

The Servant



Newsletter for Christian Servants ☪ 5523 Newberry Drive/Raleigh, NC 27609

Vol. 21 No. 1

May 2010

Don't Forget to Remember

To Remember the Sabbath Day was a command. There is a reason it made God's Top Ten. It is important. Jesus said, however *"the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath."* This is (like all God's commandments) for our good, not His.

The human heart must rest between beats. It's the way God designed it. Mess with your heart's rhythm and you break your own heart. A musical score has its rests and its rhythm as well. Remove them, and it hurts the music. The seasons make for a better world. We need the Winter as well as Spring to have the best harvest. To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. There is a time to wake and a time to sleep. There is a time to work and there is a time to worship. During an economic recession a nation is likely to worry about the work when it should really pay attention to the worship. The fourth commandment celebrates creation. It invites man to take his place as God's crowning work in a moral universe. It is true that we can worship on any day, but the Sabbath was God's day for man, for rest, for reflection, and for renewal.

There is a new creation however. In this new life we are not asked to remember a day as much as we are asked to remember a Person. Jesus said *"Remember Me."* This also is for our good.

For two thousand years the rhythm of sun rises and sun sets, the ebbing and flowing of oceans, tides rising and falling have been joined with the rhythm of Saints Remembering. The simple act of breaking bread and drinking the fruit of the vine has been a spiritual symphony, a song. With this practice believers have "renewed their strength" and "mounted up with wings as eagles." The bread and wine are the symbols that represent the life and death, the body and blood of Jesus Christ and tell the story of our salvation.

Woe to the driver who forgets to check the oil in the engine or to put gas in the tank. We don't forget these important acts. Woe to the citizen who fails to *"render unto Caesar, the things that are Caesar's"* (ie. pay their taxes). And silly is the soul who hopes to get the most meaning and mileage out of life without rendering *"unto God the things that are God's,"* (ie. as in worship). When Jesus said *"Remember Me"* it was for our good, not His. Not only are we not at our best without Him, Jesus said we can do "nothing" without Him. Don't forget to Remember. ☪

Un-Limited Income

"I will repay thee". (Lk.10:35)

God keeps good accounts. Every cup of water given in His name will have its reward. The God who keeps track of the hairs on your head shall not be held accountable to you. God pays His bills, and God pays his servants.

Those who go into His vineyards and labor from dawn till dusk will be paid, and those who are hired at the eleventh hour because no one else wanted them, they too shall get a just reward.

"I will repay thee," the Good Samaritan tells the inn keeper. Put it on my account. Hebrews tells us that many have entertained angels unawares. The book of proverbs tells us that he who gives to the poor lends to the Lord.

The rich young ruler did not understand the mathematics of faith nor how they count in the kingdom. He is the one who went away sorrowing because he was rich. Be a wise steward, but mark it down : we cannot "out-give" God. ☪

Hope in God

God is able to turn the tide
to help you stand or help your hide
to close a door or open wide
His way and will for you

God can break or He can mend
He can take away or His power lend
He can be a foe or be a friend
And make an old thing new

Nothing is for Him too hard
He by faith your soul will guard
Never shaken never jarred
Nothing He can't do

All He asks is we trust His Word
receive by faith the thing we heard
Take His Son who took our place
believe in Jesus and accept His Grace

Fighting Words

The American Revolution was a fight if ever there was one. Some things are worth fighting for. During the embryonic stage of our nation's development, while the blood and bone and muscle of what would be our Constitution were still forming in the womb of history, America was being prepared by providence for a divine mission. The moral-less, compass-less, and godless generation of today knows nothing of that first trimester of America's pregnancy and even less about the birth pains of democracy or the birthright of a Christian Nation. Esau cares not for birthrights. The backbone of the American Revolution was far deeper and straighter than the right to sell rum or buy slaves (which is what modern re-writers of history would have you think), or the freedom to be a homosexual or homophobic. The Revolutionary war was a fight for the soul and identity of a people.

At the heart of America was a covenant. America was founded by men and women of faith. What faith? Was it Hinduism? Buddhism? Mohammadism, Libertarianism? The earliest settlers of these shores were people who believed the Bible was God's Word. They believed that Israel was God's chosen instrument and people (already I can feel the Politically Correct headwinds

begin to blow and resist the direction this is going) and that God is at work in history. They believed that they could (would and did) enter into another covenant with God, and that they would be God's instruments in a godless world, and be a city on a hill. Listen to what an insightful historian wrote about the soul of America:

"As Israel witnessed to God's active involvement with nations in ancient times and brought forth the Christ, so New England's experience confirmed God's continuing involvement with nations that would persist until Christ's return to earth, when history itself would cease and be swallowed up in eternity. Within this historical covenant perspective, resistance to England was only secondarily about constitutional rights and political liberties. Ultimately, resistance became necessary the minute England declared the colonies' duty of "unlimited submission" in "all cases whatsoever" and, in so doing set itself alongside God's Word as a competing sovereign. Such demands were "tyrannical" and left New Englanders no choice but to resist unto death or forfeit their identity as a covenant people. As explained from the pulpit, New Englanders' revolution was first and foremost a battle to preserve their historic identity and unique messianic destiny."

(The New England Soul, Harry S. Stout, Oxford University Press 1986)

The revolution was the result of an attack on the individual conscience that must answer to the God of the Bible. The idea of a covenant people entering into a moral contract with God came from the Bible as did the idea of "unalienable rights" not conferred by Kings, but from God Himself. The idea of America did not come out of the Koran, or the Gita, or some Humanist Manifesto.

Long before there was "round-the-clock" radio and TV, America grew up listening to sermons (the ordinary and average pre-Revolutionary New Englander listened to 7,000 two hour sermons). They heard how they were made in the image of a holy God, and were made to be His instruments for good until the Christ who came and died for their sins would come back again to rule and reign forever.

The American Dream began with simple and sacred ideas like those found in Luke chapter One. "With God nothing is impossible." What the political "Left" does not understand is the importance of God in that recipe. Leave God out and everything falls apart. We do not need another American Revolution. What we need is a Revival in America. ☪



Three Graces

Faith: Makes all things possible
Hope: Makes all things bright
Love: Makes all things easy

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