

Sabbath

- Placed in the 10 Commandments:
- ***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 the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: Ex 20:8-10***
- God gave the law but not the Penalty if broken
- ***found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. 33 And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. 34 They **put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him.** Num 15:32-34***

Did the Penalty Fit the Crime?

- *“Then the Lord said to Moses, **The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.**”* Num. 13:35
- Does this seem harsh? The man did not know the penalty, and decided to pick up some sticks. Why did God want Him killed?
- God worded the command in such a way that it was a direct reflection on Him. God said it was Holy, but this man treated it as common.

Does this Remind us of Something?

- *Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and **offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.** 2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: **'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'**" So Aaron held his peace. Lev 10:1-3*
- God wanted Holy fire, they offered common.
- Just as they were struck dead to reveal this, so also the man picking up sticks on Sabbath.
- If we think unfair, re-evaluate our priorities

God and His Sabbath not Reverenced

- *By those who come near... regarded as holy.*
- *Before all the people, I must be glorified.*
- This is righteousness. God must be treated as He has revealed that all must treat Him.
- Not arbitrary but absolute.
- God knew this man's heart. We don't. God knew that He had given enough information that this should not have happened.
- The only penalty commensurate with this crime was a public execution.
- Until we understand this, we are blind.

Sabbath Nailed to The Cross

- *having wiped out **the handwriting of requirements** that was against us, which was contrary to us. And **He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.** ... 16 **So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,** 17 which are **a shadow of things to come**, but the substance is of Christ. Col. 2:14-17*
- Handwriting of requirements=10 commandments
- *the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, 2Cor. 3:4-11*

7th Day Set Aside for 1st Day

- God did not make the same demand of 24 hours
- God gave each local church the right to choose.
- He left when, how long and number of meetings to each church.
- Slaves, Soldiers, wives – unbelieving husbands
- These were not in control of their schedules.
- God allowed any time in the 24 hours of a 1st day.
- Persecution, fear of discovery, services can be moved location/times for safety of brethren.

Local Church Controls Assembly

- Slave working full day: Very early or very late.
- As seasons and duties changed. Could make assembly change to accommodate. As long as it is on 1st day of week, it was in “*spirit and truth.*”
- Two ways: Small congregation in own home can choose time Rom 16:5; Col 4:15; Philm 1:2
- Churches have more services for those who could only come in evening/morning.
- God gave precedent of the Passover. Num. 9:6-13
- Because assembly so important God made easy as possible for all to comply.

God Gave us a Basic Framework

- Each local church made it work for them.
- Gather on the 1st day Acts 20:7 1Cor. 16:2
- Acts of worship scattered through NT.
- **Lord's Supper** 1Cor. 11:17-34
- **Singing** Eph 5:19 } 1Cor 14:15-16, 26
- **Praying** 1Tim 2:8 }
- **Preaching** 2Tim 4:1-4 1Cor 14:15-17, 26
- **Giving** Cor. 16:1-2
- No instructions on sequence, time for each, etc.
- General Command giving each local church the right to choose the best way to do each of them.

A Command Prohibiting

- When we understand the penalty for violating this command we understand why God made it as easy as possible:
- Like the Sabbath, God made it holy but in a way far higher, more awesome and majestic.
- We all know about Hebrews 10:19-31
- What most don't take time to consider is context.
- This passage is the logical and spiritual conclusion all the truths revealed in 5:1 - 10:18.
- If we start here we lose context and complexity awe and reverence and fear.

Jesus – Far Greater than Aaron

- 5-8 Jesus High Priest/King– order of Melchizedek
- Perfection of Christ required ending Covenant.
- Jesus of Judah to be King – Covenant must end.
- Jesus made High Priest with an oath from God
- *The Lord has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever After the order of Melchizedek' 7:21*
- An unchangeable priesthood
- Able to save to the uttermost.
- High Priest fitting for us – higher than the heavens
- The Son who has been perfected forever

Church Far Greater than Tabernacle

- Description of 1st Tabernacle 9:1-5 BUT:
- *Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation Heb 9:11*
- Church is not of this creation.
- An interface between heaven and earth.
- Christ entered heaven itself in presence of God
- Sitting at Right Hand of God Exalted ...
- Offered One Sacrifice – perfected forevermore.
-

Some Necessary Inferences

- Jesus – At the Right Hand of God as High Priest and King – Glorified & Exalted *Far above all authority & power; might and dominion. Head over all things to the church – His body.* Eph 1:21-23
- Hence, when we “*come together as the church*” to eat the Lord’s Supper (1Cor. 11:18ff) awe inspiring:
 - *I will not drink the fruit of the vine until kingdom of God comes.* Lk. 22:18
 - He is drinking it new with us, in His exalted state. We commune with His body and blood.
 - *The cup of blessing we bless, is the communion of the blood of Christ. The bread we break, is the communion of the body of Christ?* 1Cor. 10:16

Coming Together Unto Judgment

- *eats bread or drinks cup in an unworthy manner*
- *“guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord,”*
- *“eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.”*
- Those who eat / drink in an unworthy manner:
- *weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*
- Consequences of not hallowing and sanctifying this day far more serious than breaking Sabbath
- In communion with Lord as High Priest & King.
- A solemn moment. God expects us to treat it with the respect, awe and reverence our faith in His greatness and perfection demand.