

Living as a Redeemed Ambassadors - B.L.E.S.S.

- Because of our identity we Sabbath & Celebrate the fruit of the gospel

The Consummated Reality

- We look forward to the Consummated Kingdom: Rev 21:1-7; 22:1-5.

Living in the "Now and Not Yet" God's People Sabbath/Celebrate

- God's Old Covenant People kept the Sabbath Lev 23:1-3
- They celebrated as a way of life of worship: Lev 23:4-8 - Passover; 9-14 Feast of Firstfruits; 15-22 Feast of Weeks; 23-25 Feast of Trumpets; 26-32 Day of Atonement; 33-44 Feast of Booths
- The life of God's people defined by Sabbaths & celebrations (worship)
- As New Covenant People we likewise Sabbath & Celebrate!
 - Gospel - reason to celebrate (God provides all I need)
 - This Gospel Identity must be infused into ALL of my life

POWER OF GOSPEL		PURPOSE OF GOSPEL	
Who is God	What has God done?	Who are We?	What we do?
Father	Adopted us	Family	As family, we love God and love one another
Son	Purchased us	Servants	As servants, we serve King Jesus and others as a foretaste of the coming kingdom
Spirit	Sent us	Ambassadors	As ambassadors, we follow the Spirit as we share and show the Good News of Jesus!

Worship is Celebration

- God commands us to continue to regularly meet Heb 10:24-25
- Worship w/ joy & encouragement looking at the Gospel power/purpose
- Is our worship joy & celebration?
- Jesus was accused of celebrating too much: Lk 7:33-34
- Let us live a life of celebration like Jesus Ps 34:3; 100:1-2
- Remember what Jesus has done for us: 1 Cor 5:7-8
- Jesus compared His Kingdom to a party: Mt 22:1-2. Ultimate: Rev 19:6-9
- Jesus went to those who lacked & provides for them
 - better wine at wedding party Jn 2:1-11
 - living water to woman at well Jn 4:1-15
 - served disciples Jn 13:1-11 before ultimate sacrifice
 - Jesus provides what people needed, let us be like Jesus
 - let us GO to the world and help them celebrate with Gospel reality

Sabbath - not just one day, now a lifestyle

- God created 6 days & rested Sabbath Ex 20:8-11
- Now the Sabbath is expanded in the New Covenant (Calvin)
- Sabbath for Christians is growing in conformity to God's will by ceasing from sinful works - Heb 4:9-10
- Christ's 1st Advent was to make spiritual rest a reality (fulfilled in Christ)
- Believers are not under law of Sabbath but the reality of a lifestyle of Sabbath *Heb 4:9 there remains a Sabbath rest...*
- Sabbath now is living in newness of life by union with Christ (continual)
- Regular public worship & daily meditation on God's Word and grace is vital because of the distractions of the world Heb 10:24-25
- Consider: ancient church substituted Lord's Day on 1st day of week for Sabbath to commemorate Resurrection of Christ (1 in 7 creation pattern)
- Sabbath Today:
 - We continually REST in Christ's completed work on our behalf
 - We continually SPEAK of Christ's completed work (Gospel)
 - We remind ourselves and others than we could never earn God's favor, only Christ provides that!

BLESS RHYTHMS: living w/ Christ's attitude:

Bless: We intentionally bless others though serving, encouraging, giving, and thinking of those around us. Instead of focusing on ourselves, we focus on others.

Listen: We intentionally listen to others through questions, focus, and attentiveness to their story and who they are.

Eat: We intentionally eat through sharing our meals, drinks, and moments around the critical necessity of nourishment.

Speak: We intentionally speak the truths of Jesus by graciously and boldly proclaiming the gospel in all scenarios of life.

Sabbath/Celebrate/Recreate: We intentionally work, rest, and enjoy the fruit of the gospel and fruit of God's creation. We pause to remember we are God's mission as we're on God's mission. The mission is His, not ours.

Daily: do an inventory and look for opportunities to BLESS others... Live intentionally for Christ's glory!

ACT ON THESE TRUTHS & APPLY:

- How can you better live out a daily Sabbath & Celebration Rhythm in your life?
- This is not adding to, but doing many of the same things with a Gospel Intentionality – discuss this among your group.