

Vol. 1 No. 1

I received a Facebook question this week from a 20-something person asking the profound question: "What is a weekend?" I suppose the question grew from the fact that this is a college student working all weekend trying to earn enough money for tuition. But, I took the opportunity to reply that a weekend is a two-day event consisting of Saturday rest and Sunday worship. I don't know how that reply went over, but it got me thinking about what I want to do with my updates to the people of Hope.

The introductory email, sent last week Saturday (6/6/09), invited you to let me know if you want to be a part of this community-building distribution list. I got many enthusiastic replies (thank you!), so, I think we'll give this a try. This is not going to be writing intended for publication; it will not have lots of citations to original sources; it will not be profound. But it will give you some idea of what I am thinking about when it comes to our future Hope.

(Let me take a moment to talk about those last three words: "*our*": the future of Hope won't happen because of me! Hope's future is dependent upon all of the people of Hope joining in with God as he works in our community; "*future Hope*": together with the Spirit we are building a community which is the Hope we do not yet know...meaning both the future Hope Reformed Church and the future life toward which we are journeying together...a future life which for Christians is the source of our Hope. We hope for things unseen, Paul tells us in one of his letters. So, when I use that phrase, "**our future Hope**", I mean all of that.)

Why not a blog page instead? Well, because this is more personal, and it saves you one click on the computer, and what I hope to write here is really intended for a more targeted audience, meaning each of you! I do hope this distribution list will expand. It nearly tripled in size after last week's email, and I encourage you to continue to find people with email who might want to follow along on our journey. We are not looking for just "members" of Hope Church. We want to invite anyone who shares an interest in our community, or who might just be curious about this future Hope. So, parents, ask your kids if they want to be on our list. Children, ask your parents and grandparents. Everyone, invite your friends. We want to grow inward and we want to reach outward!

But, back to the question, what is a weekend? Saturday is the 7th day of the week as God counts the days. God, who lives outside of time, tells us that on that first earth-bound Saturday, he rested from his creating work. From that idea came the concept of Sabbath: a "day of rest". The Christian church

transferred that idea to Sunday because it is the day that Christians chose to gather to worship God and remember Jesus Christ's work on earth. But, I like the idea that Sunday is the "8th day." We should be "8th day people."

On the 7th day, Jesus Christ was physically dead, in the tomb. But even that day, because Jesus is God, there were the stirrings of life that day. "Saturday stirrings." So, the body of Christ was dead; resting if you will, on the 7th day. But on the 8th day...on that 8th day...well, you know the rest of that story! That, friends, is our future Hope. We claim the right to the same 8th day experience as Jesus Christ!

Let's work to re-claim the weekend. For many of us, weekend work is a necessity, a fact of life in today's world. We live in a 24/7 society. We won't change that, but we can still re-claim the *idea* of the weekend. If it's not Saturday in your week, which day can you use to break from the routine of life and take some time to "rest" from the busyness of life and think about God and his goodness toward you? Find some way this week, if not physically, at least spiritually, to enjoy a Sabbath rest. What would have to change in your life if you wanted to celebrate Sabbath? And what changes in your life would need to happen to find a way to live as an "8th day" person? Does your life show the world that you are an 8th day person?

This week, think about it, "what is a weekend?"

Blessings on your journey...and maybe we'll see you Sunday...the 8th day, in worship at Hope!

Bill TeWinkle

Saturday, June 13, 2009