

# The Fourth Commandment...

*... and much more!*

# Why all this law stuff? We're free from the law, right?

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. **For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith...**

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. **For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law...**

*Romans 3:21-24, 27-28 (ESV)*

**31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.**

# So, why/how do we keep the law?

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and *he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever*, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

...

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

*John 14:15-17, 21*

- The Gospel leads to sanctification.
- All wrought in us by the Holy Spirit. We live in dependence on Him .
  - “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

# We are not saved by obedience...

- ... but we are saved *unto* obedience.

“When we are possessed by the sense of the authority and sanctity of the moral law we must come to Calvary if any true and living hope is to be engendered within us. **But when we rise from our prostration before the cross, it is not to find the moral law [set aside] but to find it by the grace of God wrought into the fiber of the new life in Christ Jesus.** If the cross of Christ does not awaken in us the passion of righteousness, we have misinterpreted the whole scheme of divine redemption.”

*John Murray*

“The law sends us to the gospel for our justification; the gospel sends us to the law to frame our way of life.”

*Samuel Bolton*

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

*Yes, finally.*

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

*Exodus 20:8-11*

“You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.”

*Deuteronomy 5:15*

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

“The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his word, expressly one whole day in seven to be a holy Sabbath to himself.”

*Piper, A Baptist Catechism*

- **So what does ‘Sabbath’ mean, exactly?**
- **When should we do this? Does it matter?**
- **Once we figure out those things, what does it mean to ‘keep the Sabbath holy’?**

# What does Sabbath mean? [1]

- From Hebrew *shabath*, meaning “to cease or rest”.
  - First use in Scripture: Genesis 2:2b
    - “... and [God] rested (*shabath*) on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.”
- Morphs into *shabbath*, referring to this particular, holy rest commanded by God.
  - First use: Exodus 16:23
    - “This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest (*shabbath*), a holy Sabbath (*shabbath*) to the Lord’...”

# What does Sabbath mean? [2]

- Exodus 23:10-12
  - “For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield, but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the beasts of the field may eat. You shall do likewise with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard. Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed.”
- So: Sabbath = *A period of rest ordained by God for refreshment and reflection.*

# How often do we Sabbath?

“Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Exodus 20:9-10a, 11)

- How often do we Sabbath?
  - Once every six days.
  - Is that it?
    - Leviticus 23? (verses 7, 15 & 21, 24-25, 27-28, 34-36, etc)
- So, we take Sabbath at least once every seven days and more frequently to observe other significant celebrations.

# When do we Sabbath?

- On what day of the week did Israel celebrate Sabbath?
- On what day do Christians observe Sabbath?
- Why the difference?
  - Luke 23:53-24:2
  - Revelation 1:10 – “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day...” (See also Acts 20:7)
- Therefore, we typically celebrate the Sabbath on Sunday (the first day of the week, the Lord’s Day).

# So, let's check our definition...

- What: *“A period of rest ordained by God for refreshment and reflection.”*
- When: *“We take Sabbath at least once every seven days, typically on Sunday, or more frequently to observe other significant celebrations.”*

**“He has particularly appointed one day in seven, for a Sabbath, to be kept holy unto him: which, from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, was the last day of the week: and, from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which, in Scripture, is called the Lord's Day, and is to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian Sabbath... [To] observe [a] holy rest all the day from their own works, words, and thoughts about their worldly employments...” (WCF, XXI:VII & VIII)**

# What's left...?

- What does it mean to 'keep the Sabbath holy' to the Lord?
- Homework:
  - Isaiah 58:1-14 (14 verses, esp. vv13-14)
  - Matthew 12:1-14 (14 verses)
  - Exodus 31:12-17 (5 verses)
  - Nehemiah 13:15-22 (7 verses)

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Grand Total – 40 verses (min of 28).