

- (3) By putting upon the lips of men the enheartening message, "The Lord is risen indeed" (Luke 24:34).
- (4) By bestowing the gift of the Holy Spirit upon His disciples (John 20:21-22), and first commissioning them to preach the gospel to all the world (John 20:21, with Mark 16:9-15).
- (5) By appearing in their midst at their first devotional meeting and bestowing His benediction upon them (John 20:19-23).

Besides, there is no record of Jesus appearing on the following Jewish Sabbath, but on the day after, on the second Lord's Day when the disciples were met as on the first, He appeared in their midst again, to lead Thomas back to faith and to accept his worship (John 20:26-29). Thus we are shown the importance our Lord attached to His own day from its beginning, and the place He assigned to it, in the life of His Church. He deliberately passed by the Jewish Sabbath and set this day as the weekly memorial of His redemptive mission to the world, the day to be associated with the worship of Himself.

Moreover, many believe that the descent of the Spirit (Acts 2) took place on the Lord's Day, the first day of the eighth week after the Resurrection. This is also the tradition of the early Church.

The Apostles claimed to have the mind of Christ, and were under the direction of the Holy Spirit enabling them to understand the will of the Master. What was the effect of these things upon them?

1. They were men of strong Jewish associations, and could not easily drop the Jewish Sabbath out of sight. But they observed the Lord's Day with special regard, very early in their ministry.

2. About 57 A.D. Paul wrote to the Corinthians (Cor. 16:1-2), the direction which he states he had previously given to the Galatians, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." It is here taken for granted that the Lord's Day is a day distinguished from other days by its religious use, and that it was not an occasional, but a regular recurring arrangement.

3. About three years later, *i.e.*, A.D. 60, it is evident that the first and not the seventh day of the week was observed as the day of worship. We learn from Acts 20:6-7, that for seven days Paul waited at Troas to meet with the brethren there, on their *day of public worship*, which would seem to have been of