

The Power of Remembering

“Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8). This is the fourth commandment. God’s command to honor one day out of seven is based on His eternal standard reflected in His creation. The Westminster Confession of Faith says, keeping the Sabbath is “a positive, moral and perpetual commandment” (XXI.7). And like all of God’s commands, He reveals them for His glory and our good.

Of course, our culture has managed to make Sunday the “new Saturday”. Stores used to close on Sunday; teams didn’t play on Sunday, etc. Now businesses like Chick-fil-A restaurants are the anomaly. Bill Gates, when asked why he didn’t go to church, said, “Just in terms of allocation of time resources, religion is not very efficient. There’s a lot more I could be doing on Sunday morning.”

Sadly, many Christians do not have a sense of the holiness of the Lord’s Day. Some feel no unease for taking a Sunday off from worship; worshipping the mattress instead of the Almighty. Spiritually preparing on Saturday evening, for the eternal enterprise of worship, strikes too few as important. As much as Israel, a nation and worshipping community in it’s infancy, the Church today, for its own soul’s sake, needs to hear and heed God’s command and gift of Sabbath keeping.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8). Why would we need “to remember”? We need to remember, so that we might celebrate and praise God. We remember and celebrate the Lord who made the “heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them” (Exodus 20:11). We remember and celebrate the Creator God who is also the God of redemption and deliverance. *“Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from the land of Egypt and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore, the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day”* (Deuteronomy 5:12-15). The day of deliverance for the Israelites was a mere foreshadowing of our own redemption in Jesus Christ, through His death and resurrection.

Why is church attendance on Sunday mornings of considerable importance? We must remember. It was Friday and it was dark, and the eternal Son of God, was sent from the Father, the righteous dying for the unrighteous, once and for all, to bring us to God (I Peter 3:18). And Sunday came! The empty tomb of Sunday is God’s glorious hallelujah to the salvation Christ achieved on Friday. God is worthy to be praised daily, and He has set one day apart to remember and celebrate the glory of His creation and His salvation.

What grieves me the most about people’s cavalier attitude about Sunday worship is that most of us need to be reminded of the glorious love of Friday and the mighty power of Sunday. In fact, even those of us who are saved, adopted in Christ and secure in God’s promises, need to hear, remember, and celebrate! While at times life may seem like a Friday, (and Fridays can be dark and discouraging) Sunday has come! No matter what we face throughout the week, we can remember and celebrate our Strength and Hope on Sunday.

Great Peace in the Lord,
Eddie