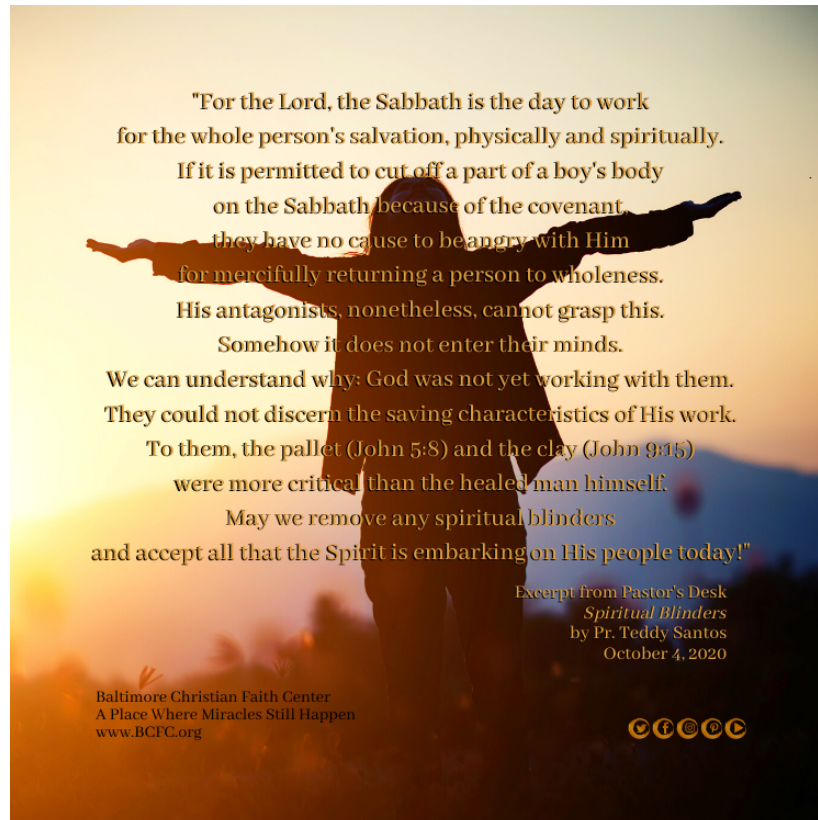


Spiritual Blinders

Pastor's Desk – October 4, 2020



John 7:21-24 (21) *Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. (22) Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. (23) If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? (24) Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."*

The Jews regarded circumcising on the Sabbath as a lawful Sabbath activity. How come? The Bible does not give a straight answer. It is at this point that the Lord Jesus staples them to the wall!

The Jews regarded it lawful on the Sabbath because: It was a redemptive act, as to them, circumcision was an Israelite lad's intro to entering the covenant. Thus, circumcision was a redemptive deed; even today, we acknowledge baptism a redemptive act. And we rightly, lawfully, on the Sabbath, will baptize individuals.

The Jews reasoned that it's lawful and right to cut off a piece of skin, to save the whole man, by making this person a part of the covenant. Then, Christ reasoned that works of salvation are performed, not just by the Father, but also by His assistants, His agents. In this case, the priests did the job of circumcision. And the Jews considered it lawful.

Jesus' logic is excellent: "*If you can do this act to save a man, why can't I also make a person whole and save his physical life on the Sabbath?*" He says, "*This is the work of God.*" It is rescuing somebody, setting them free, giving them freedom.

For the Lord, the Sabbath is the day to work for the whole person's salvation, physically and spiritually. If it is permitted to cut off a part of a boy's body on the Sabbath because of the covenant, they have no cause to be angry with Him for mercifully returning a person to wholeness. His antagonists, nonetheless, cannot grasp this. Somehow it does not enter their minds. We can understand why: God was not yet working with them. They could not discern the saving characteristics of His work. To them, the pallet ([John 5:8](#)) and the clay ([John 9:15](#)) were more critical than the healed man himself. May we remove any spiritual blinders and accept all that the Spirit is embarking on His people today!

At His Service,
Pr. Teddy Santos