

Genesis: “The Sabbath Day—The Day of Rest”  
Genesis 1:31-2:3

*“We need a transformation of mind and heart so that God ceases to be a planet circling the sun of humanity and becomes the massive, blazing, glorious sun at the center of the solar system of all things. God becomes supreme reality. His being becomes the supreme worth and treasure of the universe.”*

*(John Piper — cf Romans 12:2)*

- The Three Sabbaths:
  - *The First Sabbath: The Creator—For all mankind:* (Genesis 2:1-3) Every Seventh day there was a holy reminder of God as Creator. It was set apart to remember that everything that God created was very good. It was a time of gratitude for the gifts of God (James 1:19) and to remember God’s perfection in Creation.
    - *“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.”* (Isaiah 40:28)
    - God finished/completed the work of Creation, (Genesis 2:1) but He did not stop His providential work of sustaining the universe (Hebrews 1:3).
  - *The Second Sabbath: The Law Giver—For Israel as a Nation:* (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15) Every Seventh Day Israel as a Nation, as *a way of life*, was to remember and to be an example of what was lost at the fall and to be reminded of man’s sinfulness. Mankind lost painless, thornless, sweatless, joyful work (Genesis 3:17-19). Man lost the restful work of the Garden (Genesis 2:15). Israel’s slavery in Egypt was an illustration of the devastation of sin in man’s relationship with work. God rescued them from their physical slavery, but the Law represented their spiritual slavery and their need for spiritual repentance and redemption (Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Romans 3:20; 6:14). There was a slight taste of Eden found on the Sabbath every seven days.
    - *“Way of life”:* The habits, customs, and beliefs of a particular person or group of people that is believed to be profitable. These habits, customs, and beliefs are not necessarily moral in nature, but are always community forming and assists those in that context to thrive (1 Corinthians 9:20-23). Knowing Christ, distinct from being a part of Israel nationally, was not a way of life, but was life. *“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life”* (1 John 5:11-12). *“The thief (false shepherds) comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I (Jesus) came that they may have life and have it abundantly”* (John 10:10). *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6). *“For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death....For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s Law; indeed it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God”* (Romans 8:2,7-8). *“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines (morally binding truth) the commandments of men (a way of life)”* (Matthew 15:8-9).
      - Every “way of life” can glorify God when it is done to glorify God, which can only be done through the Gospel (1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 14:5-12). The Nation of Israel’s “way of life” all pointed to their need of a Savior and the way in which they would be saved, and it was all fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:17).

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**Worship:** Grace Alone (The Modern Post)      Satisfied in You (The Sing Team)

**Closing Song:** Christ is Mine Forevermore (City Alight)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;  
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *The Third Sabbath: The Redeemer—For those in Christ:* (Hebrews 3:12-14; 4:1,9-11) Jesus is the fulfillment of the Sabbath. We come to Him for rest from the works of the Law for salvation (Matthew 11:28-30). In Christ, obedience to Him is a joy (John 15:10-11) and no longer burdensome (1 John 5:2-3). The Law was an unbearable yoke that only brought death, physically and spiritually, and pointed to our need for a Savior (Acts 15:1,10; Romans 3:20; Romans 6:23).
  - Jesus rested from His work of Creation on the seventh day (John 1:1-3; Genesis 2:2) and began His work of redemption at the fall (Genesis 3:15). The Spiritual rest, present in the garden, in the presence of God, is found again in the work of Christ. The restoration of the physical rest found in Eden will begin during the Millennial Reign of Christ (Isaiah 11:1-10) and be fully regained in the New Heaven and New Earth, all by the work of Christ (Revelation 21:1-6). Rest is not a day of the week, but is in Christ.

*“We as Christians do not try to Christianize Israel and the Jews were not to Judaize the Church. The Judaizers wanted the Church to become Israel by practicing circumcision, the Sabbath, the dietary laws, and the feasts and some try to Christianize National Israel by declaring them to be the Church.”*

*(John Whitcomb — cf. 1 Corinthians 10:6-11)*

- The Sabbath 101:
  - The priests worked on the Sabbath and were guiltless (Matthew 12:5; Numbers 28:9-10). Those before the Law did not celebrate the Sabbath and were also guiltless. The Church does not celebrate the Sabbath and are guiltless because Jesus is our Sabbath (Colossians 2:16-17). In fact, it is to return to slavery to celebrate the Sabbath in the way Israel did for a spiritual benefit (Galatians 4:9-10; 5:1-3). Therefore, the Sabbath is not a part of the moral Law. The moral Law is the same for all mankind; the ceremonial and judicial Law were for a certain group during a certain time, *so that we can learn wisdom from them for today*. Salvation is found in repenting of breaking the moral Law of God, having faith in the work of Christ, submitting to His Lordship (Romans 10:9-10), which will lead to a celebration of this reality by obedience to Christ’s teachings (Matthew 28:18-20).
    - The Sabbath (along with all God-honoring laws) was meant to be a delight for the people of God, not a burden (Isaiah 58:13-14). But when we don’t delight in God we will not delight in obeying God.
    - The Law was never a way of Justification, (Galatians 3:21) it was a rule or a way of life. Christians are not under the Law as a way of life, but under grace (Romans 6:14; Romans 7:4-6).
  - Jesus was Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8). Jesus could start the Sabbath, set aside the Sabbath, make new rules for the Sabbath, and require death for breaking the Sabbath, because He was Lord of the Sabbath (1 Corinthians 5:1-2,12-13; Deuteronomy 13; 18; 22:21-24; 1 Timothy 1:20). Jesus desires mercy not sacrifice. He desires for us, in Christ, to do good works, not be religious, or nationalistic and lost (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14).
  - Jesus came to obliterate Judaism. He was ending the Sabbath, (Luke 14:1-6) the Temple practices, (Matthew 12:6) the dietary laws, circumcision, the judicial Law, and so on because they had served their purpose – until He reinstates some of these things during the Tribulation (Daniel 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) and Millennial Kingdom (Zechariah 14:16-19). Therefore, the Christian is under no obligation to practice these things.
  - New Testament Christians were to be patient with a weaker brother who still desired to practice Judaism, (Romans 14:5,17-19) knowing that eventually Judaism was going to fade away (Hebrews 8:13). Christians are never commanded to practice the Sabbath.
  - The Sabbath was a sign to Israel that their works don’t sanctify them but trusting in God sanctifies them (Exodus 31:13). This was the message to take to the Nations: repentance and belief in God (Jonah 3:5,10). Because of the work of Christ our sins are forgiven (Ephesians 1:7) and in Christ we are sanctified by the Word, (John 17:17) the Spirit, (1 Peter 1:2) the Father, (1 Thessalonians 5:23) and Christian community (Hebrews 10:24).

**Announcements:** Please listen to Pastor Joel as he gives the announcements at the beginning of the worship service!