

Remember and Watch

I was in the process of shutting down my laptop for the evening. As I just hit the send button to forward the essay, I got a little nudge from above. I was reminded I have a role to fulfill in caring for His flock and sleep can wait for a while longer.

As we just read, Memorial Day sometimes coincides with the celebration of Pentecost. While Pentecost is not necessarily a Feast of remembrance, it is none the less a good idea to reflect on all of God's holy Days when we celebrate them throughout the year. This is just a simple follow-up to the essay with some additional thoughts.

We need to *remember* just how important each of God's Holy Days are to us and in the Plan of God for the salvation of mankind. Devotion to God and His way of life is not an easy task and the cares and distractions of this world will constantly pull our focus away from Him. We tend to get so caught up in what goes on around us we will overlook the true focus of what each event truly means.

The word itself, *remember*, and its variations are used in over 1100 scriptures throughout the Bible. If you think that is a lot, *watch* is used in over 1300

scriptures. It is quite apparent, God puts great emphasis on these words. Need I say we live by every word of God anyway?

When God speaks to us through His word, we had better be taking notice and doing what He tells us. Exactly as He tells us. But again, the cares of this world and things of the flesh the enemy uses, will always distract us in any way possible, especially on His Sabbaths and Holy Days.

Now I will certainly not be sharing over 2400 scriptures at this offering, knowing God's word is your responsibility as well as mine. Hopefully you are developing a hunger and thirst for righteousness and His word. With the way the world is and its steady decline, you yourself had better be paying attention and undertaking your due diligence to know God and what is in His word.

I will try and keep it brief and highlight several of the "remember" and "watch" scriptures simply to remind us to be diligent.

Exodus 20:8- "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

From the time of the creation, the seventh day Sabbath was set apart for all mankind to fellowship with God and each other. A day of rest to commune with the Living God. It is a perpetual sign between God and man. It is one of the major steps in knowing and growing in a relationship with God the Father and the

revelation of His word. “Churchianity” misses this key step in their worship of God Almighty. Their other efforts become moot at square one.

Exodus 31:13,16-17- “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, ‘Truly you shall keep My Sabbaths, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations to know that I *am* the LORD Who sanctifies you.’”

Exodus 31:16-17- “Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. It *is* a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.”

We are commanded by God to keep it and keep it holy.

Deuteronomy 5:12- “Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it as the LORD your God has commanded you.”

God is Holy and we are to be holy as well. Especially in our conduct on the Sabbath.

1 Peter 1:15-16- “But according as He Who has called you is holy, you yourselves also *be holy in all your conduct*; For it is written, “You be holy because I am holy.”

It is but one day out of seven we can have that “One on one” time with God the Father through His Son if we but put off doing our “own thing.”

Remember, we are to be examples to those about us and we are Ambassadors for Christ. How will others ever come to know Jesus Christ if they cannot see Him in us?

Isaiah 58:13-14- “If you turn your foot away from the Sabbath, *from* doing your own desires on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honorable; and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor pursuing *your own* desires, nor speaking *your own* words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed you with the inheritance of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it.”

Fellowship on the Sabbath is a time to leave the world outside and grow closer to God. It is in this area where Satan will do his utmost to distract and detour any focus, we place on sharing God’s word. It is a day we should remember all that God has done for us and told us in His word.

Psalm 48:9- “We have thought (remembered) of Your lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of Your temple.”

Psalm 77:11-12- “I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your doings.”

Perhaps one of the most important uses of remember is in the words of Jesus Himself.

Luke 22:19- “And He took bread; and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, which is given for you. This do in the remembrance of Me.”

We are forever to remember the Lord’s sacrifice in paying our sin debt with His life. His broken body and shed blood paid a price for all mankind and while we were yet sinners!

Romans 5:8- “But God commends His own love to us because, when we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

We have six other days in which to share world events and other interests.

Certainly, paying attention to world events is not a sin, but are there really any surprises?

Mark 13:22-23- “For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall give signs and wonders, *in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect*. But **you, *watch out for them!*** Behold, ***I have foretold all these things to you.***” We know and have been told what is coming.

This does not mean we cannot talk amongst ourselves. But is our conversation holy and are we glorifying God in it? Are we worshipping God in spirit and in truth?

We have been called out and set apart from the world, we need not drag it into our time of fellowship with Him.

2 Corinthians 6:17- “Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,” says *the* Lord, “and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you;”

1 Peter 2:9- “But you are a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession *of God*, that you might proclaim His *excellent* virtues, Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

We have been given a wonderful gift but it comes with a tremendous responsibility.

Current events are important to a certain extent, but not as important as our time with God on the Sabbath. And most definitely, not as critical as our spiritual condition. We have been called, chosen, and set apart for His Kingdom.

1 Thessalonians 4:7- “For God has not called us to uncleanness, but to sanctification.” We are set apart for His purpose in His coming Kingdom.

The Sabbath is a time for the “spiritual boot camp” we need to get ourselves in alignment with the will of God for each of us. *Watch* does not mean Breitbart or

Fox News (I know nobody watches CNN) but we need to pay attention to our spiritual condition most of all.

Matthew 24:42- “*Watch*, therefore, because you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 25:13- “*Watch*, therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming.”

Mark 13:32-33- “But concerning that day and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Take heed, *be watching* and praying. For you do not know when the time is coming.”

If the seventh trump sounds tomorrow, are you ready? Do you love God first?

Mark 12:30- “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” If you are having any doubts, now is the time to address them.

Being preoccupied with worldly things is a continual struggle we all have while we live on earth. But God gave us one special day to fellowship with Him and each other.

Luke 21:34-36- “*Watch yourselves*, lest your hearts be preoccupied with high living and drinking and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly.

For as a snare it shall come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth.

Watch therefore, and pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

This may seem like more of a lesson on the Sabbath than a focus towards Pentecost. But...what are we preparing for? What are we hoping for? The First Harvest! Pentecost! The return of our Savior Jesus Christ. We want to be on “that first bus out of here.” We always liken not being ready to missing the bus, not being prepared, and showing up late to the bus stop and see the tail lights pulling away. We do not want to be unprepared. If we are going to be “kings and priests” in His Kingdom, we must pass the application process now.

Memorial Day is a time of remembering those who died in service to our Nation. Their sacrifice and service are foundational why we have the freedoms we enjoy every day.

The greater sacrifice for freedom was not fought on a battlefield but on a cross. The price paid was the dearest Life in the universe. The freedom purchased was

from sin and death by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ and it was not just for one nation but all of humanity.

God gave the gift of His Holy Spirit at Pentecost in 31 A.D. We were blessed to receive it at our baptism. As we now celebrate Pentecost, let us ***remember*** all God the Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and His prophets have given for all of us and we eagerly ***watch*** and prepare for His triumphant return. Amen!

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