


Lord's Day Oasis

 hristians, like the Israelites of old, are traveling through a desert-like wilderness toward their promised land which is Heaven. Exodus 15 tells us that after the parting of Red Sea, the people of Israel journeyed out into the hot and arid wilderness of Shur. Their parched throats, sunburned heads, and fluid thirsty bodies made them grumble with discontentment before God. The chapter ends with this refreshing conclusion: "Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there besides the waters" (Ex. 15:27).

Likewise, as the modern people of God journey through this wilderness of a sinful world toward their promised land, each and every week ends with the view of a blessed Elim-like campsite for their souls. That welcome spiritual oasis, prepared by their Heavenly Father, is called the Lord's Day (The Christian Sabbath). Mr. Barton writes, "Like the pilgrim, the Christian sits down by this well in the desert--for what to him is the Sabbath, but a fountain in a land of draught, a palm tree in the midst of a great wilderness--and as he drinks of the refreshing waters of this palm-shaded fountain, he is reminded of that rest (heaven) which remains for the People of God."

Even Adam in Paradise, untouched by the effects of the curse and sin, was called once a week to lay down his hoe, rake, shovel, and weedwacker. For his own good, God called Adam to rest from his labors, and give a whole day of concentrated focus on his Maker and Lord. "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Genesis 2:3). Think of it! If God saw it fit for Adam to have a weekly day of sacred rest and contemplation, how much more necessary is such a weekly Sabbath for us sinners who walk not in paradise, but in a sinful and cursed wilderness. The world, the flesh and the Devil seek to intoxicate, preoccupy, and hypnotize us. The weekly Lord's Day breaks the spell!

Don't pass by the cool shade, the fresh waters, and the sweet fruits of the Lord's Day. Obey God. Enjoy the weekly oasis he has prepared for your soul. "The Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27).