

Sermon 6-16 and 20, 2010

Honoring God's Day – the 3rd Commandment Exodus 20:8-11

Dear Worshipers of the Lord:

Why were you created? Why were you given life? Was it to...

- Spend your days working to make ends meet
- Spend your days finding way to be fulfilled with the things of this world
- Spend your days only to find out that one day you will have no more days to spend

You and I were created for one reason: **To worship God!**

People who do not worship God live empty lives. They try to fill up their lives with the things of this world: goods, fame and relationships.

King Solomon was the richest man in the world. He was king. He had power, fame and wealth, yet he wrote that he was empty on the inside. He wrote in the Old Testament that without God "Everything is meaningless. Utterly meaningless."

Two of America's most endearing personalities of the past had everything the world could offer. They both had fame, money and influence. Yet, from reading about their lives they were empty on the inside. Both of them died tragic deaths.

Monroe's life apparently had been falling apart months before her death. From the outside looking in one would have thought she had everything: fame, fortune, fans. She had everything this world could offer but she felt empty. She turned to drugs to make it through each day.

Elvis was surrounded by fame and fortune. By the mid-1960's however, he was empty, too, even though he was the number one box office hit in Hollywood. It was said that he, too, was empty on the inside. He turned to drugs. He started reading mystical writings to find something to feed his soul.

Both had everything but inside they were empty, empty, empty! Why?

Because **our souls can only be filled with God.** Our souls need an active relationship with Him. Our souls need to be in touch with Him everyday through prayer and worship.

The Lord gave us the 3rd commandment for our own good. He knows more about life than we do. He wants us to have a meaningful relationship with Him. He wants us to have a reason to live that goes beyond this world. He wants to fill us up with His presence. He wants to give us rest for our bodies and souls.

I. What is worship?

Worship is realizing the worth of God. It is the way by which we express our value of something.

Worship is saying to God: **"I value you."** Lord, I value you enough to...

- Join with other believers to worship you
- Read my Bible and sing songs of praise to you
- Speak with You everyday through prayer and hear You speak to me through the Word

Psalm 100 says:

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people...give thanks to him and praise his name.

Worship is giving God honor by...

- Attending worship services
- Spending time in His Word
- Using our gifts to work in His kingdom
- Encouraging one another in our walk of faith

This 3rd commandment says we are to recognize the Lord's Day. In the Old Testament this day was Saturday for the Jewish people. When Jesus came to fulfill the law the Christians chose Sunday as the Lord's Day because Sunday was the Day

of Jesus' resurrection, the Day of Pentecost and the First Day of Creation. Sunday replaced Saturday as the Lord's Day. But we are not under the Old Testament law when it comes to choosing a day for worship. We may choose any day to set aside for spiritual rest and to join in an assembly with fellow believers.

Psalm 150 reminds us:

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens...Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

II. How is God's Day honored by us?

We honor God by receiving His Word eagerly.

- Acts 13:48 "...they were glad and honored the Word of the Lord..."
- Acts 17:11 "...they received the message with great eagerness..."

Jesus told the parable of the seed and the soil in Luke 8:4-15. A certain farmer scattered his seed on the soil and...

- Some of the seed fell along the path. The birds ate the seeds which are like people who hear the Word of God but the devil comes along and takes the Word from their hearts.
- Some of the seed fell on the rock and when it came up it withered because it had no root which are like people who receive the Word with joy but when testing comes they fall away from faith.
- Some of the seed fell among the thorns which eventually was smothered by the weeds which are like people who hear the Word but are choked by life's worries and pleasures and do not grow in faith.
- But, some of the seed fell on the good soil. It came up and produced a crop 100 times more than what was sown. It represents people who hear the Word, keep it and produce in their lives the fruits of faith by the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul wrote: “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another...and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...”
Colossians 3:15f

We honor God and His Word by **“Remembering the Sabbath Day.”** The word “Remember” in the Hebrew Old Testament means...

- To fix = remember = firmly embedded like nails
- To keep = devoted to God and separated from other days

God wants us to find this rest for our souls but also for our bodies. In Exodus 20:9-11 he instructs us to take one day out of our week to rest physically from our labor.

I heard a story of two groups of people who rushed to California back in 1849 as part of the gold rush.

- One group stopped every Sunday for worship and rest as they travelled
- The other group did not want to stop for anything and pushed on hoping to get there first for all the gold. They did not stop to worship God.
- Both groups left from the same place at the same time.
- Which group reached California first? Which group was well rested physically and spiritually?
- The group that stopped each Sunday to worship the Lord

We are to be devoted to God’s Word as the early believers were in the book of Acts: **“They devoted themselves to the Apostle’s teaching** and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...”

The Bible says: “Every Word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.” Pr 30 “Take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.” II Corinthians 10:5b

III. How is God’s Day Dishonored?

By refusing to hear and obey His Word.

Jesus told the unbelieving Jews of His day: “He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” John 8:47

James writes: “Do not merely listen to the word...do what it says.” James 1:22

Worship is a habit. I have read that if you do something 14 days in a row it becomes a habit.

In Luke 4:16 we read about Jesus going to the synagogue on the Sabbath Day and it was His custom. (Habit) Jesus true God and true Man while on earth made worship a habit.

Worship is a habit. It can be a habit to come and it may also be a habit to stay away.

Hebrews 10:25 **“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,** but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

One church planned a **“No Excuse Sunday”**. The announcement read this way:

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday...

- Cots will be placed in the foyer for those - say, Sunday is my only day to sleep in
- Murine will be available for those with tired eyes...from watching TV too late on Saturday night
- Steel helmets will be provided for those who say, The roof would cave in if I ever came to church
- Blankets will be provided for those who think the church is too cold and fans for those who think the church is too hot
- We will have hearing aids for those who say the pastor speaks too softly and cotton for those who say he preaches too loudly
- Some relatives will be in attendance for those who like to go visiting on Sunday

- There will be 100 TV dinners for those who cannot go to church and cook dinner also
- One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature
- **See you next Lord's Day!**

We come to worship to hear about God's grace and forgiveness. We come to worship to find the rest that our souls need. We come to worship to remember who we are and why we are here. We come to worship to keep our lives balanced and to find fulfillment in our Lord. We come to worship to be reminded that Jesus kept this commandment for me and forgives me when I fail. We come to worship to enter God's rest as it says in Hebrews: "For anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work...Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest." Hebrews 4:10-11

We come to worship as the Bible says: **To praise our Creator and to encourage one another."**

Let us Worship – Give God is worth and glory.