

November 6, 2022
All Saints Sunday
Pastor Matt Duerr

REMEMBER

Grace and Peace be to you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen. If you see this sermon, you're going to notice I'm wearing the wrong colors. But that's because we had a problem with our sermon recording last week, and it didn't make it. We seem to be under some sort of spiritual warfare in the digital realm here, and so I just recorded the sermon for this upcoming Sunday, the 13th of November and instead of changing the paraments in the church and my stole and everything, I'm just keeping them in the Pentecost colors, even though it is a sermon for All Saints Sunday.

We're back at Truth University and today our topic is. Remember. It's a natural follow up to "The Big G-God's Gift of Grace" that we saw in our previous week's sermon. A sermon that is founded on scripture. Ephesians 2 versus 8-9. "By grace you have been saved through faith. This is not your own doing. It is a gift of God. Not because of works lest any man should boast." And then also from Romans Chapter 3, where we are saved by grace, not by works; which again we can't boast about our salvation then. It is through faith.

But mankind, sinful mankind takes that wonderful message and says, 'OK, I have faith. I believe in God. And therefore, I'm saved because it's not by works, lest any man should boast. In fact, since it's not by my works, it doesn't matter what I do. In fact. If I sin even more. Then God Forgives more, and therefore God gets more glory because he's forgiven so much more. So, the more I sin, the more glory God gets because I have provided Him more to forgive. What a glorious God.' That's how man tends to take Scripture and rip it apart, ignoring what James says in James 2 verses 25-26. "You say you have faith. Show me your faith and I'll show you my works. Faith without works is dead." Or Paul in first Corinthians 6:9 through 11? "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither the sexually

immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, no men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God, and such were some of you. But you were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the spirit of our God.” It is the Holy Spirit who works that faith. And it is through the blood of Jesus that we have been washed and made clean. Sanctified, set apart to be his children, his disciples. Justified, made right before God. To live righteously by the power of the spirit who does transform us.

So, what does this life look like? Some people might right away reply, and I have heard this. Yeah, that's just Paul and that's James. And they were part of the church. And well, kind of like we heard last week in the sermon about the unrighteous judge who didn't fear God and didn't respect any man and that invaded the church; is what led to the Reformation. You know Paul and James they were just after the money. They were saying these things that, you know, you gotta work, you gotta do the righteous thing, you've gotta do that you, oh and pay your tithe by the way, because I'm gonna rely on it.

So, let's go to Jesus. What does Jesus have to say? And that takes us to the parable of this morning, the rich young man who comes to Jesus and says, ‘Good teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?’ Jesus, of course, first calls him on that good teacher thing, pointing out that only God is good. But since he's asking about works related salvation, he says, “you would enter life? Keep the commandments.” I love the rich young man's response. ‘Which ones?’ As if there's an exception to commandments. But Jesus doesn't go there. He just simply says. “You know them. You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother and love your neighbor as yourself.” For those of you who have been through confirmation class, you're probably gonna say ‘Why Pastor Matt, that's the second table of the law. It's our responsibility to each other. It's our responsibility to neighbors.’

And right you are. And what was the young man's response to Jesus when he listed the second table of the law? I believe, he answered very

sincerely and honestly. 'All these I have kept. What do I still lack?' This young man, who we see Jesus really cared for. He really was very sincere. He had been doing everything he could to follow the Ten Commandments and his responsibility. I'm sure people at that time looked at him and said, now there is a good man. But Jesus picks up on what he said. All these I have kept, which is basically claiming to be perfect. Jesus says, "If you would be perfect." And that's what it really boils down to. God is perfect. And to be in God's presence, to earn your way there, you would have to be perfect. And so, Jesus says, "If you would be perfect, go sell all that you possess and give it to the poor. He's now putting the love your neighbor as yourself to test. You're willing to take everything that you have for yourself that apply it to everybody else. But he's doing more. Because he doesn't just stop there. Go, sell what you possess, give to the poor and come follow me. Now. It takes it to table one. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Summed up in those commandments, you shall have no other gods before me. Don't make any graven images, bow down and worship them. You should not take my name in vain and remember the Sabbath day by keeping holy. And this is what caused the man to stumble. It cost too much.

Why? Well, first of all because it relied on faith, a trust in God to care for him. Secondly, it is an issue of love. Does he love God more than his riches and his possessions? Thirdly, I believe it could be a bigger issue of that love. He was perfectly OK with being a good man. But it was the responsibility of loving God. And I would contend that he probably had absolutely no problem with saying there is no other God than the God of Israel. I certainly am not making any graven image and bowing down worshipping it. In fact, a good man who is so intent on keeping the law, I'm sure he did not use God's name in vain. He probably did not use any form of foul language. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy? I bet he totally failed at that. And you might say, what? If he is doing all this other stuff Pastor Matt, obviously he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day every single Sabbath. And you're probably right. But did he remember The Sabbath day by keeping it holy? Did he set it apart like God has set it apart?

In fact, I should probably ask you. Why are you here today? When we take a look at the giving of the law, and in particular the giving of that commandment. It's very interesting because that commandment is different from the other commandments. God gives an explanation. He gives the why. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy **for** The Lord God created the earth and all that exists in six days He created the earth and all that exists. And then we get to and on the seventh day He rested.

This is “remember the Sabbath day” and the meaning behind why we do it. And how big is remember the Sabbath Day? Well, in our Old Testament reading today from Isaiah 56, We see that God speaks to the people of Israel, He speaks to the eunuchs who were outcasts, He speaks to the foreigners, the Gentiles, and to all three He says the exact same thing. “Remember, keep the Sabbath day three groups, three times. A day set apart for public worship.” Yes, that's biblical. You go to the synagogue, you go to the church. It was the custom of Jesus, it was the custom of Paul, it was the custom of Peter. And by the way that is written in that way in the scripture. “It being the Sabbath, He went to the synagogue, as was His custom.”

It was a day, yes, set apart for rest. But it's a day to remember. For in six days God created the heavens, the earth, and all that exists that makes God creator God. This is His world, His universe, not ours. He writes the rules. He lays out what morality is. He's the one who laid out salvation when we messed it up. And so, yes, on the Sabbath day we come to worship Him, but we come to remember he is God. And I'd like you to consider this we are called to remember that. 52 times a year. This is of the highest importance.

He also does mention there in Isaiah 56, to remember the sabbaths. There were seven high holy Days, seven sabbaths, and what were all of them about? Remember. Passover-Remember it was God who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt that had the blood around the door but struck the first born of every Egyptian. It was their responsibility remember at the Feast of the unleavened bread, that it is God who provided them with food as they went on their journey. It is the

third Sabbath, the first fruits, the barley harvest, where they are reminded that their first harvest of barley in the Promised Land. God really did deliver that Promised Land to them. It was to remember Pentecost, also known as the Feast of Weeks, the Wheat Harvest, where they also celebrated the giving of the Ten Commandments. It was the Rosh Hashanah Sabbath, the Feast of Trumpets held at the new Moon, a time of darkness, but a trumpet that sounds an alert because God will come back and judge this world. Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement, a time of fasting, affliction, because sinners need atonement. We don't meet the glory of God and so it must be paid for. And we are to remember that God promised that through the blood of the Lamb of God we would be atoned for. The Feast of Tabernacles, remembering their wilderness journey and their provision for 40 years where their shoes and their clothes did not wear out and they had the manna, they had the quail, they had the miraculous water. And then the last Sabbath, Purim. Deliverance into the Promised Land and added later from Haman through Esther. The sabbaths they're all about remembering.

And you might say, Pastor Matt, I think you're, you're pushing that, remember, maybe just a little too far. Really. I challenge you to just then take a look at it from, well, a worldly standpoint. Take a trip to Washington, DC. Go to the Holocaust Museum. It's not at all about Christianity. In fact, it's about one of the worst times in the world. The cornerstone to the Holocaust Museum, it is inscribed with the following inscription. **Remember.** I challenge you, go to Washington, DC, take a look at that. Walk into that Holocaust Museum and say, and what's that Cornerstone that says Remember all about? Any one of those docents in the Holocaust Museum will tell you because that's the culture and the faith of the Hebrew people, they remember. Because they were to remember the Sabbath day. They were to remember the Sabbaths. Everything was set up so that they would remember what their God did for them. Number. Of those samples. One of them. Was to be held 52 times a year and they want to remember that in six days God created the heavens and the earth and everything that exists. When you think about that. It makes God, very big.

And now I want you to consider another Bible passage from Isaiah 42 verse 8. I am the Lord. That is my name. My glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. This God who calls on us to remember 52 times a year that He is creator God. And with that. He loves his creation. And He pronounced that He would save His creation. He's Redeemer, God who sent His son to die on the cross for us, making atonement. We are to remember that we need atonement, and God did it for us through the death of His Son. But that Son of God rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, is preparing a place for us there. And again, put that in the context of this, if God created this entire world in six days and Jesus has been working on heaven for 2000 years, that's pretty special. It's much better than what we have here. And we're to remember that. And the minute that we want to stray from God's Word, and say, well, science says it came by a giant explosion. I want you to consider what God says. I am the Lord. That's my name. I'm Creator, my glory, I give it to no other. Are you gonna try to give that glory to a big explosion? The Bible also tells us, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked." He is mocked when we say we intricate engineering of the creation came from an explosion.

Last week we talked about the big. General Mills, but the gift of grace, of salvation we have from God. That is a big "G." But the biggest "G" is God Almighty, the biggest, the best, The only God who yet lowers Himself to us and says, "Call me Father." And He comes to us this morning lowering Himself this morning to the simple element of bread a cup of wine. You see, that's how the biggest, the best God, the One we are to remember once every week for who He really is; that's how the biggest and best God stoops down to us His Creation, His Children, In His Name, Amen.