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| **On Keeping the Sabbath**  *Promise: God wants to set us apart for His Kingdom* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Deut 5:12-15; Ps 81:1-10; 2 Cor. 4:5-12; Mark 2:23—3:6 (The Day of Pentecost), 5/19/24)  *Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.* – Dt 5:12  **Lead In –** I’m of the generation of children that knew better than to ask if we had to go to church. … It didn’t take long, and you knew it was a waste of breath to ask the question. So early on, I understood the Third Commandment as never skipping out on going to Church on Sunday morning, and then avoiding regular activities the rest of the day. Was I wrong in that understanding? Not necessarily, but of course there is a lot more to it than that. And that’s what we will consider this morning.   1. **Emphasis and Intention of the Third Commandment**    1. Luther’s understanding of the correct emphasis…    2. Differing rationales between Exodus and Deuter… 2. **The Lost Emphasis In Israel**    1. In this fallen world labor by the sweat of the brow…    2. To celebrate Creation, Redemption, and Inheritance…    3. You know something has gone dreadfully wrong… 3. **Christ Is the Fulfillment of the Sabbath**    1. The Lord of the Sabbath says Sabbath made for man!    2. Invitation to all who labor and are heavy laden…    3. The ultimate entry into the Promised Land…    4. The peace and rest Jesus’ death makes possible…   **Final Word –** So what does it mean for us to Keep the Sabbath? … It will be helpful not to resist the Holy Spirit, and to roll out of bed, drag ourselves out the door, and get ourselves to the Divine Service on Sunday mornings. It will be helpful to curtail the number of activities that we schedule so that we can take ample time to be ministered to by God’s Word. And God knows we have physical needs for food, drink, rest, and restoration. All these bodily needs are a precursor to a time in Paradise in the Kingdom when our work will not be by the sweat of our brows. Already, in Christ we have entered His rest, even as we await the fullness of this rest when He returns. So, Keep the Sabbath by honoring His Word. It is what makes us and everything holy. Amen.  **שַׁבָּת** (shab-BAWTH) to cease, desist, rest. קָדַשׁ (kaw-DASH) to set apart, consecrate, make holy. **Luther:** We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it. (SC)  **Jn 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.  **Ge 3:19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  **Mk 2:27-28** And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”  **Mt 11:28-30** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and | **Deuteronomy 5:12-15 ESV**  *The Third Commandment*  12“‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. 13Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. 15You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.  **Exodus 20:8-11 ESV**  8“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.  I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”  **He 4:1** Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.  **He 4:8-9** For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.  **1Pe 3:18** .For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit  **Ro 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. |