

Made to Grow:
What difference does it make?
Exodus 20:8-11

What difference does God's sabbath provision in creation and redemption make in the life of his people?

God's sabbath provision in creation and redemption creates a new community centered on God's grace that...

- I. Rejects the self-centered philosophy of the "survival of the fittest": Life is not about our efforts to survive (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5).
 - a. Sabbath at the center, the fourth commandment - the purpose of creation is not survival or consumption but remembrance (recommitment) (Ex 20:8-11, Dt 5:13-15).
 - b. Sabbath was a sign of God's gracious calling to holiness (consecrated, set apart, different) (Ex 31:13, Ex 19:1-7, Ez 20:12).
- II. Embraces the God-centered lifestyle of the sanctity of the chosen: Life is about grateful and joyful participation into God's life and presence (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5).
 - a. Sanctity of the chosen toward God: A community of grateful, joyous, generous stewards that dedicate their time, talents, and treasures to bless God (Ex 21-25).
 - b. Sanctity of the chosen toward each other: A community of holy, healthy, and hospitable neighborliness set apart to bless others.

Sabbath reminds us that
God deserves to receive our time, talents, and treasures
because he gave us time, talents, and treasures
when we did not deserve them.

1. Do you live your life in fear as a "cosmic orphan" or as a child of your Heavenly Father, trusting your cares on his grace?
2. When fear and anxiety are the beat of our drum, we need to recalibrate our priorities and rededicate our resources to rest in his gracious provision.
3. God wants DFBC to be a community of people who are holy, healthy, and hospitable. Generosity in the giving of our time, talents, and treasures is the way in which God invites us to be part of such community. Are you experiencing the blessing of giving yourself even today?