

Rest in the Lord

I. Intro

- A. Once again, we have the overarching truth of Christ's authority on display today.
- B. Jesus does not just speak His authority, but also shows His authority.
- C. We have seen Jesus teach regarding His authority, that things were now different, that all things are made NEW and the new is incompatible with the old.
- D. Misunderstandings abound:
 1. Illustration: Most Northern, Most Western, and Most Eastern State:
 2. Sabbath is misunderstood in the old covenant
 3. Sabbath is misunderstood in the new covenant
 4. Let us examine the actual text of scripture and get to the root of it.
- E. Rest in the Lord!
 1. The promise of the Sabbath is REST IN CHRIST
 2. Praise the Lord for reminding us we need physical rest, but the spiritual significance is much greater.

II. Text

- A. Verses 23-24
 1. They were gathering food and it was the sabbath
 2. Jesus was breaking their interpretation of the law, but He was not breaking the law.
 3. Notice, the disciples are gathering grain for bread, we just had an illustration of the wine/wineskin, these two things always seem connected so often in scripture.
- B. Verses 25-26
 1. Jesus reminds them of the right understanding of the sabbath
 2. This story happens in 1 Samuel 21:1-6: David seems to break the law
- C. Verse 27
 1. The Sabbath was made for man to rest, remember, and trust for the future
 2. Man was not made to make the sabbath more holy
- D. Verse 28: The Authority of Christ: HE IS LORD, OF THE SABBATH, and IS THE SABBATH.

III. Points

- A. The Sabbath in Purpose
 1. God rested as our example and our promise
 2. To understand God's purpose, we must look to His word:
 3. [Gen 2:2-3 ESV] 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.
- B. The Sabbath in Practice
 1. Rest from the struggle of the physical world is a reminder of the rest we will have in Christ
 2. Manna and rest:
 - a) Before the 10 Commandments (law), in Exodus 16, Manna was provided for 6 days
 - b) On the 6th day they had to gather a double portion because they were not to gather on the 7th.
 - c) REST IS ABOUT TRUST
 - d) They had to trust that the extra gathered manna didn't spoil on the 7th day.
 3. [Exo 20:8-11 ESV] 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the

sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

- a) Remember...we understand that
- b) Keep in Holy:
 - (1) Holy definition: in this context, sacred
 - (2) Set apart for God's purposes

- 4. The Sabbath begins on Friday night at sunset, and ends on Saturday night at sunset.
 - a) Nowhere in scripture does God change the sabbath to Sunday, though its a popular concept.
 - b) As we will see, man's interpretation has clouded our understanding, and Jesus's authority set it straight.

C. The Sabbath in Perversion

- 1. Man twisted and perverted this beautiful law into a burden rather than a blessing
- 2. The Israelites were good at making loopholes for the fulfillment of the Law.
- 3. The Sabbath laws forbid work, and they have made a work-around...
- 4. Loopholes and interpretation:
 - a) The Manhattan eruv is a nearly invisible, 18-mile-long boundary, often made of fishing line, that encircles most of Manhattan to create a symbolic private domain. It allows observant Jews to carry items (keys, books) and push strollers on the Sabbath. The boundary typically stretches from 126th Street in Harlem down to Battery Park. (Other examples around the country as well)
 - (1) What it does: The eruv acts as a "loophole" or "fence," extending the domestic, private area into public space so that activities prohibited on the Sabbath—such as carrying, pushing strollers, or walking with canes—are permitted within its bounds.
 - (2) The Structure: It consists of fishing line or thin wire, often attached to telephone or light poles. It is not just one continuous string, but a complex, vetted, and repaired network that adheres to specific Talmudic rules.
 - (3) Maintenance & Costs: The Manhattan Eruv is recognized as one of the most expensive and extensive in the world, costing over \$100,000–\$150,000 annually to maintain. A rabbi checks the perimeter every Thursday to ensure the line is intact, repairing it with a cherry picker if it has broken due to wind or damage.
 - (4) So Jews rabbis hang wires around their neighborhood to create an enclosed space, because according to Jewish law, an enclosed space is considered a private domain. Within this private domain —the eruv— Orthodox Jews can carry objects or push prams or wheelchairs, or otherwise follow the same rules on Sabbath that they would in their homes.
 - b) In YOUR HOME:
 - (1) If you have a newer refrigerator, you probable have a sabbath setting
 - (2) Where the light does not come on when you open the door, or it stays on when the door is closed on Friday.
 - c) In real life:
 - (1) Sabbath elevators: you get on the elevator and all the lights are on and the elevator stops at every floor
 - (2) So you don't start a fire on the sabbath
 - (3) Orthodox Jews will turn lights on and leave them on, so as to not flip a switch and start a fire on the sabbath.
- 5. All mankind needs the reminder, God is not manipulated
 - a) WE FEEL SO CLEVER WHEN WE FEEL LIKE WE HAVE FOUND A WORKAROUND, BUT ALL WE HAVE FOUND IS SIN
 - b) Examples:

- (1) We refrain from the sin that is culturally offensive, while dabbling in the same sin in a way that is more welcomed by our culture
- (2) We do not view pornography, but we watch movies with similar content.
- (3) We aren't mean and hateful to people in public, but we harbor hatred in our hearts
- c) He is not manipulated by our loopholes, or justification of our sin
- d) Just as God was not manipulated by a twice weekly fast to strong arm Him into acting upon His promise, He is not impressed with our foolishness regarding the sabbath.

D. The Sabbath in Presence

- 1. Our Sabbath rest IS and WILL BE with Christ and Christ alone.
- 2. The legal demands were but a shadow of what was to come, substance is only found in Christ. (Colossians 2:17)
- 3. His disciples were gathering food on the sabbath, which was perceived as a direct violation of the law as interpreted.
- 4. But Jesus pushed against this.
- 5. "The Sabbath was made for man"
 - a) **Hebrews 4**
 - b) God gave us the gift of the sabbath to bless us.
 - c) God also gave the sabbath as a promise for future rest in Christ
 - d) Jesus is teaching the truth behind the law, as this law was given FOR MAN
- 6. Our relationship with God will go through several stages:
 - a) We will be convicted, shamed, and feel disgusted for our sin
 - b) We will find JOY, PEACE, and Fulfillment in obedience
- 7. We can DELIGHT in the Lord!
 - a) [Psa 37:1-7 ESV] 1 Of David. Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! 2 For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. 7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!
 - b) Jesus is teaching what David was also teaching, and what the writer of Hebrews was also teaching:
 - (1) Jesus is our sabbath rest
 - (2) Delight yourself in the Lord
 - (3) Find rest for eternity in the presence of our savior
 - c) The entirety of relationship with God does not have to be
 - (1) guilt and shame
 - (2) Obedience to rules for rules sake
 - (3) Paying a penance that Christ accomplished on the cross.
 - d) JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH, AND EVERYTHING ELSE
 - (1) Why, because HE fulfilled the law
 - (2) HE then became our sacrifice
 - (3) HE then was raised in power
 - (4) HE IS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS
- 8. Serve Christ out of genuine worship and response to HIS goodness.

IV. Close

- A. Resting in Christ is about your physical and spiritual well being
 - 1. Take care of yourself, and your fellowship with God
 - 2. Contribute to the body, and walk in peace with God
- B. You can't have rest in Christ without time with Him, and time with His bride

- C. This is our Commandment: [Mat 22:37-40 ESV] 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
- D. How will you then serve?
1. Looking for the loophole?
 2. Or, in SPIRIT and in TRUTH?