

# WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015-2016

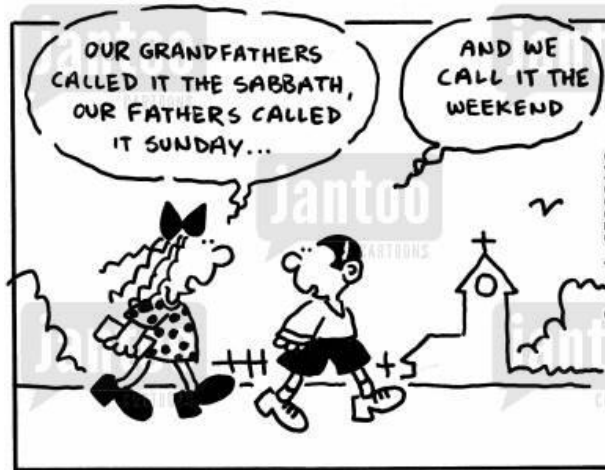
## THEME: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

UNIT ONE – “What We Bring to God”

UNIT TWO – “Sharing Our Joys and Sorrows”

UNIT THREE – “Holy Days”

## “A DAY AND TIME TO REST AND REFLECT”



**Sunday School Lesson No. I - December 6, 2015**

**Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher**

**Lesson Text:** Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-16

**Required Reading:** Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-18; Leviticus 23:3-8; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 12:1-14

**Memory Text:** Exodus 20:8, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library

### INTRODUCTION

“No topic has been more misunderstood among Christians than the Law of Moses and its application to the New Testament believer today. To confuse the covenants of God is to misinterpret the mind of God and miss the blessings of God, so the believer is wise to examine the Word to determine the place and purpose of the whole Mosaic system.” (Bible Knowledge Commentary).

All week the Christian looks all around at the things that are surrounding him, but God teaches us in this lesson that the view from the Christian should also look up “*to the hills*” so that he might honor and praise the Lord! Thus God gave the Israelites a special word in their vocabulary called “Sabbath.” But what is a Sabbath? This word is derived from a Hebrew word which means “to cease, desist, or simply to rest!” In the context of a weekly observance, it carries the idea of bringing to a halt the labors of the six day week and resting and reflecting, recognizing the One True God. Thus as it related to the Israelite, the Sabbath caused all, both small and great, to stop, rest, honor and reflect upon the Person of Almighty God.

According to the Bible Knowledge Commentary, “God did not give the Law to save anybody, because it is impossible to be saved by keeping the Law (Gal. 3:11; Rom. 3:20). He gave the Law to Israel for the following reasons:

A.) To reveal His glory and holiness (Deut. 5:22-28.)

B.) To reveal man’s sinfulness (Rom. 7:7, 13...)

C.) To mark Israel as His chosen people, and to separate them from the other nations (Ps. 147:19-20, etc.)”

One of the sure ways to carry out these things was to institute the Sabbath! But why did God have to institute the Sabbath Day?

“A DAY AND TIME TO REST AND REFLECT”

## Anticipated Power Points:

- **Because of Israel's Human Nature. Exodus 20:8-10**
- **Because of the Heavenly Father's Nature. Exodus 20:11**
- **Because of the Holiness of God and Helplessness of His People. Exodus 31:12-16**

## LESSON OUTLINE

### **I. A Day and Time to Rest and Reflect Because of Israel's Human Nature. Exodus 20:8-10**

Quoting Precepts for Living (UMI): "Thus, God not only provided the Sabbath but also instructions to remember it, because He knew there would be an inclination to forget the purpose and benefit."

#### **A. A day of reverence. v. 8**

Dr. Warren Wiersbe says, "When the Jews observed the Sabbath, it was not only a mark of their devotion to the Lord, but it was also a witness to their pagan neighbors to whom the seventh day was just another day." Beloved, what do our neighbors say about us on the Lord's Day?

#### **B. A day of rest and repose. vv. 9-10**

God never wants His people to be fully encompassed by anything or anyone but Him.

### **II. Because of the Heavenly Father's Nature. Exodus 20:11**

Dr. Wiersbe said, "It's unfortunate that the Israelites didn't honor the Sabbath as God directed and had to be disciplined (II Chronicles 36:14-21; Ezekiel 20; Isaiah 58:13-14; Jeremiah 17:19-27). It is also unfortunate that the Scribes and Pharisees added thirty-nine forbidden acts to this commandment so that observing the Sabbath became a burden instead of a blessing (Mark 2:23-3:5)." In Mark 2:27-28 the scripture tells us, "*And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.*"

### **III. Because of the Holiness of God and the Helplessness of His People. Exodus 31:12-16**

After God gave Moses the instructions on the preparation and assembling of the Tabernacle and everything necessary to centralize the worship of Him, He again reiterated the seriousness of having covenant worship of Him. They were not to tolerate any laxity in keeping the ordinances of the Sabbath. If they failed it would come under the hand of Divine execution! v. 15

The proper keeping of the covenant or keeping the Sabbath would assure Israel of God's covenant promises towards them and their generations to come. v. 16

## CLOSING

Beloved, as the Church, we are not under the curse of chastisement as Israel concerning a Sabbath. Note: "Matthew 12, Mark 2, Luke 6 and John 5 all speak of Sabbath keeping but never to the Church, but to Israel. Note Colossians 2 and Romans 14-15 teach that believers should not judge one another with reference to holy days or Sabbaths."

Beloved, we are under the Perfect Law of Love and because of our love for the Lord and His Christ, we should be motivated to "*grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" And finally, remember Hebrews 10:25 where we are reminded to "*not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.*" The Bible Knowledge Commentary says: "To go back to the Law is to exchange reality for shadows and liberty for bondage. It is to forfeit the high calling we have in grace." Remember the words found in Colossians 2:16-17, "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*"

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and [wablradio.com](http://wablradio.com), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.**

**TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**

**Looking Ahead:      December 13, 2015      Leviticus 22:17-25, 31-33**



**The Sunday School Lesson is taught each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway. All are welcome!**