

A Preliminary Study on the Christian Sabbath

By Dennis Prutow

1. The Christian Sabbath is a means of grace giving us a taste of the rest we will experience in heaven. This is the main point to derive from this lesson.
2. The Sabbath is a creation ordinance and is therefore perpetual.
 - a. Genesis 2:1-3.
 - b. Exodus 16:26 and 29. Note this is before God gives the Ten Commandments.
3. The Sabbath recalls both creation and redemption.
 - a. Exodus 20:8-11.
 - b. Deuteronomy 5:12-15.
 - c. Remember these two referents.
4. The Sabbath is covenantal; it is an explicit part of God's covenant.
 - a. Deuteronomy 4:13-14.
 - b. Exodus 31:16-17.
5. The Sabbath is a sign.
 - a. Exodus 31:12-13 and 17.
 - b. Ezekiel 20:12 and 20.
6. The Sabbath is the cessation of your work.
 - a. Exodus 20:8-11.
 - b. Hebrews 4:9-10.
 - c. Consider Romans 14:23.
 - d. By a cessation of my work I indicate . . .
7. The Sabbath means worship.
 - a. Leviticus 23:1-3.
 - b. Isaiah 58:13-14.
8. God abrogates Seventh Day Sabbath.
 - a. Colossians 2:16-17.

- b. But Hebrews 4:9.
 - c. The Seventh Day Sabbath *looked back* at creation and the Redemption from Egypt. It also foreshadowed the Last Days and the rest of God we now experience through Christ. The First Day Sabbath *looks ahead* and celebrates our arrival at the beginning of the Last Days through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
9. God appoints the First Day as the Sabbath rest.
- a. First Fruits.
 - (1) Leviticus 23:9-15.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 15:20 and 23.
 - b. The Eighth Day is the First Day.
 - (1) Leviticus 23:16.
 - (2) John 20:1, 19, and 26.
 - (3) John 20:26 - After eight days. That is the next Sunday evening, on the eighth day in reality just like "after three days" and "on the third day" (A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures of the New Testament*).
 - (4) Acts 20:7 - On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

What is the Christian Sabbath?

The Christian Sabbath is a covenant sign and means of grace wherein we worship, taste the rest of heaven, and God assures us He is sanctifying us. It is an institution we should cherish. If we desire to meet with God, we will avail ourselves of the place of worship and the day of worship. We will use the means of grace.