Ten Commandments (Part 26)
(The Fourth Commandment – Part 2)

Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

I. A Simple Exposition of the 4th Commandment

A. Its Fundamental Essence [What] (Exodus 20:8; Deuteronomy 5:12)

B. Its Practical Expression [How] (Exodus 20:9, 10; Deuteronomy 5:13, 14)

C. Its Moral Basis [Why] (Exodus 20:11; Deuteronomy 5:15)

II. The Unique Character of the Sabbath Principle

→Unlike the other nine commandments, the Sabbath principle is uniquely tied to historical events. For an Israelite, his Sabbath observance involved the remembrance of creation and redemption—the original creation, and redemption from Egypt. For us under the NC, Sabbath observance also involves the remembrance of creation and redemption—not just the original creation, but the new creation—and not redemption from Egypt, but redemption from sin.

> Geerhardus Vos ('Biblical Theology pp. 140, 141): *"The Sabbath is an expression of the eschatological principle on which the life of humanity has been constructed. There is to be to the world-process a finale, as there was an overture, and these two belong inseparably together. To give up the one means to give up the other, and to give up either means to abandon the fundamental scheme of Biblical history. Even among Jewish teachers the profound meaning of the Sabbath was not entirely unknown. One of them, being asked what the world to come would be like, answered that it would resemble the Sabbath. The Sabbath brings this principle of the eschatological structure of history to bear upon the mind of man after a symbolical and a typical fashion. It teaches its lessons through the rhythmical succession of six days of labor and one ensuing day of rest in each successive week. Man is reminded in this way that life is not an aimless existence, but a goal lies beyond. This was true, before and apart from redemption. The eschatological is an older strand in revelation than the soteric. Had Adam never sinned, the creational Sabbath would have passed over into the reality it typified. The Sabbath points forward to the eternal issues of life and history."*