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A DAY WITH GOD

THE BEST GIFT

WE should be ever thankful to God for the gift of life and everything good and lovely, but the most precious of all gifts He has given man is the gift of Himself. His presence and involvement in our lives is the greatest of His gifts. In the garden of Eden the Scripture tells us how God walked in the garden in the cool of the day (morning and evening) to commune with our first parents. He knew we needed instruction, guidance, and fellowship. You see, not only do we have a need for fellowship, but God too desires our fellowship; for He created man with a mind and heart which could appreciate and comprehend heavenly things, so that He could enjoy communion with man:

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. — Revelation 4:11

Perhaps the greatest of all the gifts that one can give in a relationship is the gift of their time. All the gifts that money can buy will not equal the spending of time together. Thus time is perhaps the most valuable gift God gave to man. Besides spending the morning and evening with man every day, God also spent man's entire first full day of life with him, as well as every seventh day after that. (Man was created Friday, and at sunset, the seventh day, the Sabbath began.)

Have you ever considered the fact that time is governed by the heavenly bodies and their relationship one to another?

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years. — Genesis 1:14

The day is determined by the rotation of the earth, the month by the rotation of the moon around the earth, and the year by the rotation of the earth around the sun, but where does the week come from? The only reason we can point to for the week is the history of creation week with its seven days. But, asks one, it only took God six days to create the heaven and the earth, so why are there seven days? Answer – There are a few reasons for the existence of the Seventh Day:

1. As God's memorial of His perfect work, and as a pattern of rest for man:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. — Exodus 20:8-11 (see also Genesis 2:3; Hebrews 4:1-10)

2. As the sign that it is God which sanctifies us:

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. — Ezekiel 20:12

3. God is jealous of our time on this day. He says:

If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. — Isaiah 58:13-14

A PARTICULAR DAY

God has set apart His time for us, one whole day out of the week, for the people of this planet to commune with the Majesty of heaven. Ought we not to set apart our time for Him? However, not just any day can be set aside. God has not left it for us to decide which day is convenient for us to give Him. He didn't simply say, "Remember to spend time with Me," instead He ordained the seventh day of each week, a very specific time. So that time and language should not serve to confuse any in regard to which day it is, He calls it by its number, the **seventh**. This day of the week is His memorial of creation, and serves as a reminder to all mankind of His creative power, not only to create the heavens and the earth, but, as we spend this time beholding Him, it serves to re-create, and transform sinners like us, who have born the stamp of this world, to once more bear the image of the Divine.

Saturday

7

What day is the seventh? Answer – it is the day the Bible writers, the prophets and apostles, as well as Jesus Himself kept – the day we call Saturday. This day has been continually kept from the time of Christ by Jews and Christians alike. There can be no confusion as to which day is the seventh day, the Sabbath; for the Scripture tells us that Jesus rose on the "first day," and the whole world recognizes that day as Sunday, and the seventh day from Sunday is Saturday, the seventh day of the week.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Contrary to what some claim, Scripture is entirely silent concerning a change of the Sabbath to any other day. While some claim that the law was done away with at the cross, such is only an excuse, and is without any true Scriptural evidence, not to mention that it is unreasonable. The Sabbath is the fourth commandment of the Moral Law. Some have gone so far as to claim that the moral law was abolished; yet such would mean that we are now at liberty to kill, steal, commit adultery, lie, worship idols, take God's name in vain, and covet. No one

who cares for their own well being and the well being of others would assume that the Moral Law was done away with. But, asks one, Don't some Scriptures tell us that the law was done away with? Answer – No. The law to which these texts refer is the law of types and shadows (the ceremonial or sacrificial laws) that was for the specific purpose of bringing to mind and explaining the prophecies concerning the coming of Christ and His work of redemption, such as the feasts of Passover and Pentecost, together with the sacrificial system, and to those civil Laws that pertained specifically to the Jews as a nation.

The Ten Commandments written with the finger of God on tables of stone, are expressive of the whole duty of man to God and of man to man, they were not and can never be done away with, so long as there are men left upon earth; for the moral law as written by God on the tables of stone are only a transcript of His own character, which is the standard to which all men are to be held accountable in their relations toward Him and toward one another. They are summed up in the two principles:



And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. — Mark 12:30-31

Ask yourself, Can I love my neighbor as myself and still steal from him, commit adultery with his wife, or kill him, breaking the last six of the commandments? God forbid! And neither can we love God with all our hearts without observing the first four commandments, including the fourth, which requires us to set apart the time that He has asked us to spend with Him.