

Contending for Open Heaven:

11/4/23

Dedicating time unto the Lord - "Sabbath Rest"

"Comign away with a personal encounter with the Lord"

- 1) Introduction: Personal revival If we as individual can't be serious about the quest for awakening – doubtful the youth revival will last.
 - Great question always surrounds the percentage of people needed to see Open heaven?
- 2) Does God still respond with favor and blessing, if we put Him first?
(Or is that just for an old testament nation?)
- 3) Taking time to Host God in our busy lives: Sabbath/ rest
 - a) God established 7 day week –
 - b) Mark 2: 23- 28 Jesus deals with the purpose of Sabbath
 - c) As God gave Moses the Law – He instructed for Sabbath rest –
(Weekly/ yearly) 4th Commandment (Ex. 20) Remember the Sabbath day
 - d) Lev. 25: 1- 5 Brand new concept being introduced. 7th Year rest
 - e) Lev. 25: 18 -22 Can we trust God to actively work the same way today.
(In order to set aside time for Sabbath, I will need to change my life style will it be worth it?)
 - f) Lev. 26: 1-6 Putting God first, results in variety of blessings
 - g) Lev. 26: 10 -13 **Coolest Part:** God personally comes to visit!!!
- 4) It was hard for the Jews to follow - Isaiah 58: 13- 14
Stopping to worship and connect with God just wan't worth it.
- 5) The Good and Bad of modern Sabbath: Finding a relationship not a legalistic ritual.
- 6) Deeper understanding of today's Sabbath:
 - More about intimate time with God than rules
 - There will always be more task to do, then the time to do them....
 - If your Sabbath is no longer special..... it's time to get make- over!
 - Pursue God for Who He is and desire His companionship.
(Isaiah. 58:34 Then the Lord will be your delight..)

7) Don't try to use the Sabbath or pursuing God as means to get what you want. (Faking worship to get healed, get financial help, or a new car is faulty worship)

Isa. 58: 1 – 2, 3 – 4

a) Pursue time with God as a means to know Him. You can't fake it.

God is looking for worshipers who worship in Spirit and truth! John 4:24

b) Imitate Jesus: He got alone with the Father. Mark 1: 35

c) Desire to Please God in every part of life. John 5: 19 – 20

8) Application: Your personal experience with God/ Sabbath

a) Be yourself - Don't try to be anyone else

b) No greater Privilege than to be a child of God created in His image to worship Him. **You were created to be a worshiper.**

c) Sing a new Song to the Lord...

d) Write a note to God.....

e) Compose a Poem or a Psalm

f) Sit Quietly- mediate

g) Sketch a drawing/ or a painting of His goodness

h) Play an instrument and worship Him

i) Day dream about heaven

j) Pray – (Talking) ask God how He's doing? What's on His mind?

9) Closing -

Home Work – Study Hebrews 4

Reflect - Psalm 27