

SABBATH GANGRENE

Isaiah 56

INTRODUCTION:

In your judgement do you keep the Sabbath Day? Can you say that one day is different in observance? You perhaps make a gesture towards the day -- the question comes alive when you re-phrase it - according to the teaching of the Bible, do you live up to the requirements for the Holy Day?

Perhaps you do not know how the day should be kept. I will try to help you. Isaiah 56 gives a few elementary tips.

We must begin with the agreement that the Lord's Day, the day marking the resurrection of our Lord, is suffering today. It is ill - Gangrene has set in. Gangrene, as we know it is mortification of a part of the body. It may beseige a limb of your body and there is interference with the local nutrition. Immediate attention is necessary or the limb will be lost forever.

In contrast, the Lord's Day one of the main issues of the Christian Faith is not receiving nourishment and is at the point of being lost.

It has become wash day, cut the grass day, golf day, camping day, swimming day, football day, traveling day, painting day, farming day, and this indicates we are headed for dooms day.

The Prophet ploughs beneath the surface. Paul follows his method. He states a doctrine and then declares if a man believes in the doctrine a practical holy life should follow. A man is ready to keep the Sabbath if he subscribes to the Sinai Covenant. Ethical teaching is based on sound doctrine. That is why he begins with a call to justice and righteousness. Don't fail to note the real pressure is to change unrighteousness - change a decaying situation.

Outline:

- I. Saving the Sabbath. V. 1-2.
- II. Supremacy of the Sabbath. V. 3-8.
- III. Suttle Termites of the Sabbath. V. 9-12.

I. Saving the Sabbath. V. 1-2.

V. 1 - Thus saith the Lord. Thus saith the United Nations? Thus saith Hollywood? The T. V.? Some priest? The gang? The Chamber of Commerce? No - People depart from the right thing at this point - they want to know what saith Paris, or Rome, or Bishop, or Emotions.

Who are we to obey?

To pass inspection you must be stamped "Thus Saith The Lord".

Instruction - Keep ye judgement.

Do justice.

Rather - keep the law and observe righteousness. A call to the Jews in captivity to keep the laws of Sinai - whole law - as near as possible! Live by justice in dealings of life. Obligation - Do right.

My salvation is nearing - The time of deliverance is at hand. They ought to be more faithful and exact in living for God.

Sounds like John the Baptist preaching calling for a return to righteousness in preparing for the coming Messiah. Luke 3:8-14.

Mal. 4:4-6 - Before his second coming.

Romans 13:11-12.

Luke 21:28.

My righteousness nears Revelation.

Salvation and righteousness go hand in hand. Righteousness! Righteous people he will rescue. If they are not holier than others than why offer salvation?

V. 2 - Beatitudes - Blessed is he who my Sabbath doth keep.

That saves the Sabbath.

Uses it as instructed in V. 1.

The frail man - Hebrew word for man used here indicates in his frailty and mortality - in humble life.

Layeth hold on it - grasp - keeping the Sabbath. In the spirit of his obligation - grasping firmly a precious object, he is determined that nothing shall take it away.

He will (use it) for praise, prayer, spiritual exercise. Everything that would hinder its spiritual observance must be laid aside.

(Keep it) from pollution - gangrene.

Holy life - divine ordinances - duty of man - safe - care to keep - not violate the holy rest.

The Gospel Sabbath is apt to slip away if we do not take great care to hold on to it.

If kept - greater joy during the week.

I Tim. 2:2.

Evidence that you have kept the Sabbath will be in your conscience.

Make or render unclean - defile - profane - impurity. Spent in idleness, worldly amusement, and unnecessary work.

✓ It means righteous that (keepeth his hand) from doing any evil. Blessed is the man that does nothing to displease God or that hurts his soul. He takes care to have a good conscience.

Abstain from all (known sin) - and do all the good you can. Wait upon God.

We have then a day permanent - instituted not for recreation and amusement.

Gen. 2:2-3. Instituted at creation. This was a command of God. Memorial of creation, day of rest and blessing.

Ex. 34:1 - Incorporated in moral law. Matt. 5:17-18,

Blessings - advantages - temporal, hard work is suspended for a day and this is required weekly. MANNA - 2 Days Supply -

Gives the (body and mind) a rest. Spiritual Sabbath celebrate the creation, Sunday celebrate Redemption, enjoy the grace of God and looks to heavenly rest.

Do you find the Sabbath weariness? If ~~not~~^{so}, your heart is not right. It ought to be a delight.

His hand from all evil. Close tie between the Sabbath and Holy living!

If there be a Sabbath - no evil doings!

If there are evil doings - no Sabbath!

First Sabbath was a sign there was no evil -- if there had been evil in Eden - could God have rested? Everything was very good. God will not rest again until all is good.

Work is the opposite of rest, which the word Sabbath means.

II. Supremacy of the Sabbath - V. 3-6.

How should a non-Jew feel about the Sabbath?

V. 3 - Stranger

Joined to the Lord - not Jews but Gentiles. Where do we fit in? Key - Joined to Him - union with God. Not Jewish race, not the church.

Taking him at his word - taking our responsibility of respecting his Day - stranger - foreigner - proselyte. Acts 10:34. Num. 28:4.

Eunuch - Dry tree - Barren. Luke 23:31. Not fathers in Israel - no children - grief.

Eph. 2:14 - 16.

They had been cut off from the congregation - fear after captivity days they would be left out.

V. 4 - What the Eunuchs had done.

- A. Keep the Sabbath - Formal act - one day.
- B. Pleased God - moral state of the soul - exercise.
- C. Claimed His covenant - Profession of conduct - conform.

Good character - keep the holy day, choose things that please God and give consent to his covenant.

Distinction of God's people - It was to be kept as a sign between God and each generation. Ex. 31:13. Ezek. 20:12.

*Sign x
Penalty*

If God could rest, as he did on the seventh day and Israel could rest with Him -- What is your choice?

Our memorial - rest on the new creation based on the finished work of redemption.

V. 5 - What he will do for the Eunuch and stranger.

- A. Place of worship - in mine house.
- B. Everlasting name - Barren of sons and daughters high honour.
- C. Not cut off - Higher honour. John 1:12

Emblem - Temple - Our church. I Tim. 3:15. Not confined to outter courts.

Admitted into holiest. Heb. 10:19-20.

A place in God's fellowship and a name never to be extinct. Blotted out.

V. 6 - What he will do for coming generations.

Spells out - what about my children - my grand children.

- A. All that join the Lord.
- B. All that love the Lord.
- C. All that serve the Lord - to be a servant of his.
- D. All that keep the Lord's Sabbath.
- E. All that claim the Lord's covenant.

As he treated his original people. This is a foretaste of the Christian church.

Neither Jew or Gentile, circumcision nor uncircumcision.

V. 7 - Knit to the Sabbath is the House of Prayer

- A. Comfort of aid - I will bring - Zion's Temple.
- B. Comfort of Receiving - I will accept offerings at the altar.
- C. Comfort of Joy - I will make them joyful - to serve God cheerfully - gladness.
- D. Comfort of Prayer - My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.

Sins - I. Kings 8:29-53. House of Prayer laid down by Solomon.

Cross - place of prayer and praise and the church is a place open. Not as a theatre for display but house of prayer. I Tim. 3:15.

Everything in the Tabernacle was for the purpose of worship. This is why the church must with care select some of the things put on in the name of religion.

ACTS 10:35 - What do you think the house of God is for? Matt. 21:13, Luke 19:46.

Jesus - money changers.

V. 8 - Others will be gathered - Summary statement. Scattered outcast of Israel -

Strangers.

Church is a growing body - mystical body - added week by week.

III. Suttle Enemies of the Sabbath - V. 9-12

Might be considered a new prophecy - He sees many misled by their teachers - ready prey.

Some think these words were by an unknown prophet.

Sudden change - new sermon.

Be that as it may, he points to some of their sins and provocations.

V. 9 - Enemies - Beast of Field

Beast of Forest

Enemies of God's flock seem to be invited to come and devour - now is your opportunity, easy prey, none to protect.

Unprotected - exposed to ravages of wild beast.

Prowlers are always hanging about the fold. Acts 20:29-30.

Satan goeth about as a roaring lion - I Pet. 5:8.

Crafty - conceal their real principles.

Draw away - disciples after them.

Subversion

Religious Drop Outs.

V. 10 - Watchmen.

- A. Blind
- B. Ignorant
- C. Dumb
- D. Silent
- E. Sleeping
- F. Lying down
- G. Enjoy ease

Picture - Flock of Sheep - Shepherd and watch dogs to guard - Beast of field and forest not fear. The guard is asleep and the dogs too dumb to bark.

History is repeating itself. Few watchmen are awake.

Watchmen - Israel's spiritual leaders - Ezek. 3:17. Blind, Matt. 23:16.

Image of not giving notice and sleeping, lying down loving to slumber.

Jesus time - not discern the signs of the times of the Messiah. Opposed him
- blind leaders of the blind.

Duty was to look - I Sam. 14:16.

Blind - Not see danger - not warn.

Ignorant - Without knowledge - they do not know. Christian not know real
purpose of God. Ignorant of God's revealed will. Not know the truth in Jesus. Matt.
15:14. Stumbling Block.

Dumb Dogs - Men in the ministry without conscience, reason, hope nor love for
the lost. Fear of man and love of world plus no conviction go on sinning. Dog not
recognize friend - noisy.

Silent - Lack of courage. Not bark. Or give warning.

Sleeping - Nah. 3:18 - Dreamers.

Lazy - Lying down - too lazy to find out the will of the Lord. No message from
God.

Loving to Slumber - Not concerned about the Kingdom - Dreaming dreams. Dumb dogs
full in slumber. Don't like to work. Don't intend to work. Take an hour to fabricate
an excuse for not doing 5 minute service in Kingdom. Love to be spectators only. Don't
like what the church is doing but to lazy to get involved and give time, money, and
talent.

V. 11 - Greedy Dogs - All look to their own ways and no interest in Spiritual needs of
people.

Selfish - Greedy dogs never have enough - ever watch hound dogs eat? Look after
self - seek their own interest.

Covetous - 2 Tim. 3:1-2.

Grumbling, growling, dissatisfied dog never shares the work of the day.

What does he care if lives are lost or the house is robbed - He must first be
fed.

Arab Begger - Gate of a rich man's house. Received constant gifts - one day rich man wanted to send a letter in a hurry and asked the begger to deliver it. Begger proudly lifted himself up and said "I solicit alms" - "I do not run errands".

With all the blessing of God, surely we can go on an errand for him.

Greedy - not only fail in duty but are worldly minded and actively work against spiritual things.

Never have enough

Never understand

Map out their own way of life

Main concern is gain

Procrastination

V. 12 - False Hopes - Reckless way of life. Shepherds not only negligent of duty.

Covetous - but given to excess of wine.

Drunkenness - tomorrow shall be as this day - we will have a 2 day round of drinking. The drinking is to be constant.

Traitors - if they have not the spirit of God but the spirit of the world. Baser passions - delusions.

2 Pet. 3:3 -4.

Lack of spirituality leads to laxity in morals.

Strong drink - destructive to theology.

Sinfulness - drink and harden their hearts.

Tomorrow may be for ever too late. Secure and confident of continued prosperity.

After Resurrection - Jesus & Disciples met always on 1st Day of week - John 20:19

Christians in Early Church in Book of Acts followed this example -

Paul - attended Synagogue on Sabbath to preach to unbelieving Jews. (Paul did not break with them or fellowship around Christ.)

Eternal Sabbath - also .66:23 - Reign of Christ. "The Lord's Day," replaced the Sabbath.

Sunday - day he rose from the dead - Gather to worship - Jesus met with his disciples - Make offerings 1 Cor. 16:1-2 - Christians attend church

Heb. 10:25 - your presence an encouragement to others, half empty church no appeal to stranger, America 2 day week end people not work, spiritually backslidden, not keep one day!

(over)