

The Everlasting Gospel Bible Study

Introduction

There is much that can be said about church doctrine. Our focus today will be primarily on how the Sabbath relates to the gospel. There will be opportunity for follow up lessons on other doctrinal points, historical information, and prophetic implications relating to the Sabbath, but for today we will be discussing the Sabbath and the gospel.

Lesson Eleven: Resting in Christ

1. Let us look at the first thing that the Sabbath was a reminder of; Genesis 2:1-3. *“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He _____ on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He _____ from all His _____ which God had _____ and made.”*
 - a. We say that the Sabbath is a memorial to creation because the seventh day was created solely to remember what God had created in the previous six days.
 - b. In the Genesis text, what is the central theme?
2. With the idea of resting from one’s work, let us look into the second thing the Sabbath is a reminder of. Long after the creation of the Sabbath, about 2500 years later, the people of God became slaves in the Land of Egypt. Then God raised up Moses to deliver them from their slavery. Deuteronomy 5:15: *“And remember that you were a _____ in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God _____ you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.”*
 - a. As we have already stated, the Sabbath was part of the original creation. However, God gives it an added meaning at the time of Israel’s deliverance from the slavery of Egypt.
 - b. What does God call this freedom from slavery in Deuteronomy 7:8?
“but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has _____ you out with a mighty hand, and _____ you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.”
3. In Deuteronomy the Sabbath is used as a symbol for redemption from slavery. What does Paul say about spiritual slavery? Romans 6:6
 - a. How does Paul tie together redemption and our justification?
 - b. Read Romans 3:24 (NKJV)
“being _____ freely by His grace through the _____ that _____ is in Christ Jesus,”
4. How does Paul use the symbol of the Sabbath in Hebrews?
 - a. Read Hebrews 4:1 *“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His _____, any of you should seem to come short of it.”*

- b. Read Hebrews 4:2
“For unto us was the _____ preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with _____ in them that heard it”.
 i. Here in verse two it is clear that Hebrews three and four are clearly talking about the Gospel and faith in it, or the work of Salvation in the merits of Jesus Christ.
- c. Read Hebrews 4:3
“For we which have _____ do enter into _____, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.
 i. Here we see that believing in the Gospel is what is meant by entering into his rest.
- d. Read Hebrews 4:4
“For he spake in a certain place of the _____ day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works.
- e. Read Hebrews 4:5
“And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.
- f. Read Hebrews 4:6
“Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of _____.”
- g. Here is our first hint of the Sabbath being used as more than just a memorial to creation but also as a symbol of resting in the gospel, rather than our own works.
- h. Read Hebrews 4: 9-10:
There remaineth therefore a _____ to the people of God. For he that is entered into his _____, he also hath ceased from his own _____, as _____ God did from _____.
 i. Here is the punchline of the entire chapter, and that is that entering into the Sabbath rest is a symbol and reminder that we have entered into that spiritual rest, and we have ceased from laboring to save ourselves, and rest in Christ to save us.
 i. Therefore, the Sabbath is a sign of our justification or our redemption.
5. What is another gospel theme the Sabbath is a sign of?
 a. Read Exodus 31:13
“Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth _____ you.”
 i. The Sabbath is a sign of our Sanctification.
 b. Sanctification is the process whereby we are set apart for holiness. Sanctification is the process of being changed, and recreated in the image of God, therefore, as He is our Creator. He is also our re-creator, or our Sanctifier.
 c. Read Genesis 1:27 and compare it to Ephesians 4:24 Discuss the correlation between the two texts as they relate to Sanctification.
6. Finally, the Sabbath is a symbol of one more thing. Read Isaiah 66:22-23 The Sabbath is also a sign or reminder of Eternity. It is a reminder that Jesus has promised to return and take us to our Eternal Home.
 a. The Sabbath is the great sign of the Gospel. It signifies who we are created by, whom we have been justified by, whom we have been sanctified by and whom is coming back to save us.

E.J. waggoneer: *“The Sabbath is the grand fulcrum for the lever of faith, which lifts the soul to the heights of God’s throne, to hold communion with Him”*

For further consideration let’s look at the word “Sabbath” itself:

In Proto-Hebrew (old Hebrew), each symbol carried a particular meaning. It was a pictographic language with symbols carrying particular meanings and the word was a picture that conveyed a very concrete meaning:

S/AB/BATH

Sha = Eternal one

Ab = Father

Bath = sign of

The Sabbath literally means eternal sign of the Father. Now, we see the Sabbath’s deeper meaning.

Exercise: This Sabbath concentrate on the points of the Sabbath as we have looked at them. Try to divide your Sabbath hours up by reflecting on each thing the Sabbath is a sign of and reflect on your experience.

1. Memorial to Creation
2. Redemption from slavery
3. Justification
4. Sanctification
5. Second coming

Summary: The Sabbath was created by God as a day of rest every seventh day to reflect upon His creation, but it also reminds us that He has redeemed us from sin and justifies us. The Sabbath is also a reminder that the God who created us, who will recreate us, or sanctify us; and to wrap it up, the Sabbath points us to the eternal realities of His soon return to take His people to heaven.

Appeal: *Is it your desire today to Remember the Sabbath day?*