

God's Last Message 5 of 12

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Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1958

I'm glad that the One who made the universe has a plan that includes us. He has made us in His image that we may have fellowship with Him. That fellowship which was broken by sin is to be restored through Christ.

Fellowship explains the creation. It gives us the real object of the cross. It tells us why He's coming again soon to establish the everlasting kingdom.

You remember in that last prayer, just before His suffering in the garden, Jesus said to His Father:

“...I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given me: for Thou loved Me before the foundation of the world”
John 17:24.

What a trip that will be—beyond Arcturus, past the Pleiades, on through Orion to the center of the universe that we may be with Him, that we may share with Him the glory of the universe.

Now in order that we may be prepared for this, He is sending this wonderful message found in the book of Revelation. Let's turn to it again:

“...I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters”
Revelation 14:6–7.

This message is focused specifically upon this last generation. It calls us to judgment. We must meet God. The record of our lives must be examined in the light of His law. We must be measured by Heaven's yardstick—God's Ten Commandments.

What a wonderful thing it is that God has given us notice; that He has served a summons upon us. Thank God we're not left without an Advocate, One to represent us. Jesus, the mediator, has offered to be our lawyer. He loves us. He wants to represent us there.

Notice also this wonderful statement, “And worship Him that made Heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” This points to Christ, the Creator, as the One, with His Father, worthy of worship from all His creatures. You remember In John 1:1–3, we are told that the Word, who in the 14th verse, made plain as the only begotten Son of God, this Word was in the beginning with God and by Him were all things made.

And Paul tells us:

“...by Him were all things created...” Colossians 1:16.

Now let us review in our minds why it is so important to recognize Him as Creator, the real purpose of this message to worship Him that made Heaven and earth. It is important because it gives man his value—an infinite value.

The reason you and I are so precious to God is that we were made by Him in His image. When God took the clay and formed it in His likeness, and breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, oh then, dear friends, then man was given an infinite value.

How thankful we should be that we are so precious to God. How thankful we should be that Heaven has put upon us the mark of infinite value. And remember, that all comes from the fact of creation—that God made us, and that He made us in His image.

This fact is also important because it is the basis of worship. He is the Creator; we are His creatures. That's why we should worship Him. Nobody else made us. Therefore no one else is entitled to our worship. He *did* make us; therefore, He *is* entitled to our worship. So in this book of Revelation we hear the song of worship from the children of God:

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power:
for Thou hast created all things...” Revelation 4:11.

Why is He worthy to receive worship? Because He's created all things.

And in the 95th Psalm:

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the
LORD our maker” Psalm 95:6.

And so in reverence, we bow before Him because He is the Creator. And we worship Him because we are His creatures.

Satan would make us forget this if he could. God wants us to remember the fact that He made all things that He made us. How is He going to help us do this?

Well, you know, in our human experience from time to time, a day comes around that we call a birthday. If there is someone we especially love, we like to remember their birthday, don't we? Because in it we remember them.

When God made this world, He made a day, the celebration of which would forever cause us to remember Him as the Creator. And He put that memorial of creation in the very heart of His law. Let's read it:

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it” Exodus 20:8–11.

There we have it, the “remember.” And what is it we are to remember? The Sabbath day to keep it holy. Why? Because something happened. In six days the Lord made Heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day, wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Let's go back to the Genesis story. You remember that in the first chapter, we have the wonderful description of God making this world, and everything in it, closing with the creation of man, God's crowning work on the sixth day. The second chapter opens with these words:

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made” Genesis 2:1–3.

Note both in the Fourth Commandment and in this Genesis record of creation, God took three steps in making the Sabbath:

First of all, He rested. This is the only day that the Bible tells about that God rested.

Second, He blessed this day. And when God blesses something friend, He puts His presence into it. We read in Proverbs:

“The blessing of the LORD, it makes rich...” Proverbs 10:22.

So there was something about that day when God blessed it, different from the other days, wasn't there? Yes.

Third, it says He sanctified it, or hallowed it. He made it holy. So when He had rested, it became His rest day. When He blessed it, it became His blessed rest day. And when He had sanctified it, it became a holy day.

All this, God did back there at creation. Now, who did He do it for? Jesus answers:

“...The sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath:
Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath”
Mark 2:27–28.

Who was Christ thinking of when He rested on that day? He was thinking of man. Who was He thinking of when He blessed that day. He was thinking of man. And when He sanctified that day and made it holy, who was He thinking about? Thank God, He was thinking about you and me. Aren't you glad?

You know, we all like to have somebody thinking about us, don't we? And the Sabbath is a threefold evidence in its rest, it's blessing, and it's sanctification of God's loving thought of us.

I wonder if we need it. Well, I don't think God is wasting things, especially something so precious and valuable as this. Do you? No, He's not wasting riches. Yes, we need the Sabbath.

God saw that even in Eden man needed the Sabbath. Employed as he was in the work of God, nevertheless, he needed a special time once a week to turn aside from the ordinary routine and focus the mind in a special sense upon the worship of his Creator.

Do you know down through the centuries, through the ages, if men had always kept the Sabbath, there never would have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel? Why? Because every week men would have remembered that this one, the Creator, the One who made the heavens and the earth, is worthy of worship.

It is by causing men to forget the Sabbath that Satan seeks to lead them step by step away from all true worship.

I ask again, do we need this day? Do we need this Sabbath? And again I answer: Yes. We need its rest. And oh, if ever a generation needed rest, this weary race needs it. The world is rushing on. But just as there on the highway, the policeman stands at the intersection with his uplifted hand, and the breaks go on and the car stops, there's a pause. Then the green light flashes and again, we go. So week by week, the

command of God says, "Stop, and rest awhile." I say, we need it friends. What do you say?

More than that, we need the blessing of the Sabbath. Our hearts cry out for that special blessing that God has put in this day for His believing children. And we need its sanctification. We need to be holy people. Thank God for the holy day, which is a sign of His sanctifying power. Notice how God puts it here in Ezekiel:

"Moreover also I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them" Ezekiel 20:12.

See, God gives us a holy day to remind us that He can make us holy men. And so I repeat, we need the rest of the Sabbath. We need the blessing of the Sabbath; we need the sanctification of the Sabbath.

Now I wonder, does it make any difference which day? Well, that all depends on what we mean. As far as resting, I'm sure that we could rest on Wednesday or Monday—most any day, couldn't we, after we had worked? And as far as going to church is concerned, I'm sure that we could go to church and thank God for the privilege of worshiping Him on any day of the week. We're all agreed on that, aren't we? But, ah, my dear friends, there is something far more than rest and worship connected with this day.

It's true God rested, and He told us which day to rest. And it would be a good thing to do that. But we have seen two additional things: The blessing of the Lord and the sanctification of the Lord. Did He put those into all the days? Oh, no. just the one. This is the only day He rested on, the only day He blessed, the only day He sanctified.

Look, here are these seven glasses. I pick up the first, and there's water in it—well, that's good. The second, there's water there, the third, fourth, fifth, six—all water. But here in the seventh glass is delicious grape juice. Would you like some? Would you like the special blessing that's in this glass? Well, if you get it, I'll tell you where you'll find it—you'll find it in the seventh glass.

Somebody says, "That's all a matter of how you count." Well, all right. Let's try counting by starting with the second glass: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. I get a seventh glass, but all I get is water. I missed the special blessing of the grape juice. Why? Because if I'm going to get *the* seventh glass, I must begin to count where the One who did the counting in the first place began to count. Is that right?

Where did God begin to count? He began to count with the first day. That's the place to begin, isn't it? And every week, just look at your calendar, my friends, every week, those days are marked off: Sunday, the first day; Monday, the second day, and so on to the end of the week, and there is Saturday, the seventh day.

By the way, the day that we keep, if we keep the Bible Sabbath, begins at sundown. For in Genesis the first chapter, each day it says, the evening and the morning were the first day, the second day, the third day, and so forth. So the Bible says, from even unto even shall you celebrate your Sabbath.

When the sun goes down, then Friday afternoon, the six working days, according to the Bible have been completed. And the seventh day from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset is ushered in. And those are holy hours. Those are sacred moments. This day, the seventh day of the week, from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, is the memorial of God's creation. And remember, it is for us.

If we wish the blessing, we'll find it in this day. If we wish the sanctification, we shall find it in this sanctified day. I want it, don't you? I need it. Thank God, it is given to us through Jesus.

I want you to notice another precious scene that is forever linked with the Sabbath. Back there at creation, the Father and the Son rested together in the joy of a new world finished. They rejoiced, and all the universe rejoiced with them. But sin marred that picture. Adam and Eve had to leave their garden home after sin came. And the weary ages went on. But oh, finally after 4,000 years, Jesus came—the divine Son of God taking our human flesh to give us an example of obedience and finally to die upon the cross as our Sacrifice.

And do you know when did He complete that work for us? He completed it on the same day He completed the work of creation. Just as back there in Eden when the sun went down the sixth day, the work was all finished, the Sabbath of rest came. So, when Friday afternoon came, that day of the cross, Jesus was lying at rest in Joseph's tomb. And do you remember those words that came from His lips in His dying moment as He hung upon the cross that Friday afternoon? "It is finished."

And the Sabbath that fell with the setting sun is forever linked with that finished work of redemption which Christ accomplished for us upon the cross. The Sabbath then comes to us today reminding us not only of the finished work of creation but the finished work of redemption. Oh, dear friends, let us look forward now.

When all that God planned in the original creation, when all that He gave His life for us upon the cross to accomplish is made possible, when sin and sinners are no more, when all that was lost through sin has been restored, when the fellowship broken by law-breaking is restored, and the family of Heaven and earth are reunited, never more to part, oh, then the creation Sabbath, the Sabbath on which Jesus rested from the work of redemption in Joseph's tomb that Sabbath will forever keep in mind, bring to mind to us the great Creator, Redeemer.

Listen:

“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD” Isaiah 66:22–23.

Yes, we shall worship Him Sabbath by Sabbath all through the years of eternity. We shall worship Him remembering that He is our Creator, He is our Redeemer. And so, as we think of the Sabbath today, we think of those three great scenes—creation, the cross, the coming kingdom. And with all three, the Sabbath is forever linked.

Oh, let us let the Lord of the Sabbath give us the rest of the Sabbath, the blessing of the Sabbath, the sanctification of the Sabbath. Thus, in fellowship with Him now, we shall be prepared for that fuller fellowship through the ages of eternity.

Shall we bow our heads? Our Father, our Creator, our Redeemer, we thank Thee for Thy wonderful plan of helping us to remember what Satan would cause us to forget. We thank Thee for the Sabbath, the birthday of this world, the memorial of Thy creative power, the sign of Thy redeeming love. Just now, we would open our heart's door to the Lord of the Sabbath. We would receive Him as our Creator, our Redeemer, our King. And we thank Thee in that wonderful name, amen.

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