



San Diego Japanese Christian Church

Upward Way

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6). Jesus is the Upward Way!

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"The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Those are the words that Jesus declared to some Pharisees who were criticizing His disciples for picking and eating some grains in a wheat field as they walked through it on a Sabbath day (see Luke 6:1-5). In order to get a greater appreciation of why the Pharisees were questioning Jesus' disciples' actions, and to understand the force of Jesus' reply, let me explain what was going on at that time.

By the time that Jesus had come on the scene in history, the Jews had developed an elaborate set of rules and regulations on how they might keep the Mosaic Law. It was like putting an impenetrable fence as a security system around the Law, so no one could get close to breaking it. So, for each of the 613 laws of Moses, they had specific rules on how to keep one from breaking that law. Yet none of these rules were God-given; they were "traditions of men", in hopes of helping them to keep God's Law. These rules known as the Oral Law, and more specifically called the Mishnah, was what the Pharisees religiously taught and tried to uphold.

In regards to the Sabbath, they had fifteen hundred additional rules and regulations. As the Messiah (Christ), Jesus completely kept the Law of God while challenging the Mishnah, declaring that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. Sadly, the Mishnah basically taught that Israel, and therefore people, were made for the Sabbath; made to keep the Sabbath. Jesus corrected their wrongful thinking and teaching by stating, "*The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath*" (Mark 2:27-28). Jesus clarified that the purpose of the Sabbath was to give Israel a day of refreshment and rest, not to enslave Israel to Sabbath Laws*. The truth in Jesus sets us free!

Have we become enslaved to human traditions and self-made rules and regulations that hinder us from truly living in the freedom that Christ provides? Christ Jesus is Lord! Let us trust and obey Him!

Humbly in Christ, Pastor Ichibei

* Information regarding the Sabbath Laws and the Mishnah have been taken from *MBS036: The Three Sabbath Controversies Between Jesus and the Pharisees*, Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum.

LET US PRAISE, PRAY, AND PARTICIPATE

"pray at all times in the Spirit, . . . , be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18)

- Let us pray for daily strength and God's continual care of: *Chris Barksdale, Richard Christian, Keiko Chuman, Bob Cottle, Yasuko Davis, Ed Dunn, Sharon Dunn, Shizu Fukiage, Reiko Furuyama, Matsuko Gray, Yo Honda, Junichi Inoue, Wendy Kaul, Oscar Kodama, Hiroo & Priscilla Kurano, Wendy Martino, Nadine Moorin, Meiko Nakano, Rei Seki, Larry & Irene Shimamoto, Michiko Shiromoto, Dorothy Sue, Kiyu Uda, Raymond Uyeda, Kimiyo Uyeji, Rev. Rod Yee, and Irene Yonemura*. If you have noticed that some names have come off of the prayer list, it is because God has brought healing to them. Thanks be to God!
- There will be a **Memorial Service of Tom Segawa** in our sanctuary on Saturday, August 17, at 11:00 am. Tom went home to be with Jesus on July 27. Please pray for God's comfort and peace to be upon Aya, son Jerry and daughter Karen, and their families.
- Please pray for God's comfort and peace upon **Alex & Lauren Rockabrand** and their family as they mourn the recent passing of Alex's mother.
- Let us continue to pray for the churches and missionaries that our church financially supports: Japanese Christian Church of Tucson, South Bay Holiness Church, *Mike Fox (AIA), Nao & Barbara Hanada (JEMS), Pastor John Katagi (JEMS), Brent and Irina (People International), Richard & Keri Nakamura (SEND), Roy & Nancy Toma (JEMS), Kevin & Nozomi West (Mustard Seed Network), Reo Yoshida (Mustard Seed Network), and Burton & Kat Sue (TEAM Japan, Fall 2019)*. Let us also remember in prayer the following missionaries in Japan: *David Newell (WYAM Tokyo), Rev. & Mrs. Hideyo Ando, The Jon Junker Family, and Alan & Yurika Sue (EveryNation)*. Please also pray for *Tomo Ito and Paul & Rie Mizuki*.
- Please pray for **Jaye Okamoto** as he does his internship (August 2019 to June 2020) at the International Christian Church of San Diego as part of completing his M.Div. degree program.

- Please remember in prayer our college students: *Toshin Agbede, Geoffrey Bocaya, Haley Hom, Timothy Honda, Jonathan Honda, Stephen Honda, Joy Ito, Hana Laskaris, Deborah Laskaris, Dominic Martino, Kou Okura, Kana Okura, Kerris Stambaugh, Kaity Takahashi, Luke Troftgruben, Jake Troftgruben, Mark Troftgruben, Russell Woo, and also Hannah Buck*.
- We thank you for your continued support and prayers for **Vacation Bible School** which is currently taking place on Sunday mornings (9:00-11:30 am), through August 25. On Sunday, August 25, after the worship service, there will be a **VBS Celebration Ceremony & Kakigori**, beginning at 11:45 am. Everyone is invited to stay after the service to see and hear what the children learned, and to enjoy kakigori (shaved ice).
- The next **Youth Group** will be on Saturday, August 24, beginning with dinner at 6:30 pm. They will not meet on Sunday, September 1, as many of the youth and their families will be attending the **Labor Day Weekend Camp**.
- There will be NO Curry Rice Luncheon on Sunday, September 1, but on Sunday, September 15, we will honor those in our church family who are 80 years old and older with a **Keiro-kai Celebration Luncheon**. Please join us as we will begin with a Joint Bilingual Worship Service at 10 am, followed by the luncheon.
- Our next **Community Luncheon** will be on Wednesday, September 4, at 12 pm. Thank you for your continued prayers for this outreach ministry.
- The **Holiness General Assembly** will be held at the Japanese Christian Church of Walnut Creek, September 6-7. Please pray for the pastors and our delegate *Duncan Woo* who will be attending.
- Our next **Men's Prayer Breakfast** and **Women's Prayer Fellowship** will be on Saturday, September 14, at 9:00 am. Please join us for a great time of food, prayer, fellowship, and exhortation.