

Series: John  
Title: Rest in our Sabbath  
Text: Jn 19: 31-37  
Date: Feb 12, 2023  
Place: SGBC, NJ

**John 19: 31: The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.**

**Proposition:** Christ is the Sabbath rest of his people--we enter and continue in his rest by believing on him and walking by faith.

**John 19: 31: The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.**

## THE SABBATH DAYS

The sabbath days all typified the Lord Jesus Christ.

This was the "preparation." It was the Friday before the sabbath day. On the sabbath day God commanded the children of Israel to rest, their servants were to rest, their beasts were to rest. And that particular Saturday-sabbath was a high day. It was the first day of the feast of unleavened bread--seven weeks until Pentecost. It was the day the Lord appointed for the peace offering, when the children of Israel came to the temple to present themselves to the Lord and offered up the sheaf of first fruits. They were working feverishly to prepare everything so they could rest on that Saturday sabbath day. Therefore, they wanted Christ's legs broken so he would die and they could get him off the cross so they could rest the next day.

Every ceremony they were trying to observe typified the Lord Jesus. Christ is the temple in whom the believer presents himself to God. Christ is the Peace offering--the Firstfruit--the first begotten from the dead--in whom we have peace with God. Christ is our Sabbath Rest! God's purpose in all the sabbatical laws of the Old Testament was to give signs of Christ--types, and pictures of this blessed rest found only in Christ Jesus. They were a sign to declare it is God who sanctifies his people and gives us rest in Christ.

Exodus 31: 13: 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.

The Lord Jesus declared plainly, he is the sign given. He is the fulfillment of all the types and shadows of the law.

Hebrews 10: 1: For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. [but the bringing in of a better hope did--Christ made all his people perfect!]

But self-sanctifying men hear God say, "Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep." And they say, "See there, we are to keep the sabbaths." Then this is required, every seventh day of the week the children of Israel were required to keep a sabbath day. At the end of every seventh week, they were required to keep a sabbath. In the seventh month of every year, during the feast of tabernacles, they were required to keep a sabbath week. Every seventh year they were required to keep a sabbath year--no work the whole year.

But it takes the Spirit of God regenerating us and giving us spiritual discernment to hear God declare that all the sabbath days were *a sign*. They were all a type of Christ our Sabbath, who sanctified his people by his one offering, in whom we rest by faith in him.

Isaiah 11: 10: And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. [or glory]

Christ arose into his glory and sat down at God's right hand because the work of perfecting his people in him is finished!

Romans 8: 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

When God created the world, he rested on the seventh day because the works were finished! Likewise, Christ arose and sat down in glory because the work of creating his new creation is finished.

Hebrews 10: 11: And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Hear our Lord Jesus!. In the midst their *unfinished working*, Christ cried, "IT IS FINISHED!" Believe on Christ and rest from the works of trying to be accepted of God.

## SWEET REST

Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we find sweet, sweet, rest!

When a sinner is made to see that we have never once kept the law in the righteousness God requires there is no rest. But seeing we have not kept the law, yet through God-given faith, God declares we are accepted of God in Christ's righteousness. Then the believer has rest.

When you know you have eternal salvation in Christ by his blood and righteousness then you know that God that spared not his own Son shall with him freely give you all things. He shall provide all necessities in this life. Then you have rest.

Even as Christ teaches us to walk through this life, he gives rest, even in his correction. Our Redeemer is not like the strict schoolmaster--nor like the Pharisee's who enforced the law upon men--the law smacked us on the hand and kept us in fearful bondage. Christ is meek and lowly in heart and the way he teaches is rest--in every word, even when he corrects, Christ turns us to him in whom we have sweet, sweet Rest--that is why *his yoke is light and easy*.

Isaiah 45: 22: Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

He disciplines his child by reminding us we have the rest of complete pardon in him.

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Our gracious Savior corrects his child by renewing us inwardly by declaring we have the rest of perfect reconciliation with God in him.

2 Corinthians 5: 18: And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19: To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Colossians 1: 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22: In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

This is how he keeps us continuing in faith, grounded and settled so that we do not move away from Christ our Hope. He turns us to him and gives us the rest of eternal security.

John 10: 27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29: My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. 30: I and *my* Father are one.

By keeping us looking to him, he gives us rest by assuring his child "that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ" (Php 1: 6). When the way appears dark, when our soul is chastened, when we have no strength, the Spirit works in our new man to give us rest by assuring us all his providence worked especially for his children.

Romans 8: 26: Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27: And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God. 28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

It is Christ through the Spirit making us behold his everlasting love in laying down his life for his people by which he grants repentance and faith and keeps us resting in him. He corrected the woman caught in adultery by making her behold him stand between her and the law. He looked upon Peter and when Peter beheld him, he went out and wept bitterly.

Zechariah 12:10: And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

## NO REST IN LAW

There is no rest in attempting to keep the law for acceptance with God nor in legal ordinances. Only through faith in Christ do we have rest.

Many, perhaps we should say most, today are doing exactly what the Pharisee's were doing. They are working, working, working to keep the law for acceptance with God and calling it rest while rejecting Christ! Paul declared those who keep legal ordinances in attempt to worship God are not beholding Christ the Head. They have not submitted to Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled all the old covenant ordinances and types and took it out of the way for his people on the cross.

Colossians 2: 16: 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*: 17: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ....<sup>20</sup> Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances... 23: Which things have indeed a [vain] shew of wisdom in will worship, and [false] humility, and neglecting of the body; [it is satisfying to the sinful flesh but not honoring to God] 3: 1: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2: Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Catch that last word "*then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*" Believer, there is a rest that remains for us in Christ. Hebrews 4: 9 declares that God required the children of Israel to rest every 7th year the entire year long. But that year of rest was only after they entered the land of Canaan.

Leviticus 25: 2: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD.

We rest in Christ by faith now typified in their keeping the other sabbaths in the wilderness. But there remaineth an eternal rest to the children of God when he brings us into our heavenly Canaan--"the glorious liberty of the sons of God." Christ shall raise us to be with him in his glory and we shall be at rest with Christ for all eternity.

A preacher in England preaching in a tent meeting. After the last service, as the crowd was leaving, a young man came to the preacher and asked, "Sir, what must I do to be saved?" The preacher detected that the young man was not earnest in his question. The young man was looking for things to do to earn salvation. The preacher was pulling at a tent-peg, he said, "Too late!" The young man was startled, offended. He said, "Surely it is not too late! What must I do to be saved!" The preacher raised and looked him in the eyes, "Son, you're too late! Hundreds of years too late! The work of salvation is done, completed, finished! The Lord Jesus declared with his last breath, "It is finished!"

Our Lord Jesus has one word to his child from the first hour to the last. From the first hour he makes us know our sin, in every hour he corrects us, when any heavy burden of life is upon you, our Savior has one word for his people,

Matthew 11: 28: Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

If we would submit to the righteousness of God--if we would fulfill both tables of the law in perfection--then submit by faith to Christ who is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth (Rom 10).

**Amen!**