

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 3.6.24 (for 3.10.24)

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:1-3

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had

done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

- 1) These verses serve as the climax of the first creation account. The author starts by telling us the matter is “finished.” What is significant about this word and all that’s happened?
- 2) Why is it important for us to read that God rested (for a full day) from His work? If God rests, what does this speak to us?
- 3) God also designs this day of rest for another reason. What is it? What does that mean and why does it matter?

Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-10, 16-19

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

- 1) In the city of Colossae were many Gnostics - teachers and philosophers who found company with Christians, but proclaimed that there was secret knowledge to be found in order to truly know God. How does Paul combat their “empty” philosophy in these words?
- 2) Instead of legalistic practices Paul insists that we find our strength somewhere else. Where does Paul point us to find our strength?
- 3) What practices can remind us of who we are and who we belong to?

GOSPEL: Mark 2:23-28

²³One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with

him: ²⁶how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

- 1) The Pharisees took the Sabbath seriously. However, they focused on the words of the rule rather than its intent. What do you see from their words that shows how they misunderstood God's heart?
- 2) Jesus' words to the Pharisees emphasize the health of His disciples. How does Jesus show us that Sabbath is tied to our health as well?
- 3) What do Jesus' words tell us about how God treats His people?