

Keeping the Covenant in College

Ezekiel 20:19-20

I am the Lord your God; follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.

I have endeavored to keep that covenant with God through the years, even in college. I remember one occasion in college that I had been working a fulltime job and dedicating Friday night and Saturday to the Lord in evangelistic ministries. I worked in an inner city mission in New York City every weekend. This particular week had been difficult and I had many assignments due on Monday. I had worked hard to complete all my assignments on time, but there was a speech due for Dr. Lias's class on Monday morning and I wasn't ready. The professor had said that if you were called on to give a speech you must have it typed out and then given orally that day. Well, I didn't have that speech ready and it bothered me all weekend that I could not work on it because of ministry. Sunday was off limits for that kind of thing. I told the Lord this was not working well and I needed to study that Sunday. The Spirit of God convinced me to keep my covenant with God and not do homework on Sunday.

There was an unwritten rule at Nyack college that if a professor did not show up within the first ten minutes of class, the class would be dismissed. Yet, everyone knew that Dr. Lias never was late and never ever missed a class. I knew I was only half ready with that speech, so I prayed, "Lord, you know I have obeyed and put you first, and I am willing to get a zero on that speech if that is your will, but I ask you to do the impossible and make Dr. Lias late for class."

The class bell rang that Monday morning and Dr. Lias was not there. There was a buzz of excitement in the air. Would Dr. Lias be late? Five minutes went by, then six, seven and eight minutes passed. Some students went out to the parking lot to see if he was coming. He was not. Nine minutes passed. Would he come? Then at the ten minute mark the whole class cheered and began filing out. On our way down the hallway Dr. Lias showed up, but he was too late and class was dismissed. Evidently he had been held up due to a traffic accident. This is the only time in all the years of college that Dr Lias was late for a class. God had done it. By the way, two days later I was called on to give that speech as I would have been called on Monday, but this time I was ready. He gave me an A+ and even applauded everything about that speech. God is good.