

Morning Sermon October 4, 2020
"God's Great Day!" Genesis 1:31-2:3

How God's great day is made? –

I. God's great day starts with His "very good"
"finished" "work" creation -

1. What does "very good" mean? -
- A. "The earth ... is well-ordered, complete, and abounding in life-forms under the watch care of royal humanity." K.A. Mathews
- B. Ver. 31.—**And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold,** it was very good. "Literally, lo! good very! Not simply good, but good exceedingly. It is not man alone that God surveys, but the completed cosmos, with man as its crown and glory" H. D. M. Spence

It is the order of creation God is seeing, its completion, its perfection, there is a place for everything and everything is in its place!

2 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. Genesis 2:1

2. By finished, we are being told nothing more needed to be done!
 - A. Here God has "finished" the work of creation in six days –
 - B. Jesus on the cross finishes the work of redemption –
- ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. John 19:30 (NKJV)
3. After all my years of studying Scripture, of preaching, I am still learning ... Last week I preached on our being created in God's image / this week part of my sermon is on God's finishing His work of creation –

Thinking of this made me think, God is giving us an example we should imitate, we see this in Exodus 20 –

⁸ "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: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. Exodus 20:8–11 (NKJV)

- A. God created in six days; we are to work six days – Exodus 20:9
- B. God "finished" His work, so did Christ, we also should aim to FINISH our work ... I took this personally -
 - Every week I finish two sermons
 - Yet, I need to finish organizing my house and office...
 - Finish writing a book, or books

What do you believe God is calling you to FINISH before you die?

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

II. God blessed and sanctified the seventh day –

³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. Genesis 2:3 (NKJV)

1. "Blessed it" means He made it a happy day, a day of rejoicing and celebration –
2. Sanctified it means He set it apart as special, as a day to be treated differently than others -
 - A. In **Exodus 20:8** Israelites were commanded to keep the Sabbath (seventh) day holy
 - B. They would do this primarily by not "working" on this day – Exodus 20:10
 - C. The reason they were not supposed to work, is God's creation, in six days and His rest on the seventh – **Exodus 20:11**

III. In Deuteronomy 5, when this commandment is given a second time, the reason for keeping this command changes from CREATION to REDEMPTION –

¹⁵ And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. Deuteronomy 5:15 (NKJV)

1. This is the only one of the Ten Commandments that changes in any significant way –
2. The change is in the primary reason for keeping it, in Exodus it was CREATION / in Deuteronomy it is REDEMPTION –
3. Redemption is pictured in the Old Testament in the Passover –

¹¹ And thus you shall eat it: *with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.* ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. ¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:11–13 (NKJV)

IV. In the New Testament, the great redemption the Israelites had in the Passover is replaced by the even greater redemption we have in Christ –

⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)

²² The stone *which* the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:22–24 (NKJV) Isaiah 53:1

1. Not only is redemption accomplished by Christ, resulting in the Passover being replaced by the LORD's Supper, but redemption is highlighted is Christ's RESURRECTION from the DEAD, and so God's day changes again -

⁷ Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. Acts 20:7 (NKJV)

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, ... Revelation 1:10 A (NKJV)

2. If you look carefully at the Book of Acts, you will see the Apostle Paul did evangelize the unsaved Jews in the synagogues on the seventh day, but he met and worshipped with saved believers, both Jews and gentiles on the Lord's Day, the day of Christ's resurrection, the first day of the week!

W. S. C. Question 59 - Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

Answer: From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath. (Gen. 2:2–3, 1 Cor. 16:1–2, Acts 20:7)

V. How are we to observe the Lord's Day, the “Christian Sabbath”?

1. As revelation concerning God's will increases, we see more and more that the sabbath / rest is fulfilled and found ultimately in Christ and in His work – Hebrews 4!
2. When we look at the New Testament a list of rules are not given for observing the Lord's Day, but God's people observe it, wholeheartedly ... Acts 20:7 --- Acts 2:42-47 ---

⁷ Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. Acts 20:7

3. Greater revelation results in rules being replaced and excelled by relationship, LOVE for God and Christ makes us excel just keeping the rules, in Christ we love and go beyond the rules in our obedience -

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. –John 14:15 (NKJV)

Good builder illustration: (1) Building for money / business (2) Building out of love!

Consider, how do you observe God's day?

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