

Sunday Evening, September 3, 2023  
*WCF Chapter XXI - Of Religious Worship, and the Sabbath-day (7)*  
Matthew 12:1–14; Hebrews 10:24–25

7. As it is the law of nature that, in general, a proper proportion of time ought to be set apart for the worship of God, so, God in his Word—by a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment binding all men in all ages—has specifically appointed one day in seven for a Sabbath to be kept holy to him. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, the appointed Sabbath was the last day of the week. Beginning with the resurrection of Christ, the Sabbath was changed to the first day of the week, which, in Scripture is called the Lord's day, a day to be continued until the end of the age as the Christian Sabbath.

8. This Sabbath is then kept holy to the Lord when men, after due preparation of their hearts and arranging of their common affairs beforehand, not only observe an holy rest, all the day, from their own works, words, and thoughts concerning their everyday occupations and recreations, but also devote the whole time to the public and private exercises of God's worship and to the duties of necessity and mercy.

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I. Keeping the Lord's Day Holy with Good Works of Necessity and Mercy

A. Good Work of Deed of Necessity

1. Definition of Deed of Necessity from Christ's Use of David's Example Matt. 12:1–8
2. Definition of Deed of Necessity from Jehoida's Example 2 Ki. 11:5–9
3. Definition of Deed of Necessity for Us

B. Good Work of Deed of Mercy

1. Definition of Deed of Mercy from Christ's Healing Matt. 12:9–14
2. Definition of Mercy for Us

II. Keeping the Lord's Day Holy in God's Worship

A. Worship and Deeds of Necessity and Mercy Are Not the Only Things Believers Can Do  
Gen. 2:2; Exo. 23:10–12

B. But Worship Is to Dominate the Day

1. Worship Dominates the Day, So Worship Is the Central Purpose for the Day  
Lev. 23:1–3; Lk. 4:16; Heb. 10:24–25; Heb. 12:22; OPC DW 4.
2. Worship Dominates the Day, So Everything Else Fits Around Worship
3. Worship Dominates the Day, the Whole Day, Not Just an Hour
4. Worship Dominates the Day, So Take Care That Work Doesn't Interfere with Worship  
Exo. 20:8–11
5. Worship Dominates the Day, So Take Care to Prepare for Worship

## Quotes

“The survival of the church and of individual believers depends upon the continuation of the apostolic pattern of Lord's Day worship. For this reason any activity—in business, recreation, or other use of time—that preempts worship on the Lord's Day must be resisted.”  
position paper of Reformed Evangelical Synod

“In a consumer-driven society, we boycott the mall on this day. We refuse to surrender to the culture of entertainment. On this day everyone witnesses to the god (small ‘g’) they worship. On this day, we witness to the world—and to each other and to ourselves—that this is who we really are: ‘in Christ’ rather than ‘in Adam,’ claimed by the Spirit and animated by the age to come. . .”  
Michael Horton

On the Sabbath “We are distracted from the daily news by the news from heaven. And when we are, we actually read the daily news a little differently.”  
Michael Horton

“No Christian can be an individualist. We *are* our brothers’ keeper. We must give thought to how we can be of help to other believers. . . . Like climbers roped together on a steep mountain, like soldiers teamed together on a battlefield, we must keep track of one another. We must work together if we are to reach our objective safely.”  
Philipps

“At home in my own house there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through.”  
Martin Luther

“No one who professes to love Jesus can live in isolation from their brothers and sisters. To be called in Christ is to be called into covenant family.”  
Allister Beg

“The godly ought by all means possible to exert themselves in the work of gathering together the Church on every side; for we are called by the Lord on this condition, that every one should afterwards strive to lead others to the truth, to restore the wandering to the right way, to extend a helping hand to the fallen, to win over those who are without. But if we ought to bestow so much labor on those who are yet alien to the flock of Christ, how much more diligence is required by exhorting the brethren whom God has already joined to us?”  
John Calvin

“The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation. Sin wants to remain unknown. It shuns the light. In the darkness of the unexpressed it poisons the whole being of a person.”  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from *Life Together*