

Let Us Live With Christ

by Ignatius of Antioch

Ignatius of Antioch encourages believers to live with Christ, embracing the Spiritual Sabbath and rejecting worldly desires.

Scripture: Isaiah 53:3, John 5:46, Philippians 3:18, Colossians 2:16, Revelation 1:10

Topics: "Christology", "Sabbath Observance"

Description

Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of believing in Christ as the fulfillment of the ancient Scriptures, highlighting how the prophets eagerly awaited His coming as their Lord and Savior. He urges believers to move away from Jewish Sabbath traditions and instead focus on spiritual Sabbath observance, meditating on God's law and celebrating the Lord's Day as a festival in honor of Christ's resurrection. Ignatius warns against those who distort the teachings of Christ for personal gain, encouraging deliverance through the mercy of God and Jesus Christ.

Transcript

If, then, those who were conversant with the ancient Scriptures came to newness of hope, expecting the coming of Christ, as the Lord teaches us when He says, "If ye had believed Moses, ye would have believed Me, for he wrote of Me;" and again, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it, and was glad; for before Abraham was, I am; " how shall we be able to live without Him? The prophets were His servants, and foresaw Him by the Spirit, and waited for Him as their Teacher, and expected Him as their Lord and Saviour, saying, "He will come and save us."

Let us therefore no longer keep the Sabbath after the Jewish manner, and rejoice in days of idleness; for "he that does not work, let him not eat." For say the [holy] oracles, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread." But let every one of you keep the Sabbath after a spiritual manner, rejoicing in meditation on the law, not in relaxation of the body, admiring the workmanship of God, and not eating things prepared the day before, nor using lukewarm drinks, and walking within a prescribed space, nor finding delight in dancing and plaudits which have no sense in them. 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 the days [of the week].

Looking forward to this, the prophet declared, "To the end, for the eighth day," on which our life both sprang up again, and the victory over death was obtained in Christ, whom the children of perdition, the enemies of the Saviour, deny, "whose god is their belly, who mind earthly things," who are "lovers of

pleasure, and not lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." These make merchandise of Christ, corrupting His word, and giving up Jesus to sale: they are corrupters of women, and covetous of other men's possessions, swallowing up wealth insatiably; from whom may ye be delivered by the mercy of God through our Lord Jesus Christ!

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