

## 27 The Sabbath Rest

The Sabbath - the day of rest and redemption - is one of my favorite topics. While it is said that the commandment to keep it is the only one of the ten not repeated in the New Testament, I believe at the same time the entire New Testament, as well as the Old, emphasizes it.

God lists some reasons in the Old Testament for instituting the observance of the Sabbath by Israel: One, to give the land, animals, and people a rest from their labor; Two, for Israel to identify themselves with Him, the God who had created the universe and all its life forms in six literal days nearly six thousand years ago today; and Three, as a sign of His covenant relationship with them (Israel), that they held to be holy what He held to be holy.

Lev 25:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD. 3 'Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; 4 'but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.

Deut 5:12 'Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall not do any work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your manservant and your maidservant may rest as well as you.

Exod 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD

made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Exod 31:16 `Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. 17 `It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed."

Ezek 20:12 "Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

And along with these, I believe the spiritual significance of the Sabbath is that which is revealed through the seven yearly feasts discussed earlier in this book which God also commanded Israel to keep. These feasts, labeled Sabbaths, were a shadow of Christ's redemptive work for mankind. They foreshadowed His death, burial, and resurrection, as well as the resurrection and ingathering of His people for forgiveness and perpetual fellowship. With the sacrificial work of redemption being finished,

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

John 5:36 "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish-- the very works that I do-- bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

it's no wonder God does not command New Testament believers to physically rest on the Sabbath, as this would be the equivalent of denying its ceremonial fulfillment in Christ.

Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Gal 4:9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Rom 14:5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

I believe God designed the creation, including us, to need this rest, and it's to our benefit (physical as well as emotional and spiritual, both for the individual as well as the family) when we observe it, but the ceremonial significance of the shadow (physically resting on the Sabbath) has been fulfilled. Please note, however, as I just stated, that the moral significance of the Sabbath, resting every seventh day, has not been fulfilled, nor could it be. All moral laws, including this one, are permanent. For one to break his Creator's dictum as to right and wrong behavior toward himself, toward his own person with respect to work and rest (acts of compassion when the need is dire, of course, always being appropriate), is to do himself a disservice.

I believe the above reasoning might be why Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, has providentially allowed the day of rest and rejuvenation and assembling together to be moved from the Sabbath to the Lord's day (from Saturday to Sunday) - to show both its ceremonial fulfillment, as well as its moral (Rom 12:1)

and spiritual (Heb 10:24-25) continuance.

Mark 2:27 And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. 28 "Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and **continued his message** until midnight.

1 Cor 16:2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

For God, the main thrust behind the Sabbath was His redemptive work for mankind, while for man, it was for him to do no work. The Israelite was not to do such things as prepare food, gather sticks, or kindle a fire. Instead of working, the Israelite was to spend the day at or around home, possibly discussing God while spending time with his family.

Exod 16:23 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: `Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'"

Num 15:32 Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. 33 And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. 34 They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him. 35 Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."

Exod 35:3 "You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

Exod 16:29 "See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."

As is typical in the Old Testament, this physical ritual of resting has its spiritual meaning revealed in the New. First we note, as before, that the Sabbath was a shadow which had its fulfillment in Christ.

Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

And then next, we learn what the Sabbath was a shadow of.

Heb 4:1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. 3 **For we who have believed do enter that rest**, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest," although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

From this, we see that believers enter His rest. What rest is it we enter? That which has the work finished from the foundation of the world. The rest we enter is that of working for our

redemption. We have turned from faith in our dead works toward faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Now to verify that this is what the Sabbath symbolized; that man is not to work for his salvation; that God, and God alone, does the work of redemption.

Heb 4:4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: **"And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"**; 5 and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest." 6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, 7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 **For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.** 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Note that in verse 4 God relates His resting on the seventh day of creation to our entering into His rest by resting for our redemption in verse 10, just as He had related it (His resting on the seventh day of creation) to the Israelite physically resting on the weekly Sabbath.

Exod 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 **For** in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is

in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

This (God resting on the seventh day of creation as the basis for both the weekly physical rest and our resting for our redemption) gives us the spiritual meaning behind the weekly and yearly Sabbaths (being intimately linked together in Leviticus chapter 23) which Israel was commanded to observe. That the physical rest (as seen in the weekly Sabbath) symbolized man resting in God's redemptive work (as seen in the yearly Sabbath). Again, as stated earlier, for God, the main thrust behind the Sabbath was His redemptive work for mankind, while for man, it was for him to do no work. As S.H. Kellogg says, "These are thus the two sabbatic ideas; rest and redemption. They everywhere appear, in one form or another, in all this sabbatic series of sacred times."<sup>1</sup> As a side note, I would have you to notice that we have only **entered** His rest when we cease (give up totally as being necessary, or having any value at all to God for salvation) from any and all our works. The final rest will have its completion when we enter the new heaven and new earth.

With this being the spiritual meaning and significance behind not doing physical work on the Sabbath, it becomes understandable why God imposed such severe punishment (death) on the lawbreaker, and why it was so important that people should observe (Jer 17:21-27), rather than defile (Isaiah 56:1-7), His Sabbath. For if one were to spiritually break God's Sabbath by working (such as by believing he must avoid church attendance on Sundays in order to avoid condemnation), then this would also be the spiritual punishment (eternal death and damnation), as it would imply that he did not trust Jesus to save and keep him apart from his works.

Exod 31:14 `You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be

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cut off from among his people. 15 `Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

Exod 35:2 "Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.

Just read for yourself the Scriptures describing the Day of Atonement Sabbath (the Sabbath where forgiveness is granted for all sins, known and unknown) how important it is to God that we afflict our souls (to feel that we and our works are of no value), and how many works it would take to demonstrate unbelief and exclude us from Israel (representing God's chosen people, or those who have been saved).

Lev 23:26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. 28 "And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. 29 "For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. 30 "And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. 31 "You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 32 "It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."

I would say that God has made it perfectly clear that we are not to work for our salvation, that we are not to mix law with grace, not even one iota, or else He considers us to be unbelievers! While being careful not to do this, not to make resting one day in seven a requirement for salvation, we still show our love for God, however, when we observe the principles of this commandment. I believe a day of Sabbath rest is commanded to



be observed in the New Testament when God tells us to love Him over money, to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (to take time off from work for spiritual reasons), to treat our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit (to work and rest appropriately), and to trust in the necessity and sufficiency of Christ, as this is what the Sabbath was all about.

Matt 22:35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 "This is the first and great commandment. 39 "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Matt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 4:5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no

other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Resting on the Lord's Day is a beautiful way of demonstrating that you are resting in your salvation, that you love the Lord, and that you desire to identify with Him.

It's ironic that the Adventists who still claim (although not all do) that Sunday worship is the mark of the beast (an act of identifying with Satan, rather than with the resurrected Christ) and therefore must be avoided in order to avoid condemnation, who therefore insist on physically keeping the Sabbath, are actually amongst the biggest offenders of it!

Please excuse me once more while I go off on another tangent. It seems that almost everyone I've run into, even with minimal knowledge of the Bible, whether Christian or nominal, has heard about the "mark of the beast." And although most proclaim that they would never take it, even if it meant immediate death for them, I see them (and myself) "taking the mark" all the time. Granted, it's not taken physically, but it is taken (to a lesser degree) spiritually. Remember, adultery in the heart is simply a less severe form of physical adultery, and this sin is no different. The mark of the beast is not Sunday worship, as many misguided people proclaim, but rather a physical mark which clearly shows your final and ultimate choice of siding with Satan and his world system, rather than with the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as Moses asked the Israelites to side with the Lord, so too will Satan ask, or rather demand, the whole world to side with him. Anyone who chooses Satan over Jesus - as displayed by their taking of his mark, identifying themselves with him - will simply live with their choice for all eternity.

And how are we spiritually taking the "mark of the beast" today? We are spiritually taking it by freely associating with, and thereby identifying ourselves with, Satan and his false religious systems of today. Is the current ecumenical movement any less evil than the final one will be, if this isn't the final one? We think nothing of curiously touring the Mormon Tabernacle or Catholic cathedrals, flocking to see pagan religious leaders when in town, and even of attending religious services where these or other soul destroying religions are represented **without** speaking up and proclaiming the truth, as did Jesus, to counter the errors

they promote. Should we feel comfortable because this condoning form of identification seems less evil than the final mark will be? No, we shouldn't, as failing to discern and separate from Satan's false systems is a serious sin, whether a physical mark is involved or not. But thank God for Jesus Christ, that even though we'll have to give an account at the judgment seat, we who truly trust Him are forgiven for these sins too.

2 Kings 5:18 "Yet in this thing may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon-- when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing." 19 Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

There are some who feel that the biblical condemnation of mixing law with grace refers to the Mosaic law only, but this is wrong. Which do you think is worse in God's eyes: believing that Jesus is either unwilling or unable to save you from your sins unless you obey one of God's laws, or one of man's? I hope you don't have to think too long about this, as either option is a rejection of the Spirit of Grace, displaying a lack of understanding and trust. It does not matter whether your works are an attempt to obey the righteous demands (whether moral or ceremonial) of a holy God, or the religious demands of an apostate Christendom, as filthy rags are filthy rags.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Others argue that believing is work too, and that therefore you're working for your salvation when you believe. But this is not true. Believing is not work, but rather a state of mind, a condition of your soul. Either you're a believer, or an unbeliever. To say that believing is work would imply that something is changing, as from physics we learn that unless there's an equal and opposite work (or energy flux) going on at the same time,

work always brings about change. But nothing is changing. Yesterday I believed, today I believe, and tomorrow I will believe; so what's changing? A person's belief is of the same nature as an object's temperature; it's a description of an energy level within. Granted, to change from unbelief to belief (lower to higher temperature) requires work, just as maintaining one's belief (current temperature) requires work when there's an opposing force present, but these are the works of God within us. I agree that at first glance John 6:28-29 appears to be saying that believing is the work which God desires us to do, but a closer look at verse 29 reveals that this is not the case. Verse 29 implies that (coming to and maintaining) a belief in Him whom He sent is the work **of God**. This interpretation is confirmed by Jesus in verse 44.

John 6:28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Psalms 65:4 Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple.

Phil 1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, **nor of the will of man**, but of God.

Rom 9:16 So then it is **not of him who wills**, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

James 1:18 Of **His own will** He brought us forth by the word

of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

The initial work *in us* - when we first come to life and embrace our salvation in Jesus, emanating from the spiritual revelation from God (through the written word) to the individual as to the historic truthfulness and absolute trustworthiness regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ (which results in turning to Him for deliverance from sin) - is the very means by which God is building His Church.

Matt 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

And the second work - the perseverance of the saints - is His maintenance of our belief and obedience, undoing the work of the devil (the opposing force).

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

2 Tim 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Phil 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

To take credit for either of these works is to be mistaken. If one were to humbly search the Scriptures with a desire to know the truth on this subject, the Holy Spirit would show him that no one does these things by themselves, but rather that God does them in us. Man is much too proud to acknowledge his total depravity and consequent need for a Savior, and he's way too wicked to forsake his sinful ways in exchange for the ways of God, no matter what the threatened punishment, or the promised reward. It's not a physical/intellectual deformity (as we might think of it), or lack of permission which renders man incapable of coming to Christ, but rather, it's his sinful nature - he just can't bring himself to do this. It's kind of like (yet opposite to) saying that God cannot lie.

Heb 6:18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

2 Tim 2:13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful; he cannot

deny Himself.

Personally, I believe the best way to look at salvation is to consider what Jesus said in Matthew.

Matt 19:16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" ... 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

In essence, Jesus said that it's impossible (rather than unnecessary) for man to do anything to save himself, but not to worry, as God would do everything. He - Jesus - would save us by dying for our sins and entering our hearts upon conversion with resurrection power to transform our lives.

1 Cor 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Along with this, I believe it's also very helpful to consider what Henry M. Morris says about the uniqueness of Christianity.

Biblical Christianity alone, among all the religions of mankind, teaches that eternal salvation is the free gift of God's grace, to be received by faith alone, apart from works of any kind. The watchword of other religions is "Believe and do"; of Christianity, the word is "Believe and live."<sup>2</sup>

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*Alone among all religions of mankind, Christianity is founded upon historical acts and facts.*

It is not teaching and ritual, but Christ Himself who provides truth and salvation. Christianity is based on objective *facts* that can be shown to be true. Evidence of historical events - including creation, the fall, redemption and resurrection - can be subject to examination. For this reason, *Christianity is the one and only faith which at all offers the possibility of objective certainty* concerning the question of its truthfulness and historical accuracy.<sup>3</sup>

This may seem too easy, but in reality, it's very difficult to understand and accept. As a matter of fact, it's never embraced without God. As Martin Luther said, "This thing must be diligently marked. The words are easy. But in temptation, it is the hardest thing that can be, to be certainly persuaded in our hearts, that by grace alone (all other means either in heaven or in earth set apart) we have remission of sins, and peace with God."<sup>4</sup>

The only thing I find more difficult to believe than that God Himself, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, came to the earth to redeem us, is that He didn't, that He really doesn't care about us, nor the rest of His creation, at all. This, I would find tremendously difficult to accept.

But how? How can one bring himself to embrace that which he does not accept? He can't, because of his pride and his love for his sin, but he ought to, and must. Do it now! My suggestion is that you follow the Bible's advice of planting the seed, watering, and trusting God to give the increase. Search out the Scriptures and contemplate the alternatives and their implications. Strive to enter. Do whatever it takes (legally and biblically) to come to the conclusion that the Bible is truly God's word, and then believe God. Trust Him! Repent and be converted! Turn from your sins and your dead works toward

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<sup>4</sup> Taken from *Commentary on Galatians* by Martin Luther. Published by Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1979. Used by permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. 6.



Jesus alone for deliverance by placing your faith (your confident trust and dependance) in Him, that He is Who He claimed to be, and that He will do for you personally the things He said He would do in the Bible, being motivated solely by His heart of love toward you, in spite of your sinful unworthiness.

Acts 17:10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 **Therefore many of them believed,** and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

You should become so convinced that the Bible is God's word, that if the sky parted, lightning flashed, the earth quaked, and God Himself (the One who created **you**) appeared before you with a copy of it in His hand, telling you that it was His word, that you would respond with, "Yes, I know! And it's wonderful!" (Actually you'd probably fall on your face in shame rather than respond, but I wanted to make a point.) When you finally believe (if you ever do), you'll know without a doubt that you're eternally saved, secure in the Good Shepherd's fold, and will forever "rest" in His love.