had my quiet time. I got ready over here a little before 6:00. Do you understand what happens around here at 6:00? I didn't know. There's people here at 6:00. There's people cleaning up your mess at 6:00. There were maintenance people in the parking lot picking up limbs so you could get in here this morning. I'm telling you, they were here. Amen. They were cleaning up stuff in the bathroom, the carpet. I walked in and saw Robert. He was the first guy I saw. He came in. Robert Pague. I said, "Robert, what are you doing?" He said, "I'm here every Sunday this time." I said, "You mean we start this early?" He said, "Yes, sir." He said, "Well ya'll don't but we do." He said, "Ya'll are just lazy." I said, "That's enough. I was just asking."

Thank God for faithful staff. I'm telling you, you ought to hug one of them's neck this week and get in here. All these folks, Alan, everything was lit up today. It wouldn't work and the air conditioning wouldn't go and they had to go out there and get in all that. What I'm telling you is it's a Saturday night decision. I know they get paid and they come but if you're going to be here, you've got to decide on Saturday evening you're going to be here on Sunday morning. It's a Saturday night decision.

Secondly, you've got to make the final decision that you are going to keep the Sabbath holy. You're going to keep it holy. Holy, holy, holy. Thirdly, you must then have discipline to remember the Sabbath day as he says in Exodus and when you get to Deuteronomy he doesn't say remember the Sabbath. If you look at the text there, the second time the Ten Commandments are given, it says observe the Sabbath. So one says remember it. The other says observe it. We must do both of those things. Never forget it. I'm telling you, if you come to church on Sunday after Sunday after Sunday after Sunday, you bring your kids week after week after week, they will remember that and God will touch down in their life. They may go away for awhile but I'm here to tell you, most of them will come back and begin to observe again that day that is holy unto God.

Now you listen to me right here and then we're done. Jon's coming right now. You can come to church every day, every Sunday morning, every Sunday night. You can come every Wednesday night. You can come all the time we have church here and miss heaven. Some of the most religious people in all the world missed heaven. They were Pharisees, Sadducees. They missed it because they had a form of God but they denied the power thereof. Friend, it's a good thing to come but the best thing is to bow before God and take your delight in Him.

I made two or three pictures and I want you to do it. There's several. We put up three or four of these "I Love Sunday" places. You know how we do on Christmas where you can take a picture for Christmas. We've got one we want you to put on social media. Take your own picture or get somebody to take it. I took it with a bunch of kids this morning. I knelt down with children. I Love Sundays, a little sign there for them to hold. I Love Sundays. It's got a big red heart on it. It's a good picture. You take that and put it out on social media. Just let everybody know that you love Sunday. You love your church.

You ought to brag on your church. We had a few people visiting with us today from other churches that didn't have church today. They love their church. Thank God for that. We're all on the same team but I'm telling you, if you come here, you ought to love your church. You ought to love your team, all the folks. If you're here and don't love it and if you're not going to repent and get right, don't stay around and be cranky. I'll help you find a place. I'm grateful to God for wonderful additions but sometimes churches have blessed subtractions. Am I telling the truth, Dr. Passmore? Yes, sir. Yeah. We don't want any of you going but what I'm telling you, I just want you to get happy in Jesus. This is not a perfect place. As long as you're here it never will be. As long as I'm the pastor here it never will be. We delight in Him and we must come to bow.