

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-7

Sermon: "The Fourth Commandment Part 1" Exodus 20:8-11

Benediction: Revelation 22:20

INTRODUCTION

Today we begin to study the Fourth Commandment---the work and worship commandment, the labor and rest commandment, the sabbath day commandment, the commandment regarding the Lord's Day---as we begin to study the Fourth Commandment, let me set two ideas from the scriptures before you. I ask that you keep these ideas in mind throughout this study:

1. As we study this commandment requiring six days of work, remember that the work necessary to justification, that is, to being found righteous in God's sight, cannot be done by you, but already has been done by Jesus Christ.
2. As we study this commandment requiring one day of sabbath-keeping, remember that all sabbath-keeping finds its ultimate fulfillment in the resting of Jesus Christ from His work, and the Holy Spirit's causing us to find rest in Him for all eternity.

Intent to be thorough

First, however, in order not to sit in judgment of the commandment

BODY

I. The Lord commands us what to do

(8) "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

JRY: Remember the stopping day, to keep it set apart unto the Lord.

1828 Webster: set apart to a sacred use, or to the service or worship of God
illus. the holy bread in the tabernacle

II. The Lord commands us how to do it

(9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

-note: not outwardly only, but from the heart

(10) but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work:

you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

-note: not outwardly only, but from the heart

III. The Lord explains why we are commanded to do it

(11) For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

This thing, sabbath day observance, God instituted when He created the human race. Since He instituted it for us when we were created, we observe it.

It seems to me that we are not used to feeling the weight of this argument when applied to the institution of the sabbath day. We are, however, used to feeling the weight of this argument when applied to the institution of marriage. Might it help to see how the parallel?

at creation

marriage

Genesis 2:23-24 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." (24) Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

sabbath-keeping

Genesis 2:2-3 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (3) Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

at the flood

marriage

Genesis 8:15-16 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, (16) "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

sabbath-keeping

Genesis 8:6-12 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. (7) Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. (8) He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. (9) But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. (10) And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. (11) Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. (12) So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

in the Ten Commandments

marriage

Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery.

sabbath-keeping

Exodus 20:8 "Remember the sabbath day"

in Jesus as the ultimate meaning and fulfillment of it
marriage

Revelation 19:6-9 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! (7) Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." (8) And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (9) Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

sabbath-keeping

Hebrews 4:10-11 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. (11) Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

yet He does not cancel it, but instead corrects wrong understandings of it by reminding us of its institution at creation

marriage

Matthew 19:3-6 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" (4) And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,' (5) and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH' ? (6) So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

sabbath-keeping

Mark 2:27-28 And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. (28) Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

the Lord's apostles instruct us that it is yet a continuing practice in the New Testament
marriage

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

sabbath-keeping

Hebrews 4:9 There remains therefore a sabbath keeping for the people of God.

CONCLUSION

Observing the sabbath
at creation

Genesis 2:2-3 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (3) Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

at the flood
in the Ten Commandments

Jesus as the ultimate meaning and fulfillment of it

Hebrews 4:10-11 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. (11) Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

yet He does not cancel it, but instead reminds us of its institution at creation the Lord's apostles instruct us that it is yet a continuing practice in the New Testament

Ezekiel 22:6-11 "Look, the princes of Israel: each one has used his power to shed blood in you. (7) In you they have made light of father and mother; in your midst they have oppressed the stranger; in you they have mistreated the fatherless and the widow. (8) You have despised My holy things and profaned My Sabbaths. (9) In you are men who slander to cause bloodshed; in you are those who eat on the mountains; in your midst they commit lewdness. (10) In you men uncover their fathers' nakedness; in you they violate women who are set apart during their impurity. (11) One commits abomination with his neighbor's wife; another lewdly defiles his daughter-in-law; and another in you violates his sister, his father's daughter.

http://www.archive.org/stream/MN41657ucmf_4#page/n5/mode/2up

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015064337259;view=1up;seq=231>

Raising children
at creation
at the flood
in the Ten Commandments
Jesus as the ultimate meaning and fulfillment of it
yet a continuing practice in the New Testament

lex naturalis natural law

lex posita positive law (from Aquinas literally "posited [by God] law")

positive (adj)

early 14c., originally a legal term meaning "formally laid down," from Old French positif (13c.) and directly from Latin positivus "settled by agreement, positive" (opposed to naturalis "natural"), from positus, past participle of ponere "put, place" (see position (n))

Sense of "absolute" is from mid-15c. Meaning in philosophy of "dealing only with facts" is from 1590s. Sense broadened to "expressed without qualification" (1590s), then "confident in opinion" (1660s); mathematical use is from 1704; in electricity, 1755. Psychological sense of "concentrating on what is constructive and good" is recorded from 1916.

1828 Webster "Positive"

7. Settled by arbitrary appointment; opposed to natural

Matthew 24:20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

Acts 20:6-8 But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. (7) Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (8) There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together.

Revelation 1:9-10 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. (10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: (2) On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Hebrews 4:9 There remains therefore a sabbath-keeping for the people of God.

Exodus 23:12 Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed.

RWP:

(sabbatismos). Late word from sabbatizō (Exo_16:30) to keep the Sabbath, apparently coined by the author

Baines "The Sabbath in Historical-Redemptive Context"

established not in light of sin or the fall, but of creation
God did not "rest" per se, but He did "cease"