

GOD'S DAY AND HOW TO USE IT

THE 4TH COMMANDMENT

EXODUS 20:8 -11

⁸ “REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY. ⁹ SIX DAYS YOU SHALL LABOR AND DO ALL YOUR WORK, ¹⁰ BUT THE SEVENTH DAY IS A SABBATH OF THE LORD YOUR GOD; *IN IT* YOU SHALL NOT DO ANY WORK, YOU OR YOUR SON OR YOUR DAUGHTER, YOUR MALE OR YOUR FEMALE SERVANT OR YOUR CATTLE OR YOUR SOJOURNER WHO STAYS WITH YOU. ¹¹ FOR IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE THE HEAVENS AND THE 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.”

CONFUSING AND CONTROVERSIAL

- **LONGEST AND MOST DETAILED**
- **SABBATH OBSERVANCE IS MENTIONED MORE THAN ANY OTHER COMMANDMENT**
- **SABBATH REST - THE ONLY OTHER DAY ON JEWISH CALENDAR BESIDES THE DAY OF ATONEMENT THAT HAS THAT COMMAND.**
- **ONLY COMMANDMENT THE LORD CLEARLY GAVE BEFORE MT. SINAI**
- **CONTROVERSY DOES NOT MAKE IT ANY LESS IMPORTANT**

JUMP TO PRACTICALITY

- **CAN I WASH THE CAR?**
- **CAN WE GO OUT TO EAT?**
- **MUST I NAP?**
- **CAN I DO YARD WORK?**
- **CAN I GOLF?**
- **CAN I WATCH FOOTBALL?**

WHAT IS THE SABBATH? — OT

- **GENESIS 2:3**

- **THINK ABOUT TIME. DAYS,
WEEKS, MONTHS, YEARS.**

- **DAYS, MONTHS, YEARS POINT TO
SOMETHING IN CREATION**

- **IT IS WHAT IT IS — NOTHING SCIENTIFIC**

- **ONLY CALENDAR GOD GAVE THE
CHURCH IS WEEKLY**

- **7 DAYS CULMINATES IN DAY OF WORSHIP
AND REST**

REMEMBER THE SABBATH

- **NOT NEW**
- **MORE THAN A MENTAL EXERCISE**
 - **OBSERVE IT**
 - **OWN IT FOR YOURSELF**

TRADITIONS, LEGALISM, RESTRICTIONS

PRINCIPLES BECAME REGULATIONS AND LAW BECAME LEGALISM

- **DEFINE WHAT WORK WAS – SCRIBES
WOULD WRITE THEM, PHARISEES WOULD
ENFORCE**
 - **39 DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATIONS EX:
FORBIDDEN TO CARRY A BURDEN**
 - **CAN'T START A FIRE**
 - **CAN'T GO ON A JOURNEY**
 - **CAN'T TIE A KNOT**
 - **CAN'T PREPARE A MEAL, AND SO ON, AND
SO ON**
- **SABBATH KEEPING DEARER THAN LIFE
ITSELF**
 - **I MACCABEES 2:29-38**
 - **JEWS AGAINST POMPEY**

WHAT IS THE SABBATH? – NT

- **JESUS NEVER VIOLATED THE 4TH COMMANDMENT**
 - **BREAKS WITH TRADITIONS**
 1. **MARK 2 – SABBATH MADE FOR MAN, NOT MAN FOR THE SABBATH**
 2. **MARK 3 – A DAY TO DO GOOD**
 3. **LUKE 13 - A DAY OF FREEDOM**
 4. **LUKE 14 – A DAY OF MERCY**
- **GOSPELS DEMONSTRATE JESUS NEVER VIOLATED MATT 5:17-18**

PAUL TAKES A STEP FURTHER

- **RE-CONSTITUTES A PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MOSAIC SABBATH**
 - **ADIAPHORA – AGREE TO DISAGREE**
 - **ROM 14:5 - 6 EARLY CHURCH**

- **⁵ ONE PERSON REGARDS ONE DAY ABOVE ANOTHER, ANOTHER REGARDS EVERY DAY *ALIKE*. EACH PERSON MUST BE FULLY CONVINCED IN HIS OWN MIND. ⁶ HE WHO OBSERVES THE DAY, OBSERVES IT FOR THE LORD, AND HE WHO EATS, DOES SO FOR THE LORD, FOR HE GIVES THANKS TO GOD; AND HE WHO EATS NOT, FOR THE LORD HE DOES NOT EAT, AND GIVES THANKS TO GOD.**

ROMANS 14:5-6

PAUL TAKES A STEP FURTHER

- **RE-CONSTITUTES A PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MOSAIC SABBATH**
 - **ADIAPHORA — AGREE TO DISAGREE**
 - **ROM 14:5 - 6 EARLY CHURCH**
 - **NO ONE PASS JUDGMENT**
 - **COL 2:16 - 17**

FESTIVALS, NEW MOONS, SABBATHS

- **PASS NO JUDGMENT ON SABBATHS**
 - **SOME CONTEND THAT DOESN'T MEAN WEEKLY SABBATH**
 - **OT CONTEXT DISPUTES THIS THOUGHT. EZEKIEL 45, HOSEA 2 - SAME ORDER**
 - **II CHR. 8 AND 31 – DIFFERENT ORDER**
 - **IN ALL INSTANCES 3 ITEMS SEEM TO BE SHORTHAND “ANNUAL HOLY DAYS, MONTHLY HOLY DAYS, WEEKLY HOLY DAYS.**
 - **CONCLUSION IS NO JUDGMENT OF REGARD TO WEEKLY SABBATHS**
 - **IN A SENSE, THE SABBATH IS NO LONGER A BINDING HOLY DAY FOR NT CHRISTIANS**

- **“IF ANYWHERE THE DAY IS MADE HOLY FOR THE MERE DAY’S SAKE — IF ANYWHERE ANYONE SETS UP ITS OBSERVANCE ON THE JEWISH FOUNDATION, THEN I ORDER YOU TO WORK ON IT, TO RIDE ON IT, TO DANCE ON IT, TO FEAST ON IT, TO DO ANYTHING THAT SHALL REMOVE THIS ENCROACHMENT ON CHRISTIAN LIBERTY.”**

– MARTIN LUTHER

SABBATH OBSERVANCE VS. 4TH COMMANDMENT

- **DELIBERATE ATTEMPT IN NT TO RECKON LORD'S DAY AS NEW TYPE OF SABBATH**
- **GOSPELS STATE THE RESURRECTION WAS "ONE OF THE SABBATH"**
 - **FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK**
 - **GREEK MEANS "ONE" NOT "FIRST"**
- **SAME CONCLUSION: CHRISTIANS COMMEMORATE THE RESURRECTION ON 8TH DAY OR SABBATH PLUS ONE.**
 - **NT SHOWS THIS REPEATEDLY ACTS 20:7; 1 COR 16:1-2 – EARLY CHURCH MET ON 1ST DAY OF THE WEEK**

CHANGE IS HERE

**“CHRIST TOOK THE SABBATH
INTO THE GRAVE WITH HIM AND
BROUGHT THE LORD’S DAY OUT
OF THE GRAVE WITH HIM ON
RESURRECTION MORN.”**

- B. B. WARFIELD

APPLICATION — WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR US?

- **MUST WE KEEP THE 4TH COMMANDMENT?**
- **WHY?**
 - **CHRIST SHOWED THAT WE SHOULD TRUST GOD AS PROVIDER, SUSTAINER, DELIVERER, AND SAVIOR.**
 - **THE JUDICIAL PENALTIES AND CEREMONIAL LEGALITIES HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED!!**

INSTITUTES OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION

- **JOHN CALVIN SAID, “THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT BY THE LORD CHRIST’S COMING THE CEREMONIAL PART OF THIS COMMANDMENT WAS ABOLISHED...CHRISTIANS OUGHT THEREFORE TO SHUN COMPLETELY THE SUPERSTITIOUS OBSERVANCE OF DAYS.”**
- **CALVIN ELABORATES BY INSISTING THAT OBSERVING THE LORD’S DAY IS IMPORTANT AND MAINTAINING IT WAS INSTITUTED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE**

APPLICATION — WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR US?

- **THE LORD'S DAY IS...**

- 1. DAY TO GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

- 2. DAY TO REST FROM LABOR**

- 3. FIND SPIRITUAL REST FROM CHRIST
EVERY DAY**

1. A DAY TO GATHER FOR WORSHIP

- **SET ASIDE ONE DAY WEEKLY FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP**
 - **KEEP IT HOLY – SET APART**
 - **THAT SPECIAL DAY WAS SATURDAY UNDER MOSES BUT BECAME SUNDAY IN CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.**
 - **LAST SEVERAL DECADES REGULAR CHRISTIANS TREAT WORSHIP LESS AND LESS SERIOUSLY**
- **THE LORD'S DAY MUST BE A PRIORITY**
IS SUNDAY SET APART?

ARE WE TEACHING OUR FAMILY THAT SUNDAY IS THE DAY WE GO TO CHURCH OR THE DAY WE TRY TO SQUEEZE IN

1. A DAY TO GATHER FOR WORSHIP

- **IF WE WANT TO MAKE CHANGES FOR SUNDAY AS A PRIORITY FOR OURSELVES OR OUR FAMILIES, WHAT MIGHT THAT LOOK LIKE?**
 - **CLIMAX OF THE WEEK OR COLLAPSE?**
 - **IS IT ANTICIPATED OR AN IMPOSITION?**
 - **ARE THERE THINGS WE OUGHT NOT TO DO ON THE LORD'S DAY?**

2. A DAY OF REST FROM LABOR

- **DEFINE REST**

- **IN AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, REST MEANT “SIT DOWN AND DON’T WORRY ABOUT THE FIELDS”**
- **FOR A DESK JOB — RIDE A BIKE, TAKE A WALK, GOLF, TENNIS, EXERCISE, DON’T ANSWER EMAILS!**
- **FOR A MORE PHYSICAL JOB — TAKE A NAP, READ A BOOK, SWIM, CATCH UP WITH FAMILY**
- **MAYBE GOD UNDERSTANDS THAT WE WON’T STOP AND REST UNLESS HE COMMANDS US TO???**

3. FIND SPIRITUAL REST FROM CHRIST EVERY DAY

- **A DIFFERENT TYPE OF REST –
CEASE FROM WORKS AND REST IN
CHRIST**
- **HEB 4:3, 9**
- **CHRIST FULFILLED MUCH OF THE
4TH COMMANDMENT ON
RESURRECTION MORNING.
PARAPHRASE EPHESIANS 2:8,9 -
YOU ARE SAVED BY GRACE
THROUGH FAITH, IT HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH YOU, EVERYTHING IS
GIVEN BY GOD, YOU CAN'T BRAG**

CLOSING

KEVIN DEYOUNG

