

God's Gift of the Sabbath

July 8, 2018

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 16

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Radical Changes for God's People

- God used hardships to make His people holy - sanctification WSC Q#35
- God saved His people that they might worship Him: Ex 4:23; 7:16; 8:1,20; 9:1,13... 12:31
- A radically different pattern of life - 1 in 7 stop & worship

A Sabbath Gift

- Sabbath given AFTER He saved them (delivered from Egypt)
- WHILE He was teaching them how to be His people
- given BEFORE the Ten Commands (Ex 20)
- Fourth Command Ex 20:8-11; Heb 4:9; Col 2:16-17
- So for us: "Is the Sabbath obsolete or is the gift of a weekly day of rest and worship still available to God's people today?"

Exodus 16

- God promises Manna in pattern like creation account 6 days then rest.
- Specific instructions to people gather 6 rest 1
- Radical change from life under Pharaoh (world) with no rest

The Missed Gift

- Why didn't people listen after such a great salvation? 20; 27-28
- Rejected God's gift: Ezekiel 20:10-13
- Grieved they missed His blessing: Ezekiel 20:12; Exo 16:29
- Truth: a biblical view of the Sabbath starts when we realize it is a gift from God
- We reject the gift: prefer our own agendas; reject out of fear of missing out; fear of legalism poured out by sinful men; not sure we can trust God

A Test of Faith

- These instructions were a test : Exodus 20:4
- Key: will my people remember
 - Creator who rested & wants rest for His people Gen 2:1-3
 - Deliverance from bondage & God's rest Deut 5:12-15
- What do we need to remember in the New Covenant as we keep a Sabbath?

The Sabbath in the New Covenant

- OT Sabbath looked back to Exodus ^{Dt 5:12-15} & God's rest at Creation ^{Ex 20:8-11}
- OT Sabbath looked forward to promised rest in Canaan & future Messiah
- Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all God's promises
 - Jesus - "I will give you rest " Mt 11:28
 - In Christ we rest in His work on our behalf Heb 4:9-11

Calvin's Summary (borrowed from Richard Gaffin Calvin & the Sabbath)

- The weekly day of rest which Israel was given (4th commandment) fulfilled 3 distinct functions:
 1. It was a sign of the promise of God's rest — looking forward to the spiritual rest from sin which God would one day give to His people
 2. It provided a weekly day for remembrance, worship & public assembly for God's people.
 3. It provided a day of rest especially for slaves and servants
- At the 1st Advent of Christ, completed by His death and resurrection, the Sabbath ceased to function as a type. The spiritual rest promised to Israel by the weekly Sabbath became a full reality — Christ's completed work means we can now rest in His completed work (sabbath rest). Christians now enjoy that spiritual rest EVERY day of their lives by faith in Christ. In this sense the sign of the promise of the Sabbath was fulfilled in Christ.
- So this means that the Old Covenant character of the Sabbath no longer exists since Christ fulfilled it, however, the other two functions of the Sabbath given to Israel are still in force & perhaps intensified & elevated:
 - the weekly day for remembrance, worship and public assembly are repeated in the New Testament: {Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2; Heb 10:25}. Remembrance demands of 4th are intensified so keeping the Sabbath means experiencing freedom from sin and newness of life in Christ therefore is not limited to just one day a week, but by daily practice.
 - the 4th commandment also requires rest be given for those who labor under authority.

"the core of the 4th commandment and the essence of the Sabbath institution is that the creature should be conformed to the Creator [ceasing from sinful works], and that such imitation should express itself in a life characterized by public worship and private meditation upon God's works. " Gaffin - Calvin & the Sabbath (143)