

## The Day of Worship, Chapter 5 "Worldliness"

*Sabbath School lesson in Ryan McGraw's "The Day of Worship." In Chapter 5, we consider how our worldliness shapes what we view as restful and joyous.*

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So a couple weeks ago when I was last up here I mentioned Pastor Brody Balcom, so if you don't agree is you should terminate going into this great. But he has this thing that where if scripture is two pointed and you can't say amen you need to say ouch.

Well this chapter on world in this was a whole bunch. But anyway, let's get started. He says in here that Sabbath's keeping is actually it's a good litmus test for us on our spiritual fitness and he starts off by making an analogy of a race. So for most of us if we were to start a race the marathon 10k 5k, whatever we would quickly find out exactly what our.

Physical limitations are right. Nothing's going to show you what kind of shape you're in than trying to run a race. Well, he says keeping the Sabbath is very much the same thing for our spiritual fitness trying to set aside. An entire day to the worship of the Lord is going to show you very quickly your spiritual fitness.

He defines worldliness as earthly-mindedness. Having your mindset too much on the earth and things in and of the earth. And he starts with a couple quotes that I'm going to read here without pretty good. First one, he says the difficulty of laying aside all unnecessary thoughts words and works about our worldly employments and recreations for an entire day often uncovers the fact that the church has loved the world and the things in the world in an inordinate manner.

He also goes on to say the aversion to keeping the Sabbath is in part a result from an improper love for the world and a mistaken view of Christian living and then towards the end of the chapter and Lord willing with time will get to this he points to a big problem that the church has right now were there taking a good principle in this applying it.

You know often like my runner analogy, we try to run a race and we don't we're not successful how often do we complain that well, you know, the track was rough there were too many hills the race started too early. It started too late. The problem is not the race the problem is the runner.

And when we look at Sabuskeeping, Especially when we're trying to put aside world in this how often do we think well the church is too far away? They start at the wrong time. The pastor preaches too long they play too many old hymns they play too many new hymns really the problem is not with the Sabbath the problem is with us.

So that's what we're going to try to look at a little bit this morning. Joe Becky who is the president of Puritan reform theological seminary says worldliness is human activity without God. And that that activity in that desire comes from our heart now what is scripture say about the human heart?

Ed that's right. Psalm 14:1, the fool has said in his heart, there is no God. When we as the church act in a worldly manner when we act that way we are even more the fool because we are acting like there is no God when we know the truth that there is a God now this doesn't mean that everyone who acts worldly as a professing atheist not at all, but what passion of grass is in his book is that rather we act as practical atheists.

We live like there's no God, even though we profess that there is one. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us that the heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately said. So the question is as we look at Sabbath keeping in terms of in world business in terms of sad to keeping.

What kind of heart do we have dude, do we still have our own hearts? That is nothing with fleshly or do we have a new heart under converted heart. You know, for the non-believer worldliness is all that they have if you do not have your hope in Christ and this truly is your best life now you need to do all you can get all you can that's all you've got.

But for us. This is not all that there is this isn't even. A portion of all the theories and oftentimes our world in this creeps in when we forget. What all we do have and what our eternity really is. First John 2 verse 15 tells us do not love the world nor the things in the world, if anyone loves the world the love of the father is not in him for all that is in the world the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes the boastful pride of life is not from the father, but it's from the world.

Now he's not saying we don't need to swing the pendulum the other way where we've become monk hermits who completely shun the world and have nothing to do with it and we're just in our little caves just us and and the Lord and that's it, there was not saying that but it's the love it comes back to the heart what the love that you have in your heart is for is it for heavenly minded things.

For earthly minded things. Worldliness is the opposite of heavenly-mindedness. If you are if we are to focus. On the world. And the things of the world it's often because we are not focused enough. On heaven the things of heaven and vice versa if our minds are set more heavenly.

Will be less room to fill them with worldly thoughts. Now. It is possible for a worldly person to be outwardly religious and even have hope of entering heaven. Who can? Who are the folks in the Bible who who comes to mind that looked outwardly religious but were very worldly News the Pharisees arrived dreaded hated Pharisees.

Of course as we've is really look at the Pharisees we need to be careful that we're not too often for a sacril ourselves. But what is said about the Pharisees Paul in Romans 10 says for I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, they have a passion for God.

But not in accordance to knowledge. Their passion, there's ill for not God was not in accordance with the truth and scripture. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. So the issue with the Pharisees is they wanted this outward appearance of righteousness.

They wanted the chief seats. They wanted the good places in the church. They wanted to praise and be men, but they were not doing any of their things according to the knowledge of scripture. They were doing it according to their own knowledge according to their own worldly desires your own worldly passions.

Paul goes on to say in 1st Timothy when talking about his former life that he was a blasphemer a persecutor in a violent aggressor that they had the perspective completely in all wrong in them.

Turning your Bibles if you have them with you to Luke chapter 12. Now, I'm not going to read the whole chapter but Luke chapter 12. Gives us a great presentation of worldliness covetousness greed and one of the often accompanied results of worldliness that. Can be crippling to us. If we're not careful.

So chapter 12 of Luke verse 1. Jesus tells us to be where the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Right off the bat, they're hypocrites, right? There there. Putting out a show of religious zeal and passion, but that's not where their heart is. Our heart is worldly and owned desires of this world.

Verses 4 through 12. Jesus tells us. Who we should fear and who we should not. We should be fearing God and not man. How often is our worldliness attached not always but in many ways to a fear of man, especially when it comes to a lack of obedience to the Lord it comes from a fear of man, not a fear of God and.

Jesus quickly points out that their desire was to please men, not God. Verse 15. Of Luke chapter 12. Then he said to them beware and be on your guard against every form of greed. For not even when one has an abundance this his life consists of his possessions. So Jesus is starting to turn this corner here and reminding them and reminding us.

That our worldliness has wrong focus because we are more than the possessions that we have. We are not our car or our house or our clothes. We are not the things that we so often want and desire to possess. Verse 21, Jesus has been telling us the story about the rich man who stores up his treasures and he builds silos of grain and he reminds us that he is not rich towards.

God in doing that.

First 19, he says, I have laid up many goods. I have laid many goods up for many years to come take ease he drank and be married. He's focused on his worldly desires and and. Again, we had to be careful this is not saying it's not good or wise to store up things.

We have savings we have. Life insurance policies and auto insurance policies, we do make plans of preparations, but the, The rich man's passion was all for what he had and how much more he could store. And so he'd go follow after a silo to store more and store more and he avoided.

Storing up any riches in heaven. All of his riches all of his possessions were stored here. On earth. And it's I don't know who said it, but I've heard of many times. You never see a hearse followed by U-Haul, right? Have you heard that? Yeah, which is kind of funny kind of silly.

But it's true, right? I mean, we're not taking anything with us. The the Pharaohs were pretty example of this. They built those giant beautiful pyramids. Why to stick all their stuff in there because they took it with them. Can you imagine the moment they died when they realized they were standing before?

The god of the Bible and the none of their stuff was with them. But how often do we have a similar thought? Well, our focus is on worldliness and the things of this world and what all we can get and what all we can store up and what all we need.

And have you ever noticed? That when there's something that you really really want. And you finally get it. Quite what you thought it was. Or maybe it was what you thought it was but how often is it or how soon afterwards is it that wow we just need to upgrade that just a little bit more because I was really nice but doesn't have the new things that this other thing has.

Versus 23 through 34 in Luke 12 our Lord makes a transition from covetousness to anxiety over outward possessions. This is a big issue where we see. The more stuff we have the more stuff we tend to worry about it. The, We worry about. Keeping it. And keeping it in the form that we have it and and what's often attached to worldliness is anxiety because it's never enough, right?

We never have exactly what we need. There's always some instant we'll have a little bit more and then when we get a little bit more we worry about. Not losing her much stress, do we have how much anxiety and sleepless nights do we have over the fear of losing what we might have?

The Lord in His Providence reminded me of this just this week. So on Thursday the drive shaft in my car broke. So for those who are not very car savvy, a drive shaft is fairly important. Barely important.

And so that you I immediately start thinking okay. All right, gotta fix the drive shaft. That's expensive. It's a lot of mind to fix the drive shaft. A lot of money to buy car only hasn't learned about car. This is in what's this rabbit trail go down? Another you've probably been down this before.

Okay, so I can't fix my car, so now we're a family on one car. I can't work as much since I'm a family on one car. I don't work. I don't get paid and I don't work as much my clients aren't as happy so they find someone else and I stopped working and then I can't make my house payment and then they foreclose on my house and then I'm homeless.

So as 60 seconds I went from a drive shaft to homelessness, right?

But how often do we do that over anxieties of the world? I know right? So I. Yeah. Jeremiah Burroughs was an English congregationalist and puritan preacher from the 1600s and he wrote a little book called The Treatise on Earthly Mindfulness. He said that there are two reasons for anxiety over things in this life.

Fear that some great evil shall fall upon us and deprive us of something we value and fear that we will not have the means to prevent such evils or we'll read that again. Two reasons for anxiety. Fear that some great evil will fall upon us and deprive us of something we value and fear that we will not have the means to prevent such evils.

What worldiness shows us? Is that our greatest comfort in love? Is in our possessions and not the ones who provide those possessions for us. Remaining in Luke 12. Jesus after his pointed out covetousness and greed and whom we should fear and whom we should not verse 31 he says but seek his kingdom.

And all these things will be added. Verse 32, do not be afraid little froth for your father has chosen gladly to give you. The kingdom. Doesn't say he chosen to gladly give you bread or water or a garment that'll just barely cover and make do but he has chosen to give you the kingdom.

And I think what happens is when we are I know what happens when we're just too worldly mindless to earthly-minded. We lose sight always track of that. So just got some scripture watches death, okay. I'm gonna run through real quick the kind of show us help us to to reframe the perspective of who's in control of all things Ephesians 1:11 in him we have obtained and inheritance having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the council of his will.

Romans 8:28 and we know that for those who love God all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose. I told my kids repeatedly this when the Bible says all things it means. All things. I think it was RC scroll that said one time.

There's not a random molecule in the universe that God does not have sovereignty over. If he has got control over all things if you promise you then you work all things for our good surely that includes the drive shaft on my car. Matthew 10 verses 29. I'm sure many of you know this by heart are not too sparrow sold for a penny and not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your father, but even the hairs on your head are all numbered.

Fear not therefore, you are more valuable than many sparrows. Proverbs 16:33. Says the lot is cast into the lap, but it's every decision is from the Lord. Even when we think we have something by chance. Or we're taking a chance on something. Lord already has that figured out. There's nothing that we're taking about chance, there's nothing that we're casting about lives, it's not already been predetermined by the Lord.

Sabbath keeping exposes our world in us. With world in this lying in our hearts, it can be. Discovered most clearly by tracing the outward symptoms of it and the outward symptoms of worldliness are in how easily or difficulty we keep the Sabbath. If we truly acknowledge that all things have been given to us by God and that He is providing for us everything that we need.

Shouldn't be easy to set them aside for just one day to focus on Him. Often I think world in this comes from not being eternally minded enough. And the Sabbath is a picture of our eternity. Where we feast and we have fellowship with brothers and sisters where we sing praises to the Lord we pray to Him we hear His word proclaimed and it's a picture of our eternity.

I don't know about you. I grew up thinking. Right? I grew up very nominally. Methodist meaning we went to church on Eastern Christmas. So in my mind heaven was you get a white gown, maybe a little bit of wings and you sit on a cloud and listen to heart music.

And that sounds so boring I mean, right? I mean, that's pretty pretty basic. But that's not what scripture tells us about eternity. Jesus is told us we're getting the kingdom all of this is ours and not all of this but a remade version of all of this where it is, perfect and completely glorified.

You know revelation talks about. Another there's a lot of figurative language and in there in this but the streets of glory are going to be paved with gold. Gold represents something that that we all seek after wealth and and it's going to be so common and glory that we're going to walk on it.

Our streets are going to be paved with it. And I think. In what Pastor McGraw brings up in this book and the chapter is that. If we have that right focus. Then all of this is out we're inheriting the kingdom and it's honest for eternity and that all of the things that we do have are employments our recreations that we enjoy hobbies that we have all of them are from God anyway.

He's a provider of all of those things. Shouldn't should it not be easy then to set it aside. The one day to focus on the eternal glories that are waiting for all of us. He brings up a point that Sabbath keeping. As a Westminster and a Puritan position that Sabbath keeping is truly only possible for the believer.

To really truly. Desire to set aside. All that we have and focus one day and seven on the Lord is really only possible for the believer. Now that doesn't mean that we do a perfectly it doesn't mean that we do it well. But there's a desire and a growth there.

You know Lord willing your your idea, our idea of what Sabbath is keeping looks like today is more reformed than it was when we were first believer. And Lord willing and five years for now. It'll be even more than what we view it today. But for the unbeliever, it's not possible to set this aside but for the believer it is and it's the desire should be the desire for all of us to strive to understand and be more obedient to sabotage people.

It's not easy. So, I'm 73 verse 25 through 26. This should be our desire, this should be what should be on our heart. Whom have I in heaven but you and besides you I desire nothing on earth my flesh in my heart may fail, but God is my strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Okay, any questions or comments or thoughts on that pastor?

Questions to ask. Yourself that way of asking that's something myself towards the end of the Lord's day usually triggered by wanting to look at something on my phone that isn't consistent with the purposes of the day. Question number one. Would I be happy in the company of Revelation 4 and Revelation 5 and that congregation and what they are doing all the time.

And having my phone and the oldest stuff that I was about to access eliminated would I be pleased with that and then sometimes the more challenging one to me because I think about that and I think well, I'll be sanctified. So easy out. Would I be happy if God extended this Sabbath and tomorrow was one too.

Would I be disappointed? He gave me a double ward's day. And I couldn't in the However many hours until this one was over go back to my other preoccupations. Would I be grateful that this got this one got extended? Yeah, he did that for the old testament church on multiple occasions.

Ceremonial law with. You would get a double set.

Any foot activities into those days that were things that you know, we have campouts into three and things like that and I actually when I was a youth the retreat punctuated life in our in our youth ministry and in the church that I was in was a big deal and I would sometimes think.

If our treats are so great and I feel so close to God and I get so much of his work. Why don't we just do this every week? Now, why don't we just do a little bit of it every day? Well a little did. I know. It's that actually what God gives us in scripture and what Presbyterians.

And we are going to put a little bit. Yeah, but but that application question sometimes for me when all of this says wound down. And I am just my heart and mind our wanting to drift back away from the things of the days and set apart for and it's really humbling to mix to myself.

Yeah, there's a large part of me that would be irritated disappointed frustrated if this ended up being a double silent.

It's part of this grace to it. He gives us things that expose the remaining brothers. I mean, this is it's it's not an olive one and not the other I mean ecclesiastes as the men and boys have been studying. What does Solomon come to the conclusion of where everything you have is from God so enjoy it.

You are to enjoy the things that you have. And you should and that is part of obedience. But we lose track when we forget who provides that for us and who's gifted is. Now real quick. I wanted to hit one last the last section of this chapter deals with what he sees as an abuse of this of a good biblical principle in today's church.

When Satan tempted Jesus. What did Satan come to Jesus with?

Did he come to Jesus with motivational speeches or inspiring life stories of other people? Ken. He came to him with scripture, right? He came to him with scripture out of context twisted realm. And so when the passion were drawn brings up in this chapter is that he sees in this in this culture and I don't think it's new but he sees in this culture.

A twist on on a good principle and I think ironically living in kind of this semi-post covered world whatever we're in with with worship being online and and remote and you don't have to go we see this a lot let me get to it. Romans 21 Romans 12 verses 1 and 2, therefore.

I urge you brethren by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may prove what the will of God is now which is good and acceptable and purpose.

For most I think much all I think all of us in here are homeschooling parents and so we hold very dear. Deuteronomy 6, right where we proclaim the word of God when we rise up and when we lie down and all this all the door posts and the problems we're head.

We like thinking about the Lord and all manner and all things and Jeremiah burrows again says that a spiritually-minded man is more spiritual in digging ditches than an earthly minded man is in prayer. So the problem is that he brings up his book is what we see is people is a tendency to say well.

I worship God when I work. Because I'm doing all things unto the Lord I worship God when I'm with my family because I'm carrying a loving for them. I worship God when I have my hobbies. So why do I need to go on Sunday? I mean, I worship God all week long, right?

I'm thankful to God all week long. But. So what's the big deal and maybe I just give him an hour but I don't really need to give him a whole day right because Romans 12 tells us that we are to be a living sacrifice and that's just beautiful service of worship.

You know for me personally. There's no time. I feel closer to God than what I am fly fishing you put me in a stream in the mountains. Where's Luke? Where I don't see the luke. Oh looks in the bathroom, we'll have to take a look. I truly I'm not there's very little place that I feel closer to God than what I'm doing that.

So why can't I do that on Sunday? What would be wrong? It's a rhetorical but it's an actual question because we hear this a line in the culture today, right if I feel close to God doing that, what's wrong with me doing it on Sunday?

Dave. I guess I would ask. Right. And that's the point that he makes. What happens is when we? Have that view then as we take that view to its natural progression, we start diminishing prayer our own personal. Bible and devotion time family worship gets diminished. And we end up sacrificing true worship for the worship of our own desires.

You know, it's not a again, it's not it's not a one or the other. Dave. It's not a one or the other. You don't. Take one and skip the other. You do both. Yes, we are worshipful in the way that we work. Yes, we are worshipful in the way that we enjoy our hobbies and our activities.

But God has commanded that we give one day to him for the complete worship of him the way he has told us to do it. It's like what? I mentioned a couple weeks ago when I was here. Whether we find it difficult, or easy the idea is to obey first.

God has told us all these things to worship him in all that we do to be living sacrifices all the time but he has also told us. One day in seven is his. Exactly the way he wants it not the way we want it to be worshipful for him.

To make sense. Okay questions. I told you this was. This was an ouch of a chapter a lot of amen but a lot of ouch there. I think.

That in the relationship of Mary if you're the husband, yes, I need to do this. I. For you. I love you so much every moment of the olive life is worship, right? Yeah, pretty moment.

Right?

We're saying I love you and there's not the more intimate times then you'll miss the vote as a husband. Yeah, no, that's a great point. Thank you for being here. Right.

God. Was right. Right where she serving?

Right? I have to get the perspective right? That's good. Thank.

We're fasting. Right. Right? Exactly. Good.

How we? Cheap.

I've often thought even amongst those of the world.

Goals and silver protection stones. Preserved in. The world but not.

And so you do the same.

Yeah.

Right. Okay, well that is all the time we have so let's pray. Gracious father. Thank you for your word to us. Thank you for. Your truth. Even when it is difficult for us to hear especially when it is difficult for us to hear. We pray that you will continue to work in each and every one of us to make us more like Jesus.

We thank you for this time that you have given us this morning we asked now. Father that you would begin to prepare our hearts for the actual worship of you. Help Pastor James as he the elders prepare for worship. Help us to sing mightily to pray heartily and to give full attention to your word being professed.

We thank you for your goodness all that you provide for us each and every day. We thank you especially for today that you have given us and for our Lord Jesus Christ and it's in his name we pray. Amen.