

- The Fourth Commandment:
 - The Controversy & The Questions Begin!
 - Is The Fourth Commandment:
 - Like The First Three Commandments?
 - Is It Too Binding:
 - On All Men:
 - At All Times?
- And - If It Is:
 - Then - Why Haven't Most Churches:
 - In The Past:
 - And - Why Don't Most Christians:
 - In The Present:
 - "Remember The Sabbath Day?"
- 4. And - We're Not Just Talking About "A" Sabbath Day:
 - Or "One Day In Seven" - Like Sunday:
 - Which Is Reserved For:
 - A Day Of Spiritual Refreshment & Rest!
 - Which Is What The Word "Sabbath" Actually Means:
 - To Cease & To Rest:
 - From Work & Labor!
 - And Even Though There Are Some:
 - Christian Denominations That **Do** Worship:
 - On Saturday - Why Don't **We** Actually Keep:
 - "The Seventh Day" - Which Is Clearly Described:
 - In 20:9 - As:
 - "The Sabbath Of The Lord [Our] God"?
 - 5. Well - We Will Try To Get To:
 - And Answer These Questions:
 - In Due Time!
 - But - I Want Us To Remember:
 - That The New Testament Lens Through Which We've Been Looking At The First Three Commandments:
 - Applies To This Commandment As Well!
 - Once Again - 2 Timothy 3:16-17:
 - Tells Us That - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: / That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works!"
 - So - If The First Three Commandments:
 - Of God's Law Have Been:
 - Profitable For Us In These Ways:
 - The Fourth Commandment Must Be Profitable As Well!
 - And - I Believe As We Go Through This Commandment Over The Next Several Weeks:
 - You Will See That It Is!
 - 6. So - Before We Get To:
 - The More Controversial & Questionable:
 - Aspects Of The Fourth Commandment:
 - I Want Us To Consider How:
 - It Is Still "Profitable For Doctrine!"
 - That Is:
 - How This Commandment About The Sabbath Day:
 - Tells Us & Teaches Us:
 - Some Very Important Truth:
 - About God!
 - 7. And - To Do So:
 - We Need To Go Back To:
 - The Basis For This Command:
 - And Back To:

- The Very Beginning Of Time Itself - Which Is Referred To In Exodus 20:11 - “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it!”
 - You See - The “Sabbath Day” Was:
 - An Ordinance Of God’s Creation:
 - Before It Ever Became:
 - An Ordinance Of God’s Covenant!
 - And So - Let’s Turn Back To The Beginning Of This Ordinance:
 - To Genesis 1!
8. Where - I Would Like To Read Through:
- The Entire Account Of God’s Creation:
 - Of This World:
 - Which Is Important To Do:
 - Because It Is Constantly Being Ridiculed & Rejected By The World:
 - In Which We Live!
 - Read Genesis 1:1-31!
 - Now - After All That God Made:
 - In Those Six Days - Which We Believe:
 - Are Six Literal 24-Hour Days - Described For Us Six Times As - “The Evening And The Morning!”
 - We Now Come To The Establishment Of The First Sabbath Day - In:
 - Genesis 2:1-3:
 - “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. / 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. / 3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made!”
 - Now - That Sounds Familiar - Doesn’t It?
 - It Should! Because That Is What Was Said As The Reason And The Basis For:
 - The Fourth Commandment!
 - Again Exodus 20:11:
 - “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it!”

9. The Sabbath Day:

 - Teaches Us That God:
 - Is A **God Of Rest!**
 - Now - This Does Not Mean:
 - That God **Needed** Rest:
 - The Way You Might Need Rest:
 - After A Long Day Or A Long Week At Work!
 - Because - That Is Not Part Of His Nature!
 - In Isaiah 40:28 We Are Told:
 - “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding!”
 - God Did Not Rest:
 - On The Seventh Day:
 - On Saturday:
 - Because He Was Tired!
 - Instead:
 - It Simply Means:
 - That God Stopped & Ceased:
 - His Work Of Creation!
 - At That Point:
 - There Was Nothing More To Be Done!
 - At That Point:
 - Everything Was - 1:31 - “Very Good!”
 - **IE:** I Think I Had A Very Tiny Bit Of This Feeling When - Several Years Ago - We Were Getting Things Ready At Our House In Greenfield - To Sell It! After Living There For 10 Years - There Was A Lot Of Work That Needed

To Be Done! Repairs! Improvements! De-Cluttering! Cleaning! I Remember One Day - Sitting On Our Couch - And Thinking - "I Don't Think There's Anything More To Do!" I Wasn't Particularly Tired That Day - I Was Just Done! And For That Brief Moment On The Couch - I Rested!

- Of Course - That Doesn't Compare At All To The "Rest" Of God - But It Does Show:
 - That Real Rest Does Not Always Involve Sleep Or Sleepiness!

10. And - Since God Himself Rested:

- In That Way:
 - And - On That Day:
 - It Tells Us Some Things About Him!
 - Briefly - Three Truths!

* First - The Rest Of God Points To & Teaches Us About:

1. **God's Creative Work!**

- That God Is A Creator!
 - And That - As Psalm 86:10 Tells Us:
 - "Thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone!"
- The Creation Of God:
 - Is A Wondrous Thing:
 - Isn't It?
 - From The Largest Objects:
 - In The Heavens:
 - Like The Giant Fire-Balls In The Sky Called Stars!
 - To The Smallest Objects:
 - On The Earth:
 - Like Cells & Even Atoms!
 - The Design Of Everything:
 - Is So Intricate:
 - And Interesting:
 - That Scientists Will Spend Their Entire Lives:
 - To Specialize On Just One Area Or Object:
 - Of God's Creation!
 - The Fact That God Rested:
 - Points To The Fact:
 - That God Worked!
 - And The Work That God Did:
 - In Creating The "Heaven And Earth, The Sea, And All That In Them Is" - Shows Us:
 - His Power, His Glory, And Even His Love!
 - And When God Calls On His People:
 - To "Remember The Sabbath Day" - He Wants Them:
 - To Remember Him:
 - As The Creator Of All Things!
 - And - As **Their** Creator!
 - Isn't This What The Preacher Said:
 - In Ecclesiastes 12:1?
 - "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth!"
 - The Rest Of God:
 - Points To:
 - God's Creative Work!
 - But It Also Points Us To:

2. **God's Completed Work!**

- That God Is A Completer!
 - He Completes That Which He Starts!
 - **IE:** Does This Describe You & Your Work? If You Are Anything Like Me - I Get Bored With Some Of My Projects Around The House - Or - I May Not Have What I Need To Finish A Project - Either Way - There Are A Lot Of Incomplete & Unfinished Projects Around The House!
 - And - Even Though I May **Get** Rest - After A Long Day Of Work - I Am Not **At** Rest:

- Because There Is Still So Much To Be Done!
- This Is Not The Case With God!
 - In Genesis 2:2 - We Are Told That:
 - “On the seventh day God *ended* his work which he had made!”
 - He “Ended” It!
 - He Completed It!
 - It Was Finished!
 - All That God Had:
 - Desired & Determined:
 - To Create - From Eternity Past:
 - He Completed!
 - And That’s Why He Rested!
 - He Was Done!
 - There Was Nothing More To Do!
- The Rest Of God:
 - Points To:
 - God’s Completed Work!
 - He Will Always Finish:
 - That Which He Starts!
 - Isn’t This An Encouragement:
 - For You - If You Have Trusted In Jesus:
 - As Your Savior?
 - Some Day - God Himself Will Complete:
 - The Work That He Started:
 - In Your Heart & Life!
 - In Fact - In Philippians 1:6:
 - The Apostle Paul Tells Us That We Can Be:
 - “Confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!”

* But - The Rest Of God Also Points Us To:

3. ***God’s Contented Work!***

- That God Was & Is Forever Satisfied:
 - With What He Does!
 - **IE:** Is This How You Feel About Your Work? Perhaps, Sometimes - But I’ve Known Some Carpenters & Craftsmen Who Are Such Perfectionists That They Are Never Satisfied With Their Work! And So - They Never Truly Rest!
- This Is Not The Case With God Either!
 - In Genesis 1:31 - It Said That:
 - “God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good!”
 - Everything Was:
 - As It Was Supposed To Be!
 - From The Light:
 - He Made On Day One:
 - To The People:
 - He Made On Day Six!
 - They Were All Perfect!
 - They Were All “Very Good!”
 - And God Was Satisfied:
 - With All That He Had Made!
 - And So - He Stopped!
 - He Ceased From His Work!
 - He Rested!

Conclusion:

1. This Is What It Meant:
 - For God To Rest!
 - He Rested:

- Because He Created!
- He Rested:
 - Because He Completed That Which He Created!
- And - He Rested:
 - Because He Was Content With What He Created!
- 2. And So - In Exodus:
 - When God Commands His People:
 - To “Remember The Sabbath Day, To Keep It Holy!”
 - He Wants Them To Remember:
 - Him!
 - He Wants Them To Remember:
 - His Rest - And:
 - The Rest That He Alone:
 - Can Give To Those Who Are “Weary And Heavy Laden” - From Their Own Labors & From Their Own Sin!
- 3. So - The Fourth Commandment:
 - *Is* “Profitable For Doctrine!”
 - It Teaches Us That:
 - God Is A God Of Rest!
 - And - If You Need Rest:
 - True Rest - You Will Only Find It In & Through Him!
 - As St. Augustine Once Famously Wrote:
 - “[God] Made Us For [Himself], And Our Hearts [Will Be] Restless Until They Find Their Rest In [Him]!”

* Have You Found Your Rest In God? In Jesus?

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com