

The Fourth Commandment

Preliminary - Why teach the commandments?

They do not make us righteous... only Christ can do that. They simply provide for us a picture of godly living!

They make us aware of what righteous living would look like!

To point us to our goal (where God wants to take us)

To function as our compass

The Fourth Commandment

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days a week are set apart for your daily duties and regular work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any kind of work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; then he rested on the seventh day. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy." - (Exodus 20:8-11, NLT)

""Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 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. For [1] 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." - (Exodus 20:8-11, NASB)

""Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days a week are set apart for your daily duties and regular work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any kind of work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your oxen and donkeys and other livestock, and any foreigners living among you. All your male and female servants must rest as you do. Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out with amazing power and mighty deeds. **That is why the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.** - (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

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Whatever happened to the observance of this commandment?

It is a little sobering to think this is one of the Ten Commandments.

Catholic observance is law based righteousness... you keep the commandment or you sin

7th Day Adventist – the keeping of the Law is a sign of the true Christian that will be saved in the end times.

The story of Eric Liddell (Chariots of Fire), the Olympics of 1924

My Own Story – Church and Family, Job loss

What does the scripture teach to Christians?

Romans 10:4 – “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

The first Church controversy

Stephen – **Acts 6:13-14**

The Council – **Acts 15:5, 10-11, 23-29**

However, what does this commandment point us toward?

Our growth in Christ requires Christian disciplines

Scripture reading, prayer, Sunday observance, service,

Calls us away from a religion of personal preference

Isaiah 58:13

It's about God

It's about obedience

Christian life is learning to live trust in God – The rest of the Command

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Conclusion:

A revival of a wholesome understanding and practice of Sabbath is needed again today. The consequences of ignoring Sabbath are wreaking havoc in our culture and in our personal Christian lives. He who created us knew that the health of our spirit, soul, and body would depend on a wholesome Sabbath observance. What is God speaking to you?