

"The Sabbath, the Sign of the Cross"

Jesus says, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). He gives rest because in Him the works of God are perfect. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." In Him "we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. . . . All things were created through Him and for Him." Redemption through Christ is nothing else than creation—a new creation. Just before His crucifixion, Christ said to the Father, "I have finished the work which You have given Me to do" (John 17:4). And when He hung on the cross "He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit" John 19:30. Thus He indicated that in the cross are to be found all the perfect, finished works of the new creation.

Now the Sabbath was given as the sign of a perfect creation completed; therefore it is the sign of those perfect works restored by the cross of Christ. That is to say: **Since the Sabbath is the sign of a perfect creation completed, and the cross of Christ accomplishes a new creation, the Sabbath must be the sign of the cross.** Try it and see if it is not.

A Gift, not a Task Exacted

Here is where so many people make a mistake: they think that the Sabbath is a hard requirement that God lays on men, and then they soon begin to think that God cannot require it of us, since He does not desire His people to be burdened. But **salvation is not a thing required of us, but a gift to us**; and the Sabbath is the sign of Christ's saving power: He saves by the power by which He creates. Rest is not a burden it is a pleasure. Nothing more absolutely delightful can be imagined than rest in the consciousness of work all done and well done, and this is the privilege of the people of God: "All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom" (Ps. 145:10-12). "One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts" (v. 4).

The Sabbath is the pledge and assurance to us, that the power by which the worlds were made has wrought good works for us in Christ, and that these works are all ours if we believe. This is the rest prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

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