

I. Introduction

A. Five Things the Bible Doesn't Teach Series

1. I received an email from Jared about speaking in a series that circumvented the common method of Bible presentations that generally focus on what the Bible teaches. I thought it was a novel idea but when he sent the list of topics for the group to choose from I immediately knew which subject I wanted to share on. The Sabbath.
2. You see of late I have been having more and more conversations with people close to me that don't share my similar faith background why I believe what I believe about the Sabbath some offering hearty rebuttals that demand equally robust answers.
3. Which lead me through a search to reevaluate (not based on tradition or preconceived notions) what is truth in the most honest way possible.
4. The message this morning is a synthesized version of that search.

B. Repeating Pastor Sermon

1. Before I dive into the sermon proper, I think it would be appropriate to tell you a simple story by way of housekeeping. Something to set the stage as it were for the duration of our time together this morning.
2. Repeating Pastor Story
3. Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 15:1-2
 - a) Would you agree that the purpose of truth is Salvation?
 - b) Then would you also agree that the truth is most effective when it has our attention?
4. I say all of that to say this morning If I've said something you've already heard before please forgive me since my purpose isn't exactly to tell you something new but simply to keep the truth to the forefront of your mind.
5. Let's Pray

II. In the Wrong Place

1. Bag Piper Story

"As a bagpiper I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. The departed had no family or friends, and the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in rural Kentucky. I was not familiar with the backwoods and got lost, and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw that the funeral workers were gone, and the hearse was nowhere in sight. Only the diggers and their equipment remained, and the men were eating lunch in the shade of a nearby tree.

I felt bad about being too late for the ceremony and I apologized to the workers. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and saw that the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and gathered around with their hardhats in hand. I played my heart and soul out for that man with no family and no friends. I played for that homeless man like I've never played for anyone.

I played Amazing Grace, and as I played the workers began to weep. They wept and I wept, and we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car I heard one of the workers say, I have never seen or heard of anything like that, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

2. This little anecdote is funny because of obviously ludicrous image of a man playing his heart out for septic tank. Though we laugh we would do well to be sure that we in our life don't commit the a similar folly. Not that you would take up playing the bagpipes and begin to serenade household appliances but that we make the similar core misstep. I mean the man gave his very best effort to the wrong thing. The question we must ask ourselves is are we playing marvelous music in the wrong place at the wrong time?
3. This subject can be very divisive for a christian because it seems like the majority of the christian world has made up their mind on this subject.
4. One side might say, "if you observe the sabbath then you are trying to be saved by works and will be lost" while the another group says "if you don't observe the correct sabbath you'll receive the mark of the beast and be lost". Catch 22 Right?
5. The question of the Sabbath is an important one because depending how you read the Bible the way you approach this question could determine your eternal destiny!
6. So let's jump right into the subject.

III. Spectrum of Belief on the Sabbath

A. Postion 1: God's Law is no longer binding (Antinomianism)

1. Pro Verses

- a) **Romans 3:19:** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.
- b) **Galatians 2:21:** I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.
- c) **Colossians 2:14-16:** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

2. Con Verses

- a) Romans 3:31:
- b) **Matthew 5:17:** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

B. Position 2: Binding but Applied Differently (Sunday Keeping)

1. Romans 14:5:

2. Acts 20:7:

3. 1 Corinthians 16:2:

C. Position 3: Binding but Kinda Like These Other Groups (Traditional Adventism)

1. Giving Sabbath a Rest

- a) I grew up in a Sabbatarian religion where we practiced Sabbath observance as a matter of law. My religious community was conscious of the minute that the sun set on a Friday evening. We made sure that moment didn't catch us still at work or at the grocery store. It was expected that we would make every effort to ensure we were adequately prepared to rest from physical labors. Our homes and cars were cleaned, errands were run, and food was prepared. Some ironed their dress clothes for church the next day. As a child, I remember getting Vaseline and a paper towel and shining

my black patent leather church shoes. When the sun set, we “welcomed in the Sabbath” with worship—songs, Scripture, and prayer—marking the beginning of a sacred 24 hours. We were constantly reminded of John 14:15: “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (NKJV) We interpreted this to mean, “If you love God, keep the Ten Commandments.” Keeping the Sabbath was the fourth commandment; therefore, if you weren’t giving it your best shot, then you were showing God, yourself, and your community how little you loved him. This mindset was not rest. In fact, Sabbath was taxing on the conscience. My upbringing, in short, taught me how to work for my salvation. I knew what it felt like, in my soul, to wonder if I would measure up and make it to heaven. Was I trying hard enough? Could I try harder? Was I confessing sin so it would be forgiven? Was I sincerely striving to please God? I believed my eternal life depended on the answers to these questions.

2. Isaiah 58:1-5

D. Position 4: Something Different

1. Isaiah 58:6-14

IV. Preaching the Sabbath More Fully

A. God’s Purpose for the Sabbath

1. **Mark 2:20** : “And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:” (God made the Sabbath for man)
2. **Genesis 2:2-3** : 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.
3. **Exodus 31:13**: Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a *sign* between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.
4. **Ezekiel 20:12** : Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.
5. **Hebrews 13:20-21**: Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
6. **Bee Story**
7. In the Right Place