

BIBLE EXPLORATIONS

Aug 1995
Volume 9, No. 4

...to know the love of Christ
which passeth knowledge
that ye might be filled with
all the fulness of God Eph 3:19

Let's Keep The Sabbath

"And on the seventh (sixth according to the LXX) day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made." (Ge 2:2)

Christendom has no unity of the faith in their interpretation of that verse. Some do what it says and rest from their labors on the seventh day which is Saturday. Some have decided to consider Sunday the seventh day and rest from their labors on that day. Some decide that as long as they rest one day in the week they are obeying God. Some believe just changing the type of work is good enough. Others believe that under grace there is no need to keep the sabbath.

One of the ten commandments given to Moses and Israel by God is: **"the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."** (Ex 20:10-11) Also the Lord said, **"...My sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between ME and you (Israel)..."** and it is **"...for a perpetual covenant."** (Ex 31:13-16)

In Genesis 2:2 God said He rested and in Exodus He explains what He means by resting. The question is asked, "Who REALLY keeps the sabbath today?"

"And while the children of

Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks (he was working) on the sabbath day." (Num 15:32-36) Moses consulted the Lord about this matter and the Lord pronounced the death penalty on him. So, among those who believe they are keeping the sabbath, are they? Do they do NO WORK on that day? It appears that they are deciding for themselves how to observe that day. Their offering is no different from Cain's.

Does God desire that we keep the sabbath? Yes, He does. You might argue that we are under grace and not under the law. You might argue that it is no where so stated in the prison epistles, those writings of Paul for the members of the Church in Ephesians 1:22-23.

God rested on the seventh day, so the sabbath has to do with rest. Paul, in Ephesians 4:14, speaks of believers being tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine. These are not at rest and are not keeping the sabbath.

Some believers grieve the Holy Spirit of God. (Eph 4:30) Keeping the sabbath cannot be realized apart from the Holy Spirit of God. Some husbands and wives do not live in harmony with Ephesians 5:21-33 so are not at rest. Some do things through strife and vainglory which do not produce rest. (Phil 2:3) Others murmur, complain and dispute about things which deprive them of rest. (Phil 2:14) There are those who try to find rest in the things of this world, Philippians 3:18-19, but do not

find it there.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand, ...And the peace of God (here is rest) which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:4-6)

We can take John 16:33 to heart. **"These things I have spoken unto you, that IN ME ye might have peace (rest). In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."**

Paul said, **"...I KNOW Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that HE IS ABLE to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."** (2 Ti 1:12) If we truly believe as did Paul, we will keep the sabbath at all times. One day out of the seven will not do. When we keep the sabbath, we are at peace in the Lord continually.

"And let the peace of God RULE in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." (Col 3:15)

As a postscript to this article, we are to keep all the ten commandments. The NEW MAN is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph 4:24) When we put on the NEW MAN, he is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him. (Col 3:10) When we walk in the NEW MAN, we not only keep the sabbath, but all the ten commandments. If we do not keep the commandments, we are walking in the old man and thus are of no use to the Lord in that condition.

P. Schafer

Divine Summons #7

SummonstoThreeCompanies

Out from among other people, believers and unbelievers, the Lord has summoned three major companies. These were chosen by Him, not for divine preference, but for the burden of His Word and the responsibility of making it known to others. They were summoned for a life of spiritual demands. They were separated unto Him to live supernatural lives, empowered by Him, while they still walked on earth.

The first company God summoned was the nation of Israel, whom God called His Wife. While the majority of Israel failed to hear the Lord and serve Him, God summoned the second company, called the Bride of the Lamb. That company was composed of the faithful remnant of Israel and the Gentiles grafted into Israel's hope in Acts times. Finally, God called the third group, the one new man, also known as the Church which is the Body of Christ.

God's summons to these companies came in different time periods. To each, God gave instructions, promises, and gifts differing from the others. Each had its own hope and inheritance. However, all three were summoned to serve God and make His glory known in their times.

Those God summoned to service were chosen by Him according to His foreknowledge. To the nation of Israel He said, "**...the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special People unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.**" (Deut 7:6)

Peter, writing to the scattered Jews, members of the Bride company, calls them "**Elect** (select, chosen) **according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**" (1Pe 1:2) He told some, "**Ye are a chosen generation, a**

royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people..." (1Pe 1:4)

Those God chose, He summoned. He said, "**When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called My son out of Egypt.**" (Hos 11:1) Israel, wandering in the desert, is described as a church (called out company) in the wilderness. (Ac 7:38)

The Bride, or faithful remnant of Israel, together with Gentiles who joined them, are said to be "**...the called of Jesus Christ.**" (Ro 1:6) They were partakers of the "**heavenly calling**" (Heb 3:1), that is, a calling spiritual in character. Paul said, "**He (God) called you by our gospel.**" (2Thes 2:14)

Finally, God revealed a purpose He had kept secret within Himself. By the Apostle Paul, He sent out a summons to membership in the company He called the Church which is the Body of Christ. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul wrote of God, "**Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace.**" Paul said this calling was a "**high calling**", literally a calling above or on high. He said this calling was Christ's calling and he prayed that those summoned might know the hope of Christ's calling. (Eph 1:18)

The hope, or expectation of each of the three companies, is that sure and promised future which God planned and prepared for them. It included putting on immortality and receiving an inheritance. The hope of the nation of Israel was to dwell in the land promised to Abraham. (Ge 15:18-21) They looked for a Messiah-King to reign in righteousness. They believed that God would dwell among them by His presence in the Temple.

The hope of the Bride company

was to be alive, either resurrected or changed, at Christ's return. (1Thes 4:15-17) They expected a "**better resurrection**", a resurrection earlier than the rest of Israel. (Heb 11:35) They expected to reign with Christ over earth for a thousand years, a reward for their faithfulness. (Rev 20:4-6) They looked forward to a heavenly city which is prepared for them, and which will come down out of heaven. (Heb 11:16; Rev 21:2)

The hope of the Church which is the Body of Christ, is to appear far above the heavens, in the heavenly places, where Christ now is. (Eph 1:20; 4:10; 2:6; Col 3:4) And, if they endure with Christ, they expect to reign with Him there. (2Ti 2:12)

The Apostle Paul's prayer, that saints might know the hope of their calling, is as timely today as it was when he wrote it about 64AD. Many who claim membership in the Church which is the Body of Christ, mix the hopes of God's callings together. The writer knows of none who look forward to inheriting the Land promised to Abraham, but we know many who do not differentiate between the hope of the Bride and that of the Body of Christ. They equate the Bride's meeting Christ in the air with the Body's appearing in glory far above all heavens.

Peter told the Bride company "**... give diligence to make your calling and election sure.**" (2Pe 1:10) In one of Paul's last epistles he prayed that the Body of Christ would know the hope of their calling. Can we conclude that God has placed us in our individual callings and it is vital that we know our own calling and walk worthy of it?

In the next issue: "Summons to Three Companies" cont.

J. Heltzinger

Medical Terms of Luke, The Physician #1

Kardiognostes - Cardiologist
Luke, the physician, used many Greek words in his writings which were common medical terminology of his day. Those medical terms often conveyed insights which are lost to those of us today who know neither the Greek language nor the Latin words carried over into medicine.

Also, medical research has changed its view about the body and its relationship to our mind and emotions. At the time of Dr. Luke's writing, men believed human thoughts and emotions had their origins in various body parts. Because one's heart could leap or flutter at some thought, it was believed that one did his thinking in his heart, in that vessel inside his chest.

Even before, in O.T. times, the heart was said to be the place of thoughts, imaginations, and understanding. In the first reference to heart

(Heb "*leb*"), God said of man that, "...**every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**" (Gen 6:5) Later, when workmen were needed to build God's Tabernacle in the wilderness, "**Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him to come unto the work to do it.**" (Ex 36:2)

The prophet, Jeremiah, spoke of the heart of man as a place of deceitful thoughts. He said, "...**who can know it?**" (Jer 17:9) The Psalmist, David, cried, "**Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts.**" (Ps 139:23)

In the N.T., Dr. Luke used a medical term from which we get our word cardiologist. It is "*kardiognostes*", a word made up of two words combined, "*kar*" (heart) and "*diognostes*" (know). This word is used only twice in

the Greek N.T., both times by Luke, and it is said only of God.

When he wrote about the eleven apostles choosing one to fill the place of Judas Iscariot, Luke said that those eleven men prayed and sought the will of God, "**Which knowest the hearts of all men.**" (Acts 1:24) Again, when he quoted Peter's speech about Gentiles receiving Israel's blessings, Luke wrote that, "...**God, Which knoweth the hearts (the heart knower), bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as He did unto us.**" (Ac 15:8)

Dr. Luke called God the Divine Cardiologist, Who knows the thoughts and intents of men's minds. Only He could know that Matthias was the right man to replace Judas. Only He is able to know our hearts and renew our minds.

In publications to follow, watch for more "Medical Terms of Luke, the Physician".

J. Heltzinger

Medical Terms Of Luke, The Physician #2

Prognosis - foreknowledge
The Greek word, "Prognosis", has come into our language exactly as Dr. Luke used it. It is two words combined, *pro* (before) and *gnosis* (knowledge). It refers to knowledge had before the event occurs. The word appears only two times in the Greek N.T. and both are said of God.

Dr. Luke used the word prognosis in Acts 2:23. There he quoted from Peter's speech to the men of Israel at Pentecost, saying that Jesus was delivered for death, "...**by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge (prognosis) of God.**" He made it plain that Jesus' death was not an unexpected event in the purposes of God, but rather it was the sacrifice which God

decided before the foundation of the world, based on His knowing all things before. (1Pet 1:18-20)

We find the other occurrence of prognosis in Peter's address to the Jewish Christians scattered abroad. He called them, "**Elect, according to the foreknowledge (prognosis) of God the Father.**" (1 Ptr 1:2) He told them that God had chosen them for an inheritance, based on the knowledge He had beforehand.

Today we may ask doctors the prognosis in a case of illness. We expect to hear a medical forecast based on their knowledge gained before. We know we cannot wholly count on their predictions because their knowledge is imperfect and incomplete.

However, we know we can fully trust the prognosis of God, Who knows all things perfectly beforehand. We can say with David, "**Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb...Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; And in Thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, When as yet there was none of them.**" (Ps 139:13,16)

We can say with Paul that God "...**hath chosen us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world.**" (Eph 1:4) We can rest certain that we are quickened, raised, and seated together with Christ in heavenly places, because our infallible God has said so. This is a divine prognosis.

J. Heltzinger

How One Became Two #2

Division of Judaism

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division; For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three." (Lk 12:51,52)

God manifested Himself to the nation of Israel by means of His power and works. Israel knew God by what He did and by His acts. God's supernatural acts proved to them that He was the Almighty, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He enabled Abraham and Sarah to produce a son when they were past the age of child bearing. He opened the Red Sea, delivering the People from their enemies and then destroyed their enemies by a flood. He miraculously brought Israel to His land and there He opened and shut the heavens, giving rain according to their obedience. God spoke through chosen servants and made covenants and promises to them. He was the God of Israel, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and He was invisible. He said that Israel was not to make visible images for worship, nor even look upon the stars or any of His creation in worship.

Israel often failed to follow God's instructions and took up

the worship of nations around them, embracing their idols and immoral practices alongside their worship of Him. Then God would withdraw His protection from Israel and allow them to suffer the consequences of their behavior. He will have no other gods beside (alongside of) Him, He had told them (Ex 20:3,4).

Finally, after their captivity in Babylon, the nation of Israel learned their lesson about the foolishness of idol worship. Again they fervently declared the one true and invisible God. They jealously guarded the holiness of His Word, and even the writing of His name was an awesome act to the scribes.

And then One came Who was the image of the invisible God. (Col 1:14,15) He was God manifest in flesh. (1 Ti 3:16) He was the Word Who became flesh. (1 Ti 3:16) He was the Word Who became flesh and dwelt among us, wrote a Jewish fisherman, John 1:14, **"...which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life."** (1 Jn 1:1-3) Jesus Christ was a visible image and some Jews worshipped Him as very God.

Now, because of this, there was a sharp division among the

Bible Explorations is a joint effort by a group of believers. Articles submitted are not necessarily the view point of the group collectively. Free to anyone upon request.

Jews. Angry religious leaders, lawyers, Pharisees, and Sadducees violently opposed the idea of Deity in visible human form. They called it blasphemy. They, God's ruling body, did not even speak His holy name. How dare this son of a carpenter from Nazareth, a village out on the frontier, claim to be God? He even twisted the laws of God, some said. **"...And there was a division among them."** (Jn 9:16) **"There was a division therefore again among the Jews.."**, when Jesus said that no man could take His life, that He had power to lay it down and take it up again. (Jn 10:19)

Judaism had been a faith unified by the Scriptures entrusted to the Jews and by their gatherings together. Because of their separation from other nations, they were bonded as holy People unto God: but when Jesus came, there was a division among them and the one became two.

J. Heltzinger

BIBLE EXPLORATIONS
P.O. BOX 2835
Glendale, AZ 85311-2835