

April 22, 2020

Commandment #4

The fourth commandment is the last of the ten commandments that deals with our relationship with God. The last six commandments deal with our relationship with other people. Read **Exodus 20:8-11** and **Deuteronomy 5:4-15**. The sabbath day was the seventh day of the week. It was a day sanctified or set aside for rest and worship. It was to be hallowed or held in reverence. No work was to be done on the sabbath. Obviously, there were some deeds that had to be done every day, such as feeding the animals or milking the cows and goats, but things that were not necessary, were not to be done on the sabbath.

The foundation for the principle behind the sabbath day is found in the creation account, found in Genesis 1 & 2. God did not rest on the seventh day because He was tired, but to establish a principle for men to follow. In the New Testament, worship was moved from the seventh day to the first day of the week in recognition of Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week. We now refer to it as the Lord's day. While the day of the week has changed, the principle remains the same. There are six days in which we are to work and one day set aside for rest and worship.

Unfortunately, Christianity as a whole has abandoned this principle and thus rebelled against the commandment of God. For many years, America operated under what were known as the blue laws. These laws restricted non-essential businesses from being open on Sunday. Since the world sees no need for a day of worship, man invented the weekend as a time of recreation. Many sporting events were scheduled on the weekend when people were free from work to attend or watch such activities. As mobility increased, people used the weekends as an opportunity to travel and "get away." Businesses soon realized that a greater profit could be made if they were open seven days a week. All of this led to an easing of the blue law restrictions to the point that most, if not all, have been abolished. The most recent push has been to open Sundays for hunting.

I Samuel 2:30 "...them that honour me I will honour..." As a boy growing up on a farm, there were certain tasks that had to be done every day. These included hunting the eggs, milking the cows and feeding the animals. But there were many tasks that were not necessary. We owned and operated a roadside vegetable business and helped put hay in the barn for a number of dairy farmers. Much of farming is dictated by the weather, but we purposed that regardless of the favorability of the weather or the work that needed to be done, we would not pick any vegetables or help make hay on Sunday. Sunday was set aside for rest and worship. For this, we were blessed and honored by God.

The misuse and abuse of the Lord's Day has reached magnanimous proportions. I personally believe that the coronavirus is a judgment of God against man for not keeping the Lord's Day. Even many Christians have no difficulty enjoying a variety of forms of entertainment and recreation on the Lord's Day. As a result, we are currently witnessing the power of the hand of God as He has brought the sports world, the business world, the entertainment world, the educational world, and the financial world almost to a complete stop. Even the religious world has been crippled by the corona virus. I wonder how many believers truly miss not being able to gather for corporate worship? As you study the scriptures you will find that the solution to any pestilence was repentance, a turning from the world to God. What changes do you think need to happen in America and more specifically in your life concerning the Lord's Day?