

Sabbath is simply “ceasing”. Ceasing to act, ceasing to work, and ceasing to be in control. Sabbath opens doors for an individual to stop moving and start worshipping. At the core of the call to Sabbath is a call to worship. Failure to worship has its roots in failure to Sabbath and failure to Sabbath is at its core a weakened and anemic view of the sovereignty of God. Over the course of the GOSPEL REST teaching series we will look at what the Sabbath is, why it’s important, and what practicing and neglecting it will do in the life of the believer.

God’s commands are clear and have purpose and meaning. The application of God’s call to rest is as important as the foundational truth of it. One comes before the other, but neglect of the fourth commandment has detrimental implications on the life of the believer. God’s commands are not burdensome. They are given with divine care and instructions. To embrace them is to adore him; to ignore them is to disobey and invite correction.

God’s plan for Gospel Rest is clear. The practice of Sabbath is functional obedience to a command and practical application of the way of life that is coming. No human will ever fully complete the work before him or her. Obedience to the Sabbath is not only worship, it is confession of finiteness. God’s clearly given the plan and foundation for rest; it’s now in his son’s and daughter’s hands to obey and follow.

Growth Questions for 7/17/11 – 7/24/11

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. What is your initial response to “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”?
3. Why do you think that the 4th commandment gets so little attention and press in the life of the believer? Why is it rarely discussed and applied? Is it unimportant?
4. What evidence is in your life that demonstrates either obedience to or neglect of God’s call to rest?
5. How does observance of the Sabbath reorient your heart to grace? How does God’s call to stop working apply to you?
6. When do you practice Sabbath Rest? Is it a particular day, time, place? If so, when and where?
7. Describe the connection between Genesis 2:2-3 and Exodus 20:8-11. How does God’s initial demonstration of this day of rest impact the force of the command?
8. Interact with the statement, “I believe that obedience to the 4th commandment allows me to worship God more effectively and more completely.” Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
9. How do you plan on engaging in Gospel Rest and living in obedience to the 4th commandment?

Important Dates

- 7/17/11 Gospel Rest Teaching Series Continues
- 7/17/11 Moldova Team Returns
- 7/18/11 Thailand Mission Trip
- 7/21/11 Christian Beliefs Summer Teaching Session Begins
- 8/14/11 Community Groups Kick Off
- Weekly Summer Movie Express – Tuesdays/Wednesdays

SUMMER TEACHING SESSION - Each summer The Church at Martinsburg hosts a teaching session through the summer months as community groups take a break over June, July, and part of August. This

summer we will be offering The Gospel Rest Study, The Gospel Centered Life, and Christian Beliefs lead by Denise Dorminy. Visit www.martinsburgchurch.org for more information.