

## CHAPTER 25: The Salvationist's Sunday

My DEAR COMRADES,

My message to you in my last Letter concerned the Sabbath, and as it was not completed when we broke off, I must return to the subject.

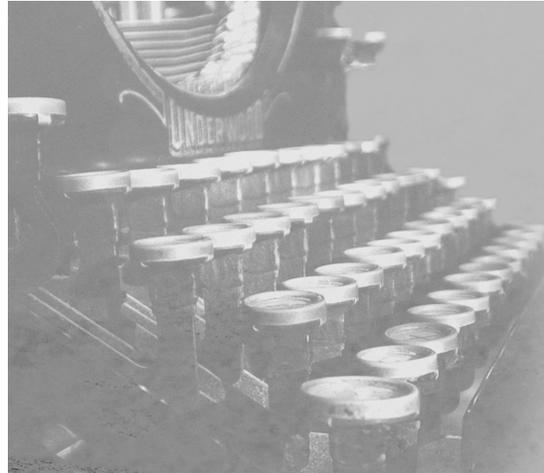
Perhaps I ought to have called upon you to praise God for our Sabbath. The day is indeed a blessing to those who know how to use it, and to us who love the souls of men, and desire to work for their salvation, the Sunday is a priceless opportunity, one which we cannot very easily value too highly. Is it not our great day of battle and victory, our time both for sowing the seed and gathering in the harvest? Yes, let every Salvationist thank God for the Sabbath Day.

Now I was telling you what I think should belong to a Salvationist's Sunday, and setting forth some of the things that seem to me to make it a holy day. I mentioned first resting from all unnecessary work. Let me have another word on that point.

1. A Salvationist's Sunday ought to be a day of rest from unnecessary traveling. The Jew was not allowed to travel more than about three miles. That distance was called "A Sabbath Day's journey." That command said in spirit to the Israelite, "Don't travel farther than is actually necessary to meet your immediate needs or to do good to your fellow-men."

2. The Salvationist's Sunday should be a Day of Rest from unnecessary labour in cleaning up and in dressing. Sunday clothes may become a great snare and burden. Many Soldiers make it a practice to prepare their meals, brush their clothes, and clean their boots on Saturday night, so as to enable them to be "Free for Service" next day. Strive as far as you possibly can, for your own sake, to make it a Day of Rest from such things. Let your body and your brain rest. Your life will be healthier, more vigorous, and happier, and it will last longer with the Sabbath Rest than without it.

Perhaps someone will say, "How will this fit in with my Sunday toil at my Corps, or



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away at the Outpost, in the Open-Air with the Juniors, or in some other form? With me Sunday is in some ways the hardest-worked day of the week." I have no doubt it is, my Comrades; it has always been so with me. But while it has been the hardest, it has also been the gladdest day, and in the change of work I have found rest. Moreover, works of Necessity, of Charity, and of Mercy are not only profitable to man, but are acceptable to God, and that is keeping the Sabbath Holy in the best and noblest sense of the word.

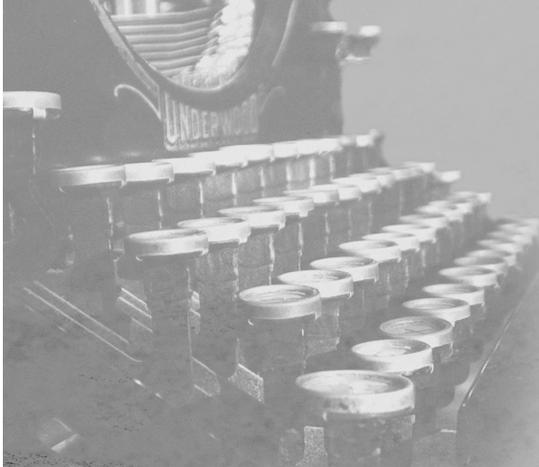
3. The Salvationist finds in the Sabbath an extra opportunity for the worship and service of God. His change of work and his extra meetings draw out his thoughts and feelings in thanksgiving to his Lord and Saviour. He looks into his own heart by self-examination. He prays, and sings, and worships his Father in Heaven, and reconsecrates himself to His blessed service. He thinks about the love of Christ, and so learns to love Him more, and drinks of His Spirit to help him in the toil and conflict of the week.

4. A good Salvationist keeps the Sabbath by availing himself of the extra opportunities it offers for spreading salvation. The people are more at leisure than on other days. The absorption and anxieties connected with their daily toil are off their minds. It is true that in some countries there is the excitement afforded by the extra facilities for pleasure and recreation; but in others, large masses of the people are wholly without occupation or amusement. They have literally nothing to do but lie in bed and read the newspaper or the novel, or hang about gossiping, or admiring each others' clothes. There they are, and there is our opportunity:

To Visit them in their Homes. To Talk to them in the Streets. To Attract them to our Halls.

To get the Holy Ghost down upon them, and so convince them of sin, and bring them to God and save their souls.

This must be, nay, I am sure it is, a plan of keeping the Sabbath which is peculiarly pleasing end acceptable to God, and highly profitable both for this world and the next to those who faithfully adopt it.



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5. Salvationists who are parents should make the Sunday at home, as happy and useful as they possibly can to every member of the house-hold. It will be found very useful to arrange for a little quiet time with the children; enquiring into what has been going on at school, asking about their time for prayer, and giving tender and loving advice. When the circumstances allow, parents may very usefully take the elder children with them to the Open-Air meeting, using the time in coming and going to speak of the work God wants them to do in the world, and making the young folks feel what a splendid thing it is to stand up for Him and play their part in His service.

And now, I must add a word of caution. I know of nothing so likely to spoil Sunday at home as useless talking – such talk as is often associated with tea-parties and long country walks, and other ways of passing the time. I warn you against these. Whenever friends or Comrades drop in to see you, try to bless them in their souls, and try to help them to bless you. Let there be a little singing at the tea-table, and then some prayer – real heart-crying to God. If any present are unsaved, try your best to help them to decision. Thousands of souls will appear in glory by-and-by who have been either first convicted or led to Christ at such little Sunday gatherings in the homes of Salvationists.

6. Salvationists should not only keep the Sabbath after the fashion I have described themselves, but they must see that all under their influence or authority are given proper opportunities of doing so. Be careful of the servant, if you have one; be especially careful of the wife, whose Sunday is often, I am afraid, a very hard day; just for want of a little thought and care on her husband's part. Be careful of your fellow-servants, if you are yourself a servant. Try to get them the chance you so much prize, of going to the meeting. God will notice your thought in helping them to keep His Sabbath and your care for their souls, and reward you in His own way.