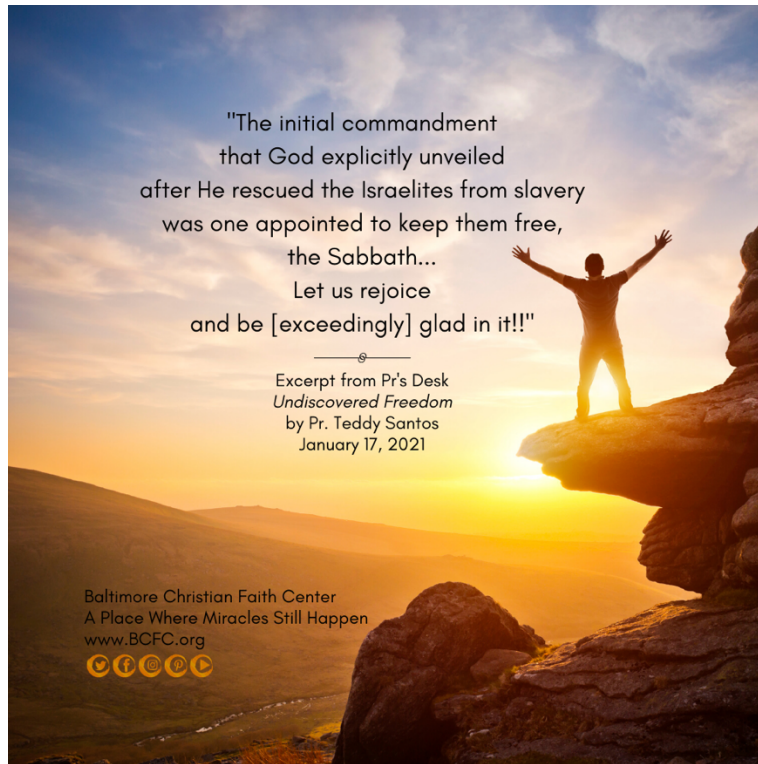


Undiscovered Freedom

Pastor's Desk – January 17, 2021



Deuteronomy 5:12-15 *"Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."*

See how we are required to consecrate the day. The importance here is on being free. The Lord says, "Remember (on this day) that you were a slave." The connection is crystal clear. During the Israelite's slavery, they had no liberty to make decisions. Wherefore, if we keep this day correctly, we can remain free! If suitably utilized, the Sabbath compels us to recognize the past and look onward to where our lives are headed.

Through Bible study and hearing the Word of God, we do this through inspired messages combined with meditation and conversation in fellowship. In church services, we learn quite a bit about the Kingdom of God and the world around us today. Most sermons involve sin in some fashion. Sin is the law's transgression (1John 3:4), but the Ten Commandments are mentioned in the New Testament as the law of liberty (James 1:25). By obeying them, we remain free of enslavement by the enemy, this world, and eternal death. On the Sabbath, God commands His people to keep His commandments and therefore live free through His Word. Exodus 16:4, 25-30 explains:

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not." . . . Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none." Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." So the people rested on the seventh day.

The initial commandment that God explicitly unveiled after He rescued the Israelites from slavery was one appointed to keep them free, the Sabbath. God granted them this witness of a dual serving of manna on the sixth day and none on the seventh... FOR FORTY YEARS! Opposite to those who state the Sabbath has been done away or substituted, the Sabbath is a most beautiful gift of God. Let us rejoice and be [exceedingly] glad in it!!

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos