

4 THE FORGOTTEN COMMANDMENT

By Rich Kopp

Many Christians act as if there were only nine commandments, leaving out the fourth. Rich Kopp stresses the importance of honoring the Sabbath.

5 THERE REMAINS A SABBATH REST

By Burt Campbell

The laws given in the Old Testament were detailed and extensive. Just what does "keeping the Sabbath day holy" look like today?

7 MIRACLE AT HEMET HOSPITAL: BABY RESURRECTED

By Peter Edwards

A parent's heartbreak – their anticipated bundle-of-joy is stillborn. Read what happens when one family refuses to accept the obvious.

8 INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES COMPOSITE

Missionaries and field directors rely on our prayer support. Use this guide as a reminder to pray for them often and intensely – by name, face, and country of service.

12 KOREA OPEN BIBLE CHURCHES

By Paul Canfield

The nations are coming to America, yet maintaining contact with their homelands. Read how one contact is helping Open Bible reach Asia for Christ.

Plus Much More!

Are You Chicken?



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

My Quaker grandfather never did field work on Sundays. Even if the upcoming weather forecast was unfavorable and the crops

needed planting, Grandpa trusted the Lord of the harvest to work it out. Of course he had to feed the livestock and milk the cows daily, but he had learned a valuable lesson early on. A couple of times he tried to get ahead by putting in a few extra hours on a Sunday. During the rest of the week anything that could go wrong did. Working on the "Sabbath" didn't pay. One year, Grandpa's faith was tested when a tornado demolished his brand new barn along with many of the out buildings. Thankfully he and Grandma were spared, even though the change in barometric pressure shattered the windows of their upstairs bedroom.

My siblings and I loved our summer, week-long visits to Grandpa's farm – jumping from hay bale to hay bale, the scratchy straw cushioning our landings; discovering a litter of newborn kittens or piglets; riding into town in the back of Grandpa's pick-up; trying to collect eggs from the hens without getting pecked; Grandma's cooking. The farm is where I visually learned the meaning of the phrase, "running around like a chicken with its head cut off." Of course we didn't eat chicken for awhile after that! The rhythm of the farm was intoxicating: rising early, working and playing hard, sleeping well. Part of that rhythm was resting on Sunday.

Grandpa's active conviction spoke volumes to me. I knew he believed in God and trusted Him in every area of his life. He proved it.

Many farmers today think nothing of missing

church to "get out" in the fields. A Sabbath rest never occurs to them. They work like it all depends on them. Yet are they more productive or more prosperous than the one who takes a day off?

Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). Like God's other laws this command was not given merely as a restriction (although God would certainly have that right), but as an opportunity – an excuse, if you will – to take some time off, to worship God without distractions. Our Heavenly Father instructs us to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). The Sabbath is also a time to let our bodies rejuvenate. Just as farmers know they cannot keep planting the same crop in the same field year after year without destroying the soil, our bodies need time for restoration as well, for renewal.

God may not be so concerned about the legality of the Sabbath issue or with designating a specific day, but He does care about my heart. Setting the Sabbath apart is my way of acknowledging my dependence on Him. He is in control – not me. Just as paying my tithe reflects my belief that God will supply for my financial needs, setting aside one day of the week demonstrates my belief that God will provide for all my responsibilities. I can choose to accomplish my duties through my own strength, or through His. On my own, I exert a lot of energy but accomplish little, not unlike the poor chicken running around without its head.

Andrea

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