



#76

Theme: TGIS (Thank God It's Sunday)

Scripture: (Exodus 34:21 NIV) "Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest." (Luke 4:16) "He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read."

A Thought: Three seminal words "In the beginning" (Genesis 1:1) and what follows is a complete narrative of six days of His wondrous creation of the heavens, seas and earth. On the seventh day (Genesis 2:2-3) pleased with the outcome He rested and ceased work... "And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy" Gents, focus on the word "holy." (Hebrew 12:14 NIV) "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." A loving but rigid warning from God to be sure. To comprehend the heart of Holy love, what follows or should follow is a spiritual response..."an outward orientation, in worship and service" Respecting the reverential seventh day is one way we should respond to our Lord's edict. Like it or not the day of rest is a Holy day. In Exodus 34:1 and 35:1-3 the stiff-necked biblical ancestors broke the covenant of the Ten Commandments so again the Lord appeared before Moses (not literally) and had a face to face "no fools talk." Again the faithful mediator of the fallen Jews followed God's command and brought two more stone tablets to be inscribed with the righteous and moral edicts...Ten Commandments. Within the face of one of the stone tablets the written word again emphasized the Sabbath and the decree to keep the day holy. Seventy generations later we are told in Luke 4:16 that Jesus took the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and said the following to the congregation..."the Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor." He went on to say that the Father told Him to "proclaim freedom to the captives" and to "heal the blind and free the oppressed." Preach the good news, freedom for the captives and heal the blind. Sounds good to me. Hence, the importance of "ekklesia" an assembly of mortals like you and me sitting side by side and opening our hearts to His presence every Sunday morning or evening. Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself: Excuses for not attending Sunday service...tired, lazy, boring, repetitious, TV programs/news, chores, family arguments, anger, sin, always asking for money and hypocrites attend church services.

- Reasons for attending Sunday service...hearing the Word, favorite preacher, being part of a body of Christ, socialization, tradition, guilt?
- Sunday service is not necessary because: I'm a spiritually inclined and I know God knows my heart and viewer of Christian television programs.

- **Scriptures to read:** Gen. 2:2-3, 35:1-3; Ex. 16:23, 20:8-11, 35:1-3; Isaiah 58:13-14;
- Proverbs 8:17; Matthew 11:28-29; Romans 12:4-5; Acts 13:42-45, 15:21, 18:4, 20:7; 1
- Cor. 12:12, 14, 23, 27, 16:2; 1 Peter 4:10, 5:1-4;

Quote: T. D. Jakes, Pastor... *"It does matter where you go to church, it does matter where you worship, it does matter where you lift your head, it does matter where you cry out to God. There is something about the atmosphere. I might be lame, but put me in the atmosphere. I may be drunk, but put me in the atmosphere. I may be weak, but put me in the atmosphere."*

Bottom Line: After a hectic "filled to the brim" week what better way to start the ensuing six days than to refresh the mind and soul with like-kindred spirit brothers and sisters. (Ephesians 1:22-23. To hear the word from one of the Lord's anointed messengers. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord..."* (Colossians 3:16 NIV). What a blessed way to spend time with the Lord by attending a Sunday service. For some reason folks look at the physical building as an inner sanctum of holiness. Not so. The Lord does not exclude He includes...meaning we are all welcomed. On any given Sunday we enter the sanctuary large or small equally in the eyes of the Lord. Many carry tremendous hurts, burdens. and every spiritual, physical and psychological baggage known to man...so, join the body of Christ. Preacher Vance Havner a true man of God once gave a pithy response on the importance of celebrating the Sabbath ...*"The church is a hospital for sinners, and not a museum for saints."* Hold my seat.

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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