

Earliest Church History

shows SUNDAY as the Christian "Sabbath day" of worship:

The Epistle of Barnabbas (A.D. 100),

"Wherefore we also keep the eighth day with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose from the dead."

The Epistle of Ignatius (A.D. 107)

Note: Ignatius was a pupil of the Apostles and whose writings were commended by Polycarp, a friend of the Apostle John and who was martyred for his faith says,

"And after the observance of the Sabbath, let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's Day as a festival, the resurrection day, the queen and chief of all days."

Justin Martyr (A.D. 145)

"But Sunday is the day on which we hold our common assembly, because it is the first day of the week and Jesus Christ our Savior on the same day rose from the dead."

Apostolic Constitutions (2nd century)

"On the day of the resurrection of the Lord, that is the Lord's Day, assemble yourselves together without fail, giving thanks to God and praising Him for those mercies God has bestowed upon you through Christ."

Dyonisius of Corinth (A.D. 170)

"Today we kept the Lord's holy Day in which we read your letter."

Irenaeus (A.D. 160-200)

"The mystery of the Lord's resurrection may not be celebrated on any other day than the Lord's Day and on this alone should we observe the breaking of the Paschal Feast (the Lord's Supper)."

Tertullian (A.D. 200)

"...we (Christians) devote Sunday to rejoicing from a far different reason than sun-worship..."
"We observe the day of the Lord's resurrection, laying aside our worldly business."

Note: All of the above quotes are from BEFORE Emperor Constantine. Numerous other quotes could be cited.

A common misunderstanding is that the Lord's Day, the Sabbath Day, was changed from Saturday to Sunday not by the resurrection of Christ, but by the Roman Emperor Constantine in the

early 300's. But as we can see from the above early church history, Sunday was firmly established as the day of Christian worship centuries before Constantine or the Roman Catholic Church ever existed.

Constantine did issue an edict setting Sunday apart as the official Day of rest and worship; however, his edict changed nothing for the Christian. He simply made official what was already the established Christian practice. Constantine sought to unify the splintering Roman Empire and by recognizing Sunday he established one unified day for worship.