

WHY DOES HE LET HIS MEN DO THAT?

Mark 2:23-28 Rev. Brian W. Secor
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When it comes to the Lord's Day & honoring it, we've come a long way in the _____ direction.

1. Throughout church history, this passage & others like it have given rise to great discussions as to what is & is not proper on the Lord's Day. Let's look to the Scripture, not culture, for our understanding of the Lord's Day.

I. THE LORD'S DAY HAS _____ THE SABBATH.

A. When Jesus rose from the dead, everything was new.

1. If the people of the NT struggled with anything, it was "How do we now live for God?" Tradition could not help. Judaizers thought it could.
2. Paul the apostle to the Gentiles fought the Judaizers, government & his own converts & churches on this point again & again.
3. So how did we get from the 7th Day Sabbath to the Lord's Day? Quite easily: We have the Lord's Day because on first day of the week, our _____ rose from the dead.
4. Our problem is that we have grown up & lived in nation where _____ values have been taken for granted. Our failure to recognize the transitions he makes & offers is our failure to recognize him for who he is & to fall back into bondage to foolish ways & notions contrary to his Lordship.

B. The Ten Commandments still stand as God's idea of what it means to be _____ in practice.

1. For much of my Christian life, I struggled with how do I show myself loyal to God & his ethical standards for life? Is there nothing that distinguishes me as a Christian from the culture & just being a nice person?
2. One of the great principles of Reformed theology is that keeping the Ten Commandments is the means to demonstrate our _____ & _____ to God. By keeping them, we let our light shine.
3. Heidelberg Catechism Beautifully blends together biblical & personal piety. Catechism is divided into three parts:
 - a. _____: how I come to know my sinfulness.
 - b. _____: how I come to know salvation.
 - c. _____: how I come to live for God. This section concerns us today.
4. Two ways we show gratitude to God: obedience to the

Ten Commandments & expressing our faith in him through the Lord's Prayer.

- a. After stating no one can keep perfectly the Ten Commandments, authors come to Question 115.

Q. 115: Why, then, does God have the Ten Commandments preached so strictly since no one can keep them in this life?
Answer. *First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to know our sinfulness and the more we may eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness of sins and righteousness. Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, we may never stop striving to be renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.*

6. Heidelberg Catechism addresses 4th commandment:
First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I regularly attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor. Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through the Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal Sabbath.

7. Mark 2:23-28 Jesus & his men were likely on way to synagogue. It was a Sabbath day. As walked along, disciples grabbed some heads of grain, rubbed in hands, blew chaff away & ate them. According to Jewish law, plucking grain & rubbing it together constituted reaping & cleaning of grain, _____ work on the Sabbath Day. Pharisees trucking along with Jesus to keep an eye on him & his men quickly pounce on this transgression of the law & ask Jesus, "Why are your men doing this? Why do you allow them to do this?"

II. JESUS IS _____ OF THE SABBATH

A. Human beings do not make the rules for honoring the Lord's Day. God does.

1. In general, we can say that Sunday as Day of the Lord is intended to be the _____ day of worship.
2. There will always be situations where we must work due to the necessity of our situation. But many times we do have a _____ as to whether or not we engage in activities that take us away from observing the Lord's Day.
3. Many of early Christians were slaves & their owners never let them take a day off. Yet they spent their free time late at night usually in worship & with one another on the Lord's Day. Heb. 10:25

B. Jesus created the day of rest for us at the beginning.

1. We believe that in the beginning God created heavens & the earth. For six days, the Bible says, he labored. On the 7th day he _____ from his labors.
2. Woven into very pattern of universe is the six days on, one day off cycle. Colossians 1:16-17
3. When Jesus says to Pharisees: "The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath", he is affirming both his _____ & his role as Lord of _____. It was he who created time. It was he who put into place the six day/one day cycle of weeks. As Lord of the Sabbath he has right to say how it is to be used & why we are to use it as day of rest.
 - a. We have great _____ in how we invest our Sundays. But I would suggest we need to ask ourselves
 - c. what we include in Sunday activities these questions,
 - i)"Does this honor Jesus Christ & benefit my soul & my relationship with him & his Church?"
 - ii)Does this make me more holy in life and in thought?"
 - iii)Does this event/activity take away time I need to grow in grace & in love for God & others?
 - b. If can say yes to 1st two & no to last, do it. But if can't, be careful. You may be trading your life for things that don't matter.
 - c. Many times our including activities in our lives on the Lord's Day is merely _____ for entertainment & our failure to plan effectively our tasks during the rest of the week. God help us to honor him first of all in all things including the Lord's Day so that we demonstrate that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, not mankind.

III. THE SABBATH REST IS FOR MAN'S BENEFIT.**A. Man is not meant to be a _____.**

1. Today more than ever, companies want people to be workaholic & have no life outside of the job. This is not good for us, for people.
2. We were made for more than work, more than making money or creating wealth for someone else. We are made to know _____ & enjoy him forever. So when a company wants me to give them body & soul, I must, as a follower of him who is Lord of the Sabbath, tell them no, even if it means my job. God is _____. He has promised to us that he would not fail us nor forsake us. David nailed it — Psalm 37:16-20, 23-28a. We are made

for God, not to be or become a workaholic.

B. Those in our power need to _____ as we do.

1. God's concern for rest for people didn't stop with those in charge. He is concerned about those beneath us, who work for us. Exodus 23:10-12
2. I look forward to Sunday because it is a _____ time.
 - a. I get to worship in a special way.
 - b. I get to be with the people of God for study & discussion of the things of God.
 - c. I get a break from normal day to day activities.
3. Our minds & bodies, the minds & bodies of our workers, the minds & bodies of our animals, all persons & created things, even machines, need a day of rest. As it is in our power to let them have that day, let us do it.

C. Using the Lord's Day as a time for rest portrays great spiritual truths.

1. God is in _____ of our lives.
2. God's rest gives us time to _____ this world.
3. Our _____ is an example of what it means to rest from our labors.
4. An _____ rest awaits us who are in Christ. Hebrews 4:9. Revelation 14:13.
5. Sabbath day of rest is made for _____, not vice versa.
 - a. In a world that increasingly forgets God, we need to help one another understand that man is no mere cog in the machinery of commerce. We are made for more than that. We are made to worship God, not mammon. We are made to in his image & therefore this holy day, this one day in seven, is set aside for worship, rest & renewal by the design & will of God.

Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. Our Lord is Lord of the Sabbath. He made the day for mankind & our well-being. Thanks be to God — this is the _____ Day!