

# Chapter Fifteenth

LIGHTENING THE EARTH WITH HIS GLORY

## The Sabbath and the Gospel

### A Key Question

The glorious Gospel of what God has done and accomplished and given to mankind in Jesus Christ is wonderfully good news indeed! The question is usually asked, what is the relevance of the Sabbath, or what is the connection of the Sabbath to the everlasting Gospel?

The final gospel invitation of Revelation 18: 1- 4 will be given at the time of Sabbath-Sunday controversy over the enforcement of Sunday sacredness by civil law. Therefore there must be the preaching of the gospel in the preaching of the Sabbath and the preaching of the Sabbath in the preaching of the gospel! But how could that be?

### **The Core Principle of the Gospel**

The Apostle Paul gives us our springboard texts in Romans 4: 4- 5.

*Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. {Romans 4: 4- 5} KJV*

These two texts contrast the false gospel of righteousness by works with the true gospel of the free gift of salvation by the faith of Jesus to be received by faith in Jesus.

Romans 4: 4 describes one who works for his salvation, in which case his reward would have to be payment owed to him for work done.

Romans 4: 5 describes one who works not, that is, he is resting! (worketh not = rest) in which case his reward is freely given by God's grace!

### **The Same Principle in Creation**

Let us now apply this gospel principle to the creation of our world and its Solar System.

The Creator created all that Adam and Eve needed and then created Adam and Eve last of all

on the latter part of the sixth day. Adam did not have to work in order to earn the paradise Earth. The Creator did all the work and gave Adam the entire perfect plant Earth as a free gift. Adam's first full day was the Seventh Day Sabbath on which he rested and received, enjoyed and celebrated all of God's free gifts!

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. {Genesis 2: 1- 3} KJV*

### **The Creation Sabbath Contains this Core Principle**

It should be very clear then, that from its very beginning, the Creation Sabbath contained the core principle of the gospel, namely: that God's infinite, unconditional love, freely gives all things without our having to work to earn any of His gifts! God does the working and the giving, we do the believing and receiving through the restfulness of complete surrender to Him.

*Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. {John 6: 28- 29} KJV*

We see right away then, that the creation Seventh Day Sabbath has nothing to do with legalism but everything to do with faith's resting in God's finished work and receiving His free gifts and celebrating His unfathomable love! This was how Adam spent that very first Sabbath!

Now for those who say that the Creation Sabbath was only God's rest and He gave no command for us to keep it, Jesus proves them wrong when He said that the Sabbath was made for mankind!

*And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. {Mark 2: 27- 28} KJV*

## The Lordship of the Sabbath

Moreover, Jesus says that He is Lord of the Sabbath. The most absolute kind of Lordship is ownership of something by virtue of having created that thing. The Son of God is absolute Lord of the Sabbath because He made it and therefore owns it! How do we know this? Well first of all, it is Jesus who informs us that the Sabbath was made, therefore someone would have had to make it. The scriptures inform us that all things that were made were made by the Son of God!

*And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. {Mark 2: 27- 28} KJV*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. {John 1: 1- 3} KJV*

*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: {Colossians 1: 16} KJV*

The fact that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath reveals the fact that He is the Creator of all created things. The Seventh Day Sabbath is the memorial of His finished work of creation and of His creative power! So another crucially important fact has been established by the word of God, namely, that the creation Seventh Day Sabbath belongs to the Son of God. He made the Sabbath day. He made all created entities. After making our Solar System, our world and everything in it, He made the Sabbath by resting on, blessing and setting apart the Seventh day for holy use.

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh*

*day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. {Genesis 2: 1- 3}KJV*

## Not a Shadow but a Memorial

Therefore, right away we see that the Creation Sabbath was never a “shadow” of anything to come but a memorial of a finished work. The Creation Sabbath is the memorial of the Creator’s completed work of creation of our planet. It is also the memorial of the fact that He gave that finished creation to Adam as a free gift. The Sabbath days which were shadows were the 7 annual Sabbaths of the ritual or sacrificial system which pointed forward to Christ and ended at the Cross. Colossians2:16,17.

Therefore, the creation Seventh Day Sabbath is the eternal memorial of the following facts:

1. The Son of God is the one who created the universe including our Solar System and our planet Earth.
2. He did the work of creating our world. He completed it to perfection.
3. He gave the completed and perfect planet Earth, to mankind in Adam.
4. He, the Son of God, made the Sabbath:
  - By resting from all His work on the seventh day
  - By blessing the seventh day
  - By sanctifying the seventh day, and all this because He had created and made.

## The Deity of Christ

Since the Son of God created all created entities, He Himself must have been uncreated.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. {John 1: 1- 3} KJV*

And if He, the Son of God is uncreated, He must be beginningless! God the Father, His Son and their Spirit are beginningless, i.e. absolutely eternal and INFINITE. This is what God meant when He told Moses His name: I AM THAT I AM which means I AM WHAT I AM. And what is God? He is the Infinite, Eternal Creator who is beginningless and endless and who is infinite in Power, Wisdom (Righteousness) and Love! Only an Infinite Creator would have made a universe without depending on pre-existing matter. The name I AM WHO I AM and the Sabbath are both memorials of the Creator's Infinity! The Sabbath declares what His name describes, namely, His Infinite Power, Wisdom and Love.

### **The Sabbath and God's Name**

Therefore, the Creator Seventh Day Sabbath and the Name of the Godhead are inseparably linked together. Any attempt to remove the Seventh Day Sabbath is an attempt to remove God's Name!

### **The Son of God – The Only Source of Rest**

According to Paul in Colossians 1: 16- 17, all things were made by the Son of God and all things 'hold together' in the Son of God. The reason for these facts is that the Son of God is the Word or Wisdom or Righteousness of God. He is described as such in Proverbs chapter 8. All created powers and systems need perfect righteousness in order to function perfectly. Therefore, all created things must be held together in Christ who is the Wisdom or Word (Logos) of God. Read John 1: 1- 3, Colossians 1: 16- 17, Colossians 2: 3.

Rest is the result of righteousness. Only when created things are working righteously will there be harmony, order, peace and REST!

*And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. {Isaiah 32: 17} KJV*

Since the Son of God is the Lord (YAHWEH) our RIGHTEOUSNESS, He is the source of rest, Jeremiah 23: 6. Before the entrance of sin, the creation was at perfect rest because all things were held together in the Son of God. The creation Sabbath rest was the indication that the creation

was in perfect harmony with the Creator through the righteousness of the Son of God! The Creation Seventh Day Sabbath was and is the immutable sign and memorial of the righteousness of God in His Son as Creator and as the One who holds all things together!

### **Sin and Unrest**

Sin separated our planet from the Son of God and therefore produced unrest. Unrest is the direct result of sin.

### **Rest Restored in the Plan of Redemption**

In order to restore righteousness and rest to the fallen creation on Earth, the Son of God became flesh. He endured on Calvary's Cross the separation from God, the unrest and death which sin causes. He exhausted the wages of sin and gave eternal righteousness and rest to humanity. And so He invites us sinners to come to Him to receive rest.

*Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {Matthew 11: 28} KJV*

### **Rest Restored**

The Creation Sabbath Rest which sin fractured is fully restored in Christ. We receive righteousness and rest by receiving Christ. We are complete in Him. The number seven (7) is the number of completeness. The rest we have in Christ is the same rest that the creation enjoyed before the entrance of sin and it is celebrated on the same seventh day!

*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: {Colossians 2: 9- 10} KJV*

*Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {Matthew 11: 28} KJV*

*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard [it]. For we which have believed do enter into rest, 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. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. {Hebrews 4: 1- 4} KJV*

*There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God [did] from his. {Hebrews 4: 9- 10} KJV*

## **The New Creation**

The Sabbath is the unchanging eternal memorial of the Son of God as Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. Salvation and redemption include the new creation in Christ. Salvation power is creation power and therefore, the Sabbath is the memorial of both the original creation and the new creation in Christ.

*Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. {2 Corinthians 5: 17} KJV*

## **Christ Rested on the Sabbath in the Tomb**

When Christ cried out it is finished on the cross, He then rested in the tomb on the Seventh Day Sabbath just as He had rested on the Seventh Day Sabbath after finishing creation. Therefore, His death established the Seventh Day Sabbath as the sign of a finished work of redemption.

## **The Sabbath is all About Christ**

Many people have been brain washed by false religion into linking the Sabbath with Old Covenant legalism. Indeed, the Jews perverted all that God gave into Old Covenant legalism. But true Sabbath keeping is all about Christ and His Righteousness! The Sabbath is all about Christ, not about legalism but about Creation and Salvation!

**Your Servant in Christ**

*Elder E. O. Deaglin*

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