

## Monday Morning Rewind – February 9, 2009

Good morning! On Sabbath we “paused for peace” and opened God’s gift of physical and spiritual rest. In doing so we acknowledged that the things God created to be our greatest blessing, Satan distorts to often become our greatest curse. The Sabbath itself is one of these blessings that is under attack.

At the end of creation week, God did something very special. Rewind to Genesis 2:1-3 and observe the three-fold action God took on the seventh day. God distinguished the seventh day from the other six by “blessing,” “sanctifying” (make holy), and “resting.”

Man had nothing to do with the creation. The world was already formed by the time he showed up. God created man, and among his first experiences was to enjoy the world God had already created. It was not the man’s to create, but to enjoy. The seventh day (later called “Sabbath”) was to be a weekly reminder of the creative power of God and that man was a benefactor of God’s genius, grace, and provision. By honoring the Sabbath, man would never think more highly of himself than he ought. He would always know that His very existence and purpose was dependent on the Creator—that, according to Psalm 100:3 “It is He who made us, and not we ourselves.”

This purpose was later immortalized in the Ten Commandments given at Mt. Sinai (see Exodus 20:8-11). Here is what God intended us to know and experience through the blessing of the Sabbath:

### **The Seventh-day Sabbath reveals Jesus Christ as the Creator** (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15, 16)

- In honoring the Sabbath, we proclaim that Jesus is the Creator and the Sabbath is His trademark. *(A trademark is a mark that is used by a manufacturer to identify the origin or ownership of goods and to distinguish them from others and the use of which is protected by law)*
- The Sabbath reminds me that I am not God, and everything I have, everything I am, everything I hope to be, belongs to Him.
- The Sabbath was given to all humankind at the beginning, before sin entered the world and 2,500 years before the existence of the Jews.
- Unless you know and love the Lord of the Sabbath, you’ll never truly experience the Sabbath. Without knowing Jesus all you can do is keep a day but you won’t enter into God’s rest.
- The Bible identifies only one day as “The Lord’s” and it is the Sabbath. (See Matt. 12:8)

### **The seventh-day Sabbath reveals Jesus Christ as the Redeemer**

In addition to being a memorial of creation, the Sabbath became God’s special sign that He had a concrete plan to save us from the misery of sin. (See Deuteronomy 5:15.) The nation of Israel was utterly helpless, incapable of freeing themselves from slavery. Their *only* hope was an act of God. Exodus 15:1, 2 is their song of grace.

Paradise was lost in a garden called Eden. Paradise was recovered in a garden called Gethsemane. A tree in Eden was the scene of sin’s birth, and a tree on Calvary was the scene of sin’s death. As the sun set on the sixth day in Eden, Jesus declared His work finished and rested on the Sabbath. As the sun set on the sixth day on Golgotha, Jesus once again shouted “It is Finished,” bowed His head and rested. Nothing more could be added to man’s salvation. It was finished.

- The Sabbath becomes a new symbol of grace. We rest from our labors, but we also rest in the completed work of Jesus on our behalf.
- Jesus’ death did not do away with the law (Matt. 5:17, 18).

The law defines what sin is (1 John 3:4). *“If the moral law has been abolished, sin itself must have come to a halt at the cross of Christ—and if that’s the case, no one since that time has actually needed a Savior!”—Shawn Boonstra*

- Satan’s strategy in these last days is to eliminate the need for Jesus! He wants to replace the true worship of God based on the true Word of God, with a false worship of himself based on the philosophies and traditions of men.
- The faith that matters now and at the end of time is a faith that obeys God’s commandments and holds to the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 12:17).
- One day isn’t good as another. God didn’t make all days equal. He did three specific things on the seventh day: He rested, He blessed the day, and He sanctified it (Gen. 2:1-3). We worship God and enter into His rest *every* day, not just one day. But He put His trademark signature on the

seventh day and set that day aside as a weekly anniversary celebration of our love and loyalty to Him—a pause for peace. (*Remember, a trademark legally distinguishes one company's product from any others. Any infringement on a trademark is illegal and therefore grounds for the company owning the trademark to sue the infringing party.*)

Rewind to Hebrews 4:9,10 to see that God still offers a Sabbath rest to His people today. I hope you worship your Creator and rest in Him today, even though it's Monday. I hope you do it again tomorrow and Wednesday as well. I plan to rest in Him every day. But on Saturday, the seventh day of the week—the day He set aside as a reminder to me that I am created and saved by grace—I will celebrate with a deliberate act of my will to worship and acknowledge God as my all in all. I invite you to join me. –Pastor Randy

p.s. This Wednesday we will answer the question, who changed the Sabbath? If you can, please join us at 7:00 PM. Our *Community Conversations Live* series ends this coming Sabbath, February 14. I hope it's been as much a blessing for you as it has been for me. Please keep inviting friends and loved ones. Our series may be ending, but not our commitment to building God's Kingdom, and preparing ourselves and others for His coming.