

The 4th Commandment

Exodus 20:8-11

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 38

June 15, 2014

Main Point:

The Sabbath is a special day of blessing for you; therefore, enjoy it as the Lord wants you to and be blessed by Him.

1. The 4th Commandment is still binding on you today.
2. The purpose of the Sabbath day is to worship your God and Savior.
3. In order to worship your God and Savior, you must rest from your ordinary labors.
4. As you rest and worship, you will be greatly blessed by God in Jesus Christ.
5. Enjoy the Sabbath as the Lord wants you to and be blessed by Him.

HC 103 Q. What is God's will for you in the Fourth Commandment? A. First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I regularly attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor. Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through His Spirit, and so begin already in this life the eternal Sabbath.

Exodus 16:26 ²⁶ "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, *which is* the Sabbath, there will be none." (NKJV)

Matthew 5:17-19 ¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ "Whoever therefore breaks [annuls] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)

Joseph Pipa "Christ Himself taught six times about the Sabbath, whereas He taught on only one occasion about murder and three times on marriage. If this commandment [to keep the Sabbath] were destined for the dustbin of ceremonial law, why do the Gospel writers devote so much attention to it? Can you think of any ceremonial law regarding which Jesus spent so much time trying to correct people's practice?"

Philip Ryken "To keep something holy in the biblical sense is to dedicate it exclusively for worship."

Leviticus 23:3 ³ "Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation ... (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 5:15 ¹⁵ And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. (NKJV)

Philip Ryken "[The Sabbath] ... is God's memorandum to his people, reminding us to give him glory for his grace."

Joseph Pipa "As God's rest ... was not a rest of inactivity, neither is the rest commanded by the Fourth Commandment a rest of inactivity but of holy commemoration."

Joseph Pipa "The purpose of the Fourth Commandment is to free us from our daily business so that we may do business with Him on 'the market day of the soul'."

Isaiah 58:13-14 ¹³ "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, *From* doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy *day* of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking *your own* words, ¹⁴ Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken." (NKJV)

Mark 2:27 ²⁷ ... "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. (NKJV)

Bruce Ray "When Sunday is swallowed up by the weekend and loses its uniqueness, its holiness, as the Lord's Day, then you and I are the inevitable losers."