

“Take Time for Sunday”

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:6

Last week I made a reference to the Carnival Cruise Line Super Bowl commercial imploring you to “come back to the sea” because, it was implied, that is where you evolved from. At the time that commercial came on, we were hosting a Super Bowl party, and one of my guests asked, “What do you think of that?” And I said, “I would like a few minutes for rebuttal.”

And I offered my rebuttal last week. However, even with its ignorant claim about how our blood has “exactly” the same amount of salt as the water in the ocean (which it doesn’t), that commercial is not the one which boiled the salt in my blood the most this week.

Have you seen the Dodge pickup truck commercial? Again, a majestic voice appears: “In a work, work, work world, what difference will one day make?” And then they show 14 different images of Sunday morning activities: drinking coffee, the husband sleeping and the wife sitting on the bed in her pajamas lazily

scrolling on her iPad, a little girl playing outside, two brothers laughing and playing on their iPad while still lying in bed.

There was something missing. Fourteen little video clips, and not one hint of anyone even thinking about gathering with the people of God and celebrating the resurrection of the Son of God. The commercial ends with the majestic voice saying, “So take time for Sunday” because your truck is ready for Monday.

“Take time for Sunday.” If it were spoken in a proper context, the message would be good, “Take time for Sunday.” However, the commercial promoted giving in to the distractions of life which keep us from the really important Sunday things – sleeping in or catching up on TV shows or watching all the Internet news clips about the really important things like dancing sharks is not “taking time for Sunday.” There is a veil over their eyes, over their mind and heart which keeps them from the Gospel.

Do you know why we are here today/this morning? I said it earlier. I said it last week. We have come together to hear the Gospel; to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. It is the biggest event happening today. Where else would you rather be? If lying on your couch scrolling through your iPad is your answer, there is a veil keeping you from seeing what is reality.

This is the biggest event happening. First, (it is Sunday) every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. Why do we take time for God on Sunday? Because He took time to take the guilt of our sin upon Himself, allowed nails to be driven through His hands and His feet, and made Himself the final lamb of sacrifice on the altar of the cross. He died so that I don't have to endure an eternity of punishment in hell. He is definitely worth my time.

But we do that every week. What is so special about today? What is today? The Transfiguration of our Lord, for one thing. Jesus of Nazareth, who we know from history was a real person, allowed three of His disciples to witness the glory of the heavenly conversation He had with Moses and Elijah.

The radiant glory of God shines forth. Jesus no longer casts a shadow. Peter sums it up, "It is good that we are here." He wanted to stay. There is nothing like being in the presence of the glory and the majesty of God.

So you might say, "Well, that was good for them, but what does this mean for me? Where is my mountaintop experience?" It is right here. Do not let a veil be placed over your eyes. As St. Paul says, "All Scripture is God-breathed." Listen to His voice. It is in Scripture and nowhere else that He permits Himself to be found, except when His Word is joined to water, bread, and wine.

Did you ever wish that God would show up and physically be with you like He did with the prophets and a few select people in the Old Testament? Do you wish you could be in the physical presence of Christ surrounded by saints like Moses and Elijah? Do not let a veil be placed over your eyes. Jesus makes a new covenant, a better covenant and says, “Lo, I will be with you always even to the very end of the age.” “This is My body; this is My blood. . . Do this in remembrance of Me.” Do not let a veil be placed over your eyes.

What we have is better than what the people had in Old Testament times. The presence of God was only given to a select few back in ancient times. Christ is here for everyone today. And everyone gets to participate in the joining together of heaven and earth (that is what happens here every Sunday). And everyone, not just a select few, everyone is surrounded by angels and arch-angels and all the company of heaven.

As the TV commercial says, “What difference will one day make?” When that one day is the day of the resurrection of the Savior of the world, the difference is life and death; heaven and hell; forgiveness and judgment. There are 168 hours in the week. “Take time for Sunday.” As Peter said, “It is good that we are here.” Amen.