



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God's Top Ten Series, Lesson 36

Lesson Title: Honor God's Worship

Take Home Point: Honor God's worship.

Warm-Up:

Can you think of some of the excuses people make for not attending regular worship? I have heard a few. "Those churchgoers are just a bunch of hypocrites." "I'm not good enough to go. I'll work to become a better person; then I'll go." "I'm just really tired by Sunday. I work so hard during the week that I need my rest. It's my time for me." "Church is so boring. I don't get anything out of it." "It's fine for some people, but it's just not for me." Do any of these sound familiar? What if we apply them to other settings such as employment, recreational activities, or some opportunity to improve ourselves? They quickly sound kind of silly. And they are. Not only are they silly, they are poor excuses that keep many people from benefiting and enriching their souls and their lives.

Read: Exodus 20:8-11, Matthew 4:4, Hebrews 10:25, Luke 11:28

Observation (What happened?):

Why were the Israelites to keep the Sabbath?

Why are Christians to continue to meet together?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you think the Lord wanted his people to do on the Sabbath to keep it holy?

To what "Day" do you think the writer of Hebrews is referring?

Insight:

In Leviticus 25, God expanded on the Sabbath law he gave in the Ten Commandments. Not only were the Israelites to keep the Sabbath weekly, but every seven years they were also to give their land a Sabbath rest. No plowing, planting, harvesting. Eat what grows and give the land a rest. On top of that, every 49 years (7 times 7 Sabbath years), God told the Israelites to declare a special year of Jubilee. Not only were they to keep the "Sabbath year," but slaves were to be freed and land restored without cost to those to whom it was originally allocated. The year of Jubilee was to be a reminder that the people lived in the land, but God owned it and let them use it. God established the resting time of the Sabbath and Sabbath years to make sure his people took time to remember him, honor him, and trust him to provide during the times they didn't work. In the hundreds of years they lived in the land, there is no record that the Israelites ever obeyed the Sabbath year regulation. How do you rest from your labor and focus on God? How do you show him you trust him by taking rest from your labor?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you honor God's worship? How do you dishonor it?

What are you doing this week to hear and obey God's Word?