

22.10.73

25.11.74 ✓

Happy the Man (Temple)
Day by Day (RHX)
CBS

And what did you do yesterday? It was Sunday, remember? If you're a regular listener at this time each day, you probably went to church I suppose. Or maybe you even joined with HK's religious leaders and thousands of Catholics in the celebration of the Kingship of Christ, at the government stadium in the afternoon. Whatever you did, however you spent the day, I hope it was for you a day of rest, leisure, joy — this much at least. You think that's too much to expect? Well, unless you go for the philosophy of a persistent advertisement in the Sunday paper which supposes Sunday is a gloomy, boring day, why not? You don't need to be a Christian to need a time to relax, to re-create yourself, to have a change from the ordinary course of daily life. There is, of course, a religious significance in this as well, which has been evident to mankind in one way or another, in every generation and culture, including our own, secular times. O it's not always explicit of course: and the religious element may have little or nothing to do with Christianity, or any of the other great religions of the world for that matter. But it is there, in the attitudes and purposes revealed by what people do with their day of rest, the community's day of rest, whether or not they acknowledge God's existence and His place in human life and affairs. One of the coming problems of modern society, already with us to some extent, is leisure — what to do with free time. It's a more human situation than not having enough leisure time, but it's also likely to produce more social unrest, in that many people don't know what to do with themselves when left alone. It's then that some basic orientations slow themselves, whether a person is really self-centred, or reaching out beyond himself. Christians

from the beginning found themselves impelled to celebrate the central fact in their lives — a relationship with God: they had to make time for it in the ~~pages~~ Jewish or pagan societies they lived in. And that's the way our Sundays came about. Now, most people in HK just take it for granted — a welcome rest-day, to meet friends, be with the family, go visiting, boating, swimming, hiking, picnicing... But it could be any other day of the week just as well. For us who are Christians, though, Sunday is above all the Day of the Lord, a celebration day for and with our Risen Saviour. Whatever else we do, it is this celebration which sets, makes, and marks, a Christian's Sunday, this going out of oneself to be with Christ, with others in Christ, in joy for Him, for the world, for others besides just ourselves alone. There is a positive value here which we can contribute to society, in giving a meaningfulness to the rhythm of life, work & leisure, which a lot of people are groping for these days. It's one of the ironies of history or social culture that, having rejected by and large (i.e. the vast majority) the practices of the traditional Christian church, people begin to find substitutes which bring them back very close to the original pattern... Like the "discoveries" of environment and conservation experts returning to the practices which the Bible denounces in O.T. times — the meaning of the sabbath. If acknowledgment of God has been lost in the process, it's religious people who by their attitudes & lives & behaviour, will have to show the world what it's forgetting or deliberately ignoring all the time. Think about it, while we listen now to the prayer in music a piece I've used a couple of times but bear repetition, I think: "To everything there is a season" ^{another song of Sebastian}

Temple, no ~~prayer~~ & sing this album I've been starting with these many weeks: this one is "Do you know"

RHX

CHA.E.2

25 2:49

Sebastian Temple.

To wrap up what I was saying before, let me recall what happened yesterday at the government stadium — the celebration of Xth. the King, a demonstration that for a sizable number of HK people Christ is the centre of things, the meaning of life, the purpose of society, the hope for justice, peace, love between men: because only through Him can mankind get its relationship with God straight in the first place. We celebrate ^{and} Sunday with Him and through Him and in Him: and so doing bring the human fullness to our lives which God wants us all to have, and bring into human living the dimension of God's everlasting life — love which is beyond anything we could dream or hope of achieving for ourselves. As yesterday also reminded us, we are sent too by the Father to bring the good news of Christ to the world we live in: the way we understand — live the Day of the Lord is one way of doing that.