NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

What Day Is It?

At my grandfather's funeral, the Pastor told a true event about my Grandfather Charles when he was in his late 80's. He stated that one day: "Charles came knocking on the church door. I opened the door and asked what the reason was. Charles asked: 'Why is the church not open and where are the people?' To him, I stated that it was only Tuesday and not Sunday. The next day the same thing happened. Charles came knocking on the door, asking the same questions. To which I replied it was only Wednesday. The next day the same thing happened. Charles came knocking on the door asking the same questions. This time I made him index cards with the days of the week, which he turned over each morning displaying the correct day of the week."

I thought that was silly until I retired. Now, my wife and I often ask what day it is. Some weeks we lose a day and other weeks, we gain a day. Then I looked back into history and found that answering that question is very complex. In Bible times, someone had to oversee counting the days; otherwise, no one would know when the Sabbath was or even when to celebrate the yearly holy days. Back then, no one could use their birth date and year as identification. Most people then did not know what day or year it was.

Since creation, a day has been the cycle between sunlight and darkness. Seven of these cycles made up one week. Months were based on the moon phases. A year was a cycle of the longest amount of sunlight to the next longest amount of sunlight. It took a very long time and lots of recording to determine that the year cycle was 365 days. Many earlier calendars, including the Hebrew one, were based on this, but it was not totally correct. So, every second or third year, they add a thirteenth month.[1]

The Julian calendar was proposed by Julius Caesar in 46 BC as a reform of the earlier Roman calendar. The early Roman calendar started March 1 and ended December 31 with only 304 days. (There was no work to be done in the fields during the two months of winter, and the rest of days in the year were simply not counted in the calendar.[2]) The new calendar took effect on January 1, 45 BC which was 445 days long to make necessary corrections. This 12-month 365 calendar (with leap year day every four years) became the predominant calendar in the Roman Empire and subsequently most of the Western world for more than 1,600 years.[3] However, it confused everyone still using their previous form of knowing the date.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII promulgated a minor modification to reduce the average length of the year from 365.25 days to 365.24237 days and thus corrected the Julian calendar's drift against the solar year. The drift caused the calendar to shift the spring equinox before its nominal March 21 date and the date for Easter to be wrong. With the Gregorian calendar correction October 4 was followed by October 15 in 1582 and then every year that is exactly divisible by four is a leap year, except for years that are exactly divisible by 100.[4] This again confessed everyone on what day it was because the Gregorian calendar was not used by England until 1752 and finally adopted worldwide in 1923.

The International Fixed Calendar divides the year into 13 months of 28 days each with the new month called Sol. On leap years Sunday June 17 would be repeated. It was first discussed in 1753 and was used by Eastman Kodak Company between 1902 and 1928. The League of Nations reviewed it as a standard in 1923, but it failed to win approval in 1937.[5] This would really confuse everyone about what day it is.

What is more confusing is what year it is. The Greeks started incrementing the years from the first Olympic Games. The Jewish calendar starts from their idea of when the world was created (3760 BC). The Muslim calendar starts 622 AD. The Roman calendar AUC started with the founding of Rome. It is unclear how a monk called Dionysius Exiguus in the 6th century calculated that the birth of Christ occurred 525 years earlier which was 754 AUC. However, because of him the dating of the modern calendar was with 1 BC (before Christ) and 1 AD (anno Domini) but it was not widely used until the 9th century. Because there was no dating of births, his calculations cannot be proven. BC and AD are being replaced with the terms CE (Current Era) and BCE (Before Current Era).[6]

"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." 2 Peter 3:8 One day, it will not matter what day it is. *Charles Stambaugh*

[1] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunisolar_calendar [3] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_calendar [4] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_calendar

[2] research.reading.ac.uk/research-blog/curious-kids-why-is-february-shorter-than-every-other-month.

[5] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Fixed_Calendar [6] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anno_Domini