

**THE SOWER**  
**ARTHUR (IL) CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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**HOW SATAN MUST HATE CHILDREN!**

“Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world...”—so begins a popular children’s song often sung in Bible classes, and especially in Vacation Bible Schools. Jesus certainly illustrated the truth of this message when He blessed the children, declaring, “Of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 19:14’ Mk. 10:14; Lk. 18:16). Even as our Lord loves the children, His antithesis, Satan, must surely hate them. This is evidenced by the very evident attacks made upon the most innocent of the human race. This is often seen in those who have been responsible for bringing their children into this world, then abusing them. I read today of a young couple in Texas who were arrested for keeping their two young children in a dog cage in their barn, even depriving them of needed food and water. We think, too, of the growing number of children subjected to sexual molestation and rape by pedophiles. And are we so blind that we fail to attribute humanity to them while they are still in their mother’s womb, and now, in some states, even following delivery as they are put to death by both pre-birth and post-birth abortion. Millions of innocent babies have been murdered in our tax-funded abortion-mills.

How Satan must have hated the Hebrew children being born in Egypt as the Pharaoh gave command to midwives to take the lives of the sons as soon as they were born (Exodus 1). Thankfully, the Hebrew midwives respected life, sparing the lives of many, including that of Moses, who would be a deliverer of his people from Egyptian slavery 80 years later. Another example, in the New Testament, was the slaughter of male children under the age of 2 by King Herod, reacting upon the troubling news that the future King of the Jews had been born in Bethlehem.

However, Satan’s hatred of children is not only seen in the abuse and killing of children, but also in feeding them lies, hardening their hearts to godliness. First, the Bible was removed from all classrooms, even the posting of the 10 Commandments being forbidden lest they be influenced to actually try to obey them. They are then brainwashed to replace the Bible account of creation with the dogmatic affirmation of the theory of evolution, with no counter-arguments allowed. More recently, numerous reports have surfaced of drag-queens (men dressed in the garb of

women) seeking to convert the minds of children to the LGBT agenda of homosexuality and transgenderism in cities' libraries at story hours. Children are being told they can choose what sex they want to be, and you're not to be allowed to convince them otherwise. In the area of religion, schools that will not allow Bible-reading are being invaded by "soft jihad"—where Muslims are not yet in control children are required to do such things as dress in Muslim-type clothing or write in Arabic calligraphy the Shahada, the statement of belief in Islam, that begins, "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah." In Islam, making the statement makes one a Muslim for life, with no permission to depart from it. Such is Satan's attack upon America's educational system and upon America's children. —Ron

### **THINK ABOUT IT—**

**"In a free country** there is much clamor with little suffering; in a despotic state there is little complaint but much suffering." —*Caruot*

### **WANT TO LIVE LONGER?**

Want to live longer? Get thee to a house of worship perhaps.

Ohio State University researchers analyzed about 1,000 obituaries from across the United States. They found that people with religious connections lived nearly four years longer than those with no religious ties.

That four-year increase was calculated after the researchers accounted for gender and marital status, two factors that have a strong effect on lifespan.

"Religious affiliation had nearly as strong an effect on longevity as gender does, which is a matter of years of life," study-lead author Laura Wallace said in a university news release. She's a doctoral student in psychology.

--*Newsrx Health*

## THE FIRST DAY

**What is the significance of the first day of the week to Christians?** The Jews, under Jewish (Old Testament) Law observed the seventh-day Sabbath as a day of rest, recognizing that God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Creation, while most of those who claim to follow Christ observe the first day of the week in worship. What is the special significance of the first day?

**1) Light was spoken into existence by God on the first day of Creation (Genesis 1:5).** God's material creation was wrapped in darkness until light was brought into existence to dispel the darkness. On the first day of the week we give honor to Him who is "the light of the world" (John 8:12), a world in darkness without Him as its light. John wrote of Him: "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus, see v. 14), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... All things were made by Him, and without Him not anything was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:1, 3-4). Jesus is the light of the New Creation, those delivered from the kingdom of darkness.

**2) The resurrection of Jesus, "the light of the world",** was upon "the first day of the week" (Luke 24:1), the third day after His death, which He had promised to be the day of His resurrection (Mark 16:9;; Luke 9:22; 24:21).

**3) The recorded appearances of Jesus to His disciples** were upon the first day of the week ((Matthew 28:9-10; Luke 24:33-36; John 19:26).

**4) The Lord's Church had its beginning** upon the first day of the week with the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday (Acts 2:1-4). Note: Pentecost was always on the first day following the Sabbath (Saturday), and thus was on the first day of the week. (Leviticus 23:11, 15-16)

**5) The early church** assembled upon the first day of the week to "break bread" (Acts 20:7), a term used in regard to the breaking of the bread in the Lord's Supper, as instituted by Jesus for a memorial of His sacrifice for us (Matthew 26:28; Luke 22:19). Paul gave instructions as to the proper partaking of the Lord's supper at their assemblies (1 Corinthians 11:18-34). The breaking of bread was at their weekly assemblies, not quarterly or yearly. They were steadfast in the practice (Acts 2:42). Contributions were also made on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Scripture plainly warns of the danger that exists in a Christian's willful forsaking the assemblies of the church (Hebrews 10:35-31). The first day of the week is a very significant day for God's people.

--Ron

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Sammie underwent her surgery Friday, and is doing well. She is in room 309 at the Sarah-Bush Lincoln Hospital in Mattoon. \*\*\* I underwent the laser procedure on my right eye Friday without any problem. The date for the cataract removal has not yet been set. \*\*\* Doris is doing well in the incision from her surgery healing. \*\*\* Both David Ferguson and Bill Livesay (Mattoon) are now home and recovering from the kidney transplant.



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