

FOLLOW CHRIST TO WORSHIP

I would rather be at the door of the house of my God than to live in the tents of the wicked.
Psalms 84:10 (HCSB)



Christian Church of God Newsletter



From the
**PASTOR'S
DESK**



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Contact the Editor at
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net
or P. O. Box 33134,
Amarillo, TX 79120

Hello My Friends,

One point of sacred truth that we hold together is recognizing the Sabbath as the hallowed seventh day of Creation. It was the first "holy thing" to be created by the Almighty.

"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it (made holy): because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (Gen 2: 2-3)

In the first chapter of John's gospel and again in Paul's letter to the Church at Colossae (Col. 1:12-23) we learn that the "Word" who was with God and was God and by whom all things, including the Sabbath, were created, put on flesh and dwelt among men. This same Jesus Christ then spoke with rightful authority when He reprimanded the self-righteous Pharisees for failing to understand how and why the Sabbath is to be kept holy.

"And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the

(Continued on page 6)

So there remains a Sabbath rest
for the people of God. ~Hebrews 4:9 (NASB)



2

Praise the Lord.
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
—Psalm 150:1

[Jesus] came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place.

Luke 4:16 (MSG)



I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD." — Psalm 122:1

YOU ARE WELCOME TO MEET WITH US EACH SATURDAY
11 A.M. Christian Education / 11:45 A.M. Worship Service
801 QUAIL CREEK DRIVE

Inside this issue:

<i>Search Your Heart</i>	8
<i>Medicine of Mirth</i>	7
<i>God Slowing us Down</i>	10
<i>A Hymn of Sabbath Rest</i>	5
<i>Celebrations / Condolences</i>	4
<i>Life Points</i>	9
<i>"New" Sabbathkeeping</i>	9



**CHECK THIS
MEDIA**

**Our sermons
broadcast on**

HGRD Radio
9:05 AM
Sunday.



His Powerful Word

11

God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey.

~ Hebrews 4:12, The Message

FROM THE BEGINNING, the Word tells us, "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Genesis 2:3). Reaffirmed later: "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:11).

The Lord Jesus Christ emphasized the finer points of the Commandment by saying, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28).

It continued to be affirmed well beyond the death and resurrection of Jesus: "There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9, NIV).

When Paul the apostle met with the Jews, there doesn't seem to be any argument for meeting with them on any other day of the week: "Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from

the Scriptures" (Acts 17:2). These audiences often included Greeks: "And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 18:4). He could have practiced this out of deference to the Jews, but why wouldn't he have corrected the "mistake" when he ministered to the Gentiles? Paul continued to honor the Sabbath in his ministry to them: "And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there" (Acts 16:13).

Jesus corrected false concepts about keeping the Sabbath: "'Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:12). (Cp. Matthew 12:1; Luke 13:15.)

It is a special time to worship God, fellowship with the brethren, and help those in need.

"This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalms 118:24). ■

[NKJV unless otherwise noted]

Curtis K Shelburne

God Can Bless Us By Slowing Us Down

Curtis K. Shelburne [Pastor, Muleshoe, TX]

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As I write, a goodly portion (How's that for a really preacherly—yea, verily, a goodly—sort of word?) of our country has been shut down by a major winter ice storm.

Truth be told, I'm glad.

Our world desperately needs to be shut down every now and then, and since not many of us have the power, the authority, or the good sense to voluntarily shut things down ourselves for awhile, I'm grateful when on occasion the Almighty does it for us. If ice works, so be it. (A faulty appendix did it for me, too, one time, but I prefer ice.)

The storm was beautiful in its own way. I like it when the cold fog rolls in with an icy mist, the tree-tops begin to turn white, and the whole world takes on a surreal, other-worldly beauty. Then you're thankful for a blazing fire, a warm house, and a big window to frame the silvery white world God is creating.

We had no school on Monday. That was a good call. The streets were slicker than New Orleans' mayor. I believe in education and have worked a good bit to promote it, but kids could probably do with a little more time than they usually get to sled down hills on ice and snow that the Lord graciously provides for such. Mark Twain was on to something when he said, "I never let my schooling interfere with my education."

We cancelled church on Sunday. That was okay, too. I enjoyed the "bye" a great deal. If I'd spent more time on my schooling I could tell you the percentage, but I doubt that one Sun-day off out of 52

per year (which is our usual rate of bad-weather-let's-cancel-services Sundays) hurts our average all that much.

I've wondered why I like it so much on these rare occasions when the world shuts down?

Because I'm lazy? Maybe.

But a more flattering reason is this: Our lives so often spin out of balance that a little forced time to slow down or stop (and maybe even think, or read, or enjoy our families, or sit still) helps get them back, if only for a heartbeat or two, into something approaching balance.

I love education. My wife thought I'd never quit going to school. But not all education happens in the classroom. There's a time to get serious about memorizing multiplication tables. But we probably do that better if we're diligent enough about throwing snowballs when the right opportunity comes along. I figure we're long on chair time and short on snowball time.

I love what happens when we meet to worship the God who spins this world and paints it with snowflakes. And I'm afraid it's true that if we show up at church only when it's quite convenient, we hurt ourselves, our church, THE church universal, and our community much more than we realize.

But I suspect it's those most committed to worshipping the God they love who smile the healthiest smiles when God shuts the world down and we get a chance on a frosty Sunday morning to pull up the covers, breathe a heartfelt "Thank you, Lord!" and, before we fade gently back into blessed sleep, remember Jesus' words, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."



PRAYER REQUESTS: "... The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; ... Pray for one another that you may be healed."
— James 5:15-16.

Sheri Bartlett: Serious health problems. Julie McKinney's daughter.

Sandy Booth: Ovarian cancer has recurred; now hospitalized, prognosis not good. Jeff Booth's sister-in-law.

Amber and Dylan Clark: Cerebral Palsy. Amber scheduled for surgery on her knees February 8th to attempt to relax her legs. Betty Clark's grandchildren.

Cayle, Betty Clark's granddaughter rescheduled for surgery on her ankle

Vickie Crevoi: Chronic Progressive MS. Linda Booth's sister.

DeAnne DeLuna: Breast Cancer. She is not responding to current meds and has undergone heart cath to check for heart damage. Larry Lyles' stepdaughter.

Velvet Green: Schizophrenia. Gary's wife.

Randy Gnessett: Lung transplant; still in serious condition. Friend of Candace Sellers.

Jackson Huse: Kindergarten child in Mayo Clinic with large mass in head. Submitted by Jody Kirkpatrick

Glenn Kirkpatrick: Joe's father, weak and severely frail; has recently shown improvement.

Donna Larkin: critical after aneurism. Robert Clark's mother-in-law.

Anna Law: Lupus and kidney failure.

C. D. McKinney: Heart arrhythmia. Julie's husband.

Dollie Meil: Cerebral Palsy. Growing weak.

C.L. Osterloh: Arkansas. Undergoing dialysis three times weekly.

Glenda Rankin: Hodgkins Lymphoma. Rudolph Rankin's niece.

Ted Rankin: Back and vision problems. Rudolph's son, Janet Voss' brother.

Kathryn Scott: MS, critical stage. Friend of the Baileys.

Emma Searl (less than one year old): Spina Befida, staph infection.

Wilson Stewart: Prostate cancer, numbness on one side. Difficulty swallowing.

Richard Wiedenheft: Lymphoma Cancer. Condition critical.

IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR. jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net



I hear by the Grapevine

4 ELDER CALVIN BURRELL wrote this in the Q & A section of the September '06 Bible Advocate: "Sabbath is controversial, but we may not assume that one viewpoint of it is as valid as another or that we may ignore it altogether. In response to God's redeeming grace, believers should obey His every word for us and celebrate all His gifts (Romans 12:1, 2), including the weekly Sabbath."

CELEBRATIONS/ CONDOLENCES REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE, AND WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP (Romans 12:15)

THANKS / PRAISE:
Jacee Sellers is home and doing well after being hospitalized for two months with pneumonia and RSV. The family thanks all of you for your kind thoughts and prayers during this trying time.
CONDOLENCES:
Jeffrey Hertz, brother of Ruth Wertz, succumbed to cancer following a lengthy battle. Our prayers and deepest sympathy to Ruth, Gene and family in their loss. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).

<u>Birthdays:</u>	<u>Anniversaries:</u>
Merle Vines 02/08	Henry & Virginia Sellers 02/14
Candace Sellers 02/15	

- Call a nursing home or retirement center and ask for a list of the residents who seldom get mail or visitors. Send them a card several times a year. Sign it, "Someone who thinks you are very special."
 - Remember that what's right isn't always popular, and what's popular isn't always right.
 - Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
 - Forgive quickly.
 - Remember that all success comes at a price.
 - Never say anything uncomplimentary about your wife in the presence of your children.
 - Listen to rumors, but don't contribute any of your own.
 - Wage war against procrastination.
 - Offer hope.
 - Let your word be your bond.
 - Remember that your child's character is like good soup. Both are homemade.
 - Love someone who doesn't deserve it.
 - Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
 - Avoid approaching horses and restaurants from the rear.
 - There are people who will always come up with reasons why you can't do what you want to do. Ignore them.
 - Answer the phone with enthusiasm and energy in your voice.
- ~ Life's Little Instruction Book / H. Jackson Brown, Jr. / Rutledge Hill Press

'New' Sabbath-keeping

I hear a lot of Christians who don't keep Sabbath, saying "The New Testament doesn't talk about the Sabbath." It might surprise them to learn that the Sabbath is mentioned more than sixty times in the New Testament. A lot of what we hear about it is from the Old Testament, but Jesus came to fulfill the law and, in doing that, raised the standard. . .

Jesus didn't add more rules and regulations but went straight to the heart --like when He rebuked the Pharisees for getting on His disciples' case for plucking grain. The

JOHN COMER in Christian Appeal, September 2006 issue, writes of the fourth of God's Ten Commandments:

At some point the rabbis decided upon the distance that could be lawfully traveled on this holy day without "working" . . . Even today Orthodox Jews feel obligated to keep the Sabbath requirements. This includes observing the tradition-



AD IN RECENT AMARILLO GLOBE NEWS for Saturday Services in addition to their Sunday Services:

SATURDAY IS THE NEW SUNDAY!

LORD AND MASTER, I WILL TAKE TIME THIS MONTH TO LOOK AT MY HEART MIRROR AND EXAMINE MYSELF IN RESPECT TO . . .

- INTEGRITY. Job 27:4-6; Psalm 7:8; Titus 2:7.
- SINCERITY. 1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 1 Corinthians 5:8.
- OBEDIENT ATTITUDE. Nehemiah 1:5; Psalm 1:2; 112:1; 119:10, 97; Isaiah 1:19; Matthew 6:24; 1 John 2:3-6.



For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. ~James 1:23-25 (NKJV)



Hymns for Him⁵ Hymns for Him

Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ. ~ Ephesians 5:19-20, Msg.

SAFELY THROUGH ANOTHER WEEK

by John Newton

Safely through another week,
God has brought us on our way;
Let us now a blessing seek,
Waiting in His courts today.
Day of all the week the best,
Emblem of eternal rest;

Here we come Thy name to praise;
Let us feel Thy presence near;
May Thy glory meet our eyes
While we in Thy house appear.
Here afford us, Lord, a taste
Of our everlasting feast.

While we pray for pard'ning grace,
Thru the dear Redeemer's name.
Show Thy reconciling face;
Take away our sin and shame;
From our worldly cares set free,
May we rest this day in Thee.

May the gospel's joyful sound
Conquer sinners, comfort saints,
Make the fruits of grace abound,
Bring relief to all complaints;
Thus may all our worship prove,
Till we join the church's love.





From the PASTOR'S DESK

6

Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27-28)

The Sabbath is unique in nature because it is not a material object or a place accessible only to a few, but a day (a time) available to all no matter whom or where they are. Being time, the Sabbath invites the believers to experience divine fellowship, not through "holy objects" or "holy places" but in time shared together, thus the power of Paul's admonition in Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

It is a sort of "benediction pause", the time needed in the proven 7-day cycle rhythm of life for us mortals, over-scheduled and overstressed, to rest, refresh, relax and revive spiritually. The Sabbath mentioned 111 times in the Old Testament and incredibly 60 times in the New Testament, was made Holy by God so that man can enter into the joy of His rest and fellowship; man has no authority to change or alter the seventh day as the day of

worship and rest. Man may think to change the times and seasons, but has no more power to change the day of Sabbath worship than he has to change himself into a carp!

So let us rejoice in holiness of the Lord's Sabbath, for to quote the Apostle Paul, "There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God." (Heb. 4:9)

Keep the Faith!
Jeff Booth

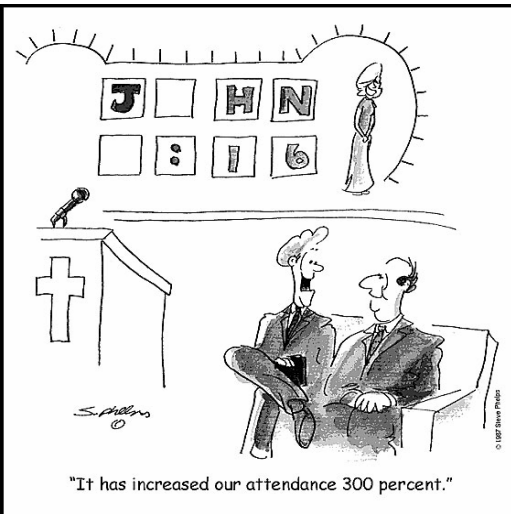
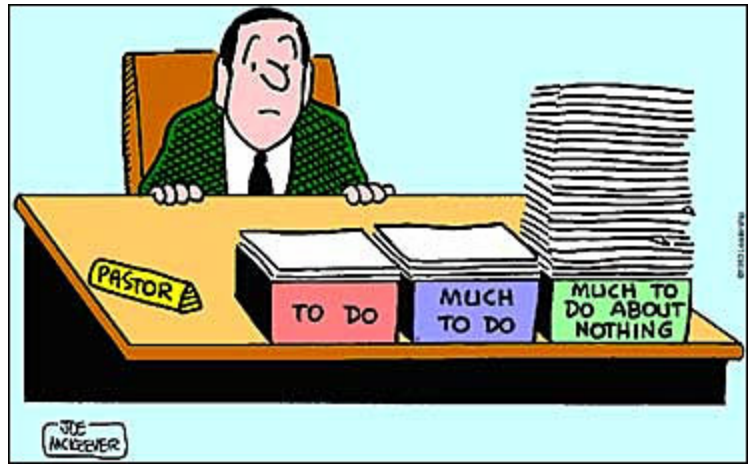


So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of

chuckles

7

A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired. —Proverbs 17:22, *The Message*



"Well, I haven't actually died to sin, but I did feel kind of faint once."

