

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL TERMS

SABBATH

1.) What does the Hebrew word, sabbath, mean? (Perhaps think of a sabbatical.)

Genesis 2:2-3 On the seventh day God had finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had been doing. God blessed the seventh day and set it apart as holy, because on it he rested from all his work of creation that he had done. (EHV)

2.) Prior to God's giving the law at Mt. Sinai, we have no Biblical mandate or example of observing the Sabbath. Just as God had originally rested (ceased) from his work of creating and made the seventh day holy, he commanded the Israelites to keep the Sabbath day holy. How did they do this?

Exodus 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

Leviticus 23:3 "There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD."

3.) Under the Old Covenant, what was the penalty for desecrating the Sabbath? Why would God make it so severe?

Exodus 31:14 "Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people."

4.) God's people were also to observe Sabbath years. What spiritual purpose did this rest serve?

Leviticus 25:3-6 "For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a sabbath of rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you."

5.) In a material way the Sabbath day proclaimed that we ought to rest in God. What aspects of resting in God is emphasized in each of the following passages?

Deuteronomy 5:14-15 "The seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day."

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Hebrews 4:9-10 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

6.) Are New Testament believers still required to observe the Sabbath?

Luke 4:16 [Jesus] went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.

Colossians 2:16-17 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

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.

7.) Your Christian friend needs and gets a new job, but her boss it will require her to work on Sundays. She asks you advice on what to do. What would you say to her?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are the fulfillment of the Sabbath for our souls. Thank you for providing us with release from our guilt and rest from the burden of our good works for salvation. Lead us to regularly rest in your word and sacrament and to live secure and calm in your abiding grace all our days. Amen.