

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Fourth Commandment
“Remember The Sabbath?”
Exodus 20:8-11

Introduction:

1. Please Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles:
 - To Exodus 20:
 - Where We Find The Ten Commandments!
 - Exodus 20 - Where We Are Looking At:
 - The Fourth Commandment:
 - That, Perhaps, Is The Most Controversial Commandment:
 - Of Them All!
 - Because - Beginning At:
 - 20:8-11 - We Read:
 - “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. / Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: / But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: / 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!”
2. Now - What Is **Not** Controversial:
 - About This Commandment:
 - Is What We Looked At Last Sunday Night:
 - That Is - What This Commandment:
 - Tells Us About God!
 - That God Is A God Of Rest!
 - So - This Commandment Is Still Profitable:
 - For Doctrine:
 - Even As We Are Told:
 - From 2 Timothy 3:16!
3. But - What About:
 - The Rest Of 2 Timothy 3:16?
 - Which Tells Us That:
 - “All Scripture – Is Profitable” – Also:
 - “For Reproof!”
 - Which Means:
 - It Tells Us Something:
 - About Ourselves & Our Sin!
 - Well - When It Comes To:
 - The Fourth Commandment:
 - The Question Is This:
 - How Can It:
 - Reprove Us:
 - If It Doesn’t:
 - Apply To Us?
 - So - What We Are Going To Look At Tonight:
 - Is The Application:
 - Of The Sabbath Day:
 - And - Is This Commandment:
 - Still Profitable For Us Today?
4. Well - If You Were To Take:
 - A Survey Of Christians:
 - I’m Sure That You Would Get:
 - A Wide Spectrum:
 - Of Opinions:
 - About The Sabbath Day In General & This Commandment In Particular!
 - And - I’m Also Pretty Sure:
 - That Those Opinions:

- Will Line Up With The Spectrum Of Views:
 - That Have Been Held:
 - Throughout The History Of The Church!
 - So - As We Look At:
 - These Different Views:
 - I Think That We Will See:
 - That It Is Still An Important Topic:
 - To Consider - And Look At - As Christians!
5. The Range Of Views About The Fourth Commandment:
 - Runs Between What Is Called:
 - The Moral View:
 - And - The Ceremonial View:
 - Of The Sabbath!
 - The Moral View:
 - Simply Means That:
 - This Commandment:
 - Flows From The Nature & Character Of God - And So:
 - Applies To All Men At All Times!
 - Much Like:
 - All Of The Other Commandment!
 - In First Two Commands:
 - God Commands Everyone:
 - To Worship Him - Because:
 - He Is The Only True God!
 - In The Fifth Commandment:
 - God Commands Everyone:
 - Not To Kill / Murder - Because:
 - As The Living God - He Is The God Of Life!
 - So - If The Fourth Commandment:
 - Is A Moral Commandment:
 - Like All Of The Others:
 - Then - It Is To Be Obeyed Completely!
 - The Ceremonial View:
 - Is On The Opposite Side Of The Spectrum:
 - And Means That This Commandment:
 - Was Given Exclusively To:
 - The Jewish Nation At Mt. Sinai!
 - And - Like All Of The Other Civil & Ceremonial Laws:
 - In The Old Testament:
 - It Was A Sign & A Symbol:
 - That Was Completely Fulfilled When Jesus Christ Finished His Mission In This World!
 - So - It Was A Temporary Commandment:
 - That Has Absolutely No Authority:
 - Over The Church Today!
 - 6. So - What Are The Different Views Of The Sabbath Today?

* First - There Is - What We Can Call:

1. *The Particular View!*

- This View Sees The Fourth Commandment:
 - As A Completely Moral Commandment:
 - Which Applies To All Men, At All Times:
 - And - In All Of Its Details!
 - Those Who Hold This View:
 - Can Be Called:
 - “Sabbatarians” - Because They Believe:
 - That Even The Church Is Obligated To “Remember The Sabbath **Day** – To Keep It Holy!”

- As We See From Exodus 20:11:
 - The Sabbath “Day” Is The Seventh Day Of The Week:
 - Based On The Week Of Creation:
 - From Genesis 1-2!
- So - All Of The **Details**:
 - Of This Commandment:
 - Are Still Important For & Binding Upon:
 - The Christian Church!
- The Day Is Still To Be Followed!
 - And:
- The Duty Is Still To Be Followed!
 - Because - As It Says In 20:10 - “In it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates!”
 - Not Only Is “Work” Prohibited:
 - But There Were Other Requirements:
 - Found In Other Places In The Law!
- The Particular View:
 - Sees No Change In The New Testament:
 - To The Fourth Commandment!
 - And Those Who Are Members Of Messianic Congregations Or Seventh Day Adventist Or Even Seventh Day Baptist Churches:
 - All Follow The Particular View!

* A Second View Is - What We Can Call:

2. The Puritan View!

- This Is The View That Was Prominently Held:
 - By The English Puritans:
 - And Made A Deep Impression On Early American Churches As Well!
- Those Who Hold This View:
 - Are Not True “Sabbatarians” - Because:
 - They Do **Not** Believe The **Sabbath** Day Is:
 - The **Seventh** Day Any More!
 - Instead - They Believe That:
 - When Jesus Said:
 - “The Son Of Man Is Lord Even Of The Sabbath Day” - Which Is Found In All Three Synoptic Gospels - Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:28; And Luke 6:5!
 - He Meant:
 - That He Not Only Had The **Authority** To Change The Sabbath Day:
 - He Actually Did!
- And - The Day Jesus Appointed:
 - For The New Sabbath Day:
 - The Christian Sabbath Day:
 - Was The First Day Of The Week!
 - Sunday!
 - And - Jesus Ratified This:
 - When He Rose Again From The Dead!
- So - According The Puritan View Of The Sabbath:
 - The Day Has Changed - But:
 - The Duty Has Continued!
 - The Puritans Believed:
 - There Is To Be A Strict Observance:
 - Of The Christian Sabbath!
 - In Christian Families, Christian Churches, And Even Christian Societies!
- This Is Why:
 - Up Until Recently:
 - “Blue Laws” Were Very Common In The United States!
 - Especially In States & Communities With Strong Ties To The Puritan Movement!
 - **IE**: I Remember Visiting My Grandmother In Ocean Grove, New Jersey, Which Used To Be An Old

Methodist Camp-Meeting Town! And - No Cars Were Allowed On The Streets On Sunday! Unless You Had A Garage - You Had To Park In The Next Town Over - Asbury Park!

- Even In Indiana - Selling Alcohol On Sunday Was Against The Law - Up Until 2018 - When That Law Was Repealed!

- All Of This Was Because:

- Of The Puritan View Of The Sabbath:

- Which Is Still Held By Many:

- Reformed & Presbyterian Churches!

- So - For Them:

- Both The Duty & The Day Of The Sabbath:

- Are Moral - Not Ceremonial!

- But Jesus - As The "Lord Of The Sabbath" - Changed The Day!

* A Third View Is - What We Can Call:

3. **The Pledge View!**

- This View Is Held By Those Who Believe:

- The Fourth Commandment:

- Is Entirely Ceremonial In Nature:

- And - As Such:

- Has Been Entirely Abrogated And Abolished For The Church Today!

- Those Who Hold This View:

- Point To Verses Like:

- Exodus 31:12-17 - When - "The LORD spake unto Moses, saying, / Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a **sign** between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. / Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. / Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. / Wherefore the **children of Israel** shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. / It is a **sign** between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed!"

- So - For Some Christians:

- The Sabbath Day Was Only Necessary:

- For The Children Of Israel!

- It Was A Sign For Them & Them Alone!

- This Is Also Referred To Later:

- In Exodus 20:19-20 - When The Lord Says - "I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; / And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God!"

- And So - The Reason The Fourth Commandment:

- Lands Right In The Middle Of The Moral Law:

- Is Because - Like Many Ancient Covenants:

- There Was Usually A Special Sign Attached To It!

- If You Kept The **Sign** Of The Covenant:

- It Meant That You Were Keeping:

- The **Substance** Of The Covenant!

- Those Who Hold To The Pledge View:

- Also Refer To Colossians 2:16-17:

- Which Says - "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: / Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ!"

- There Really Is No Way Getting Around The Fact:

- That The "Sabbath Days" Mentioned In 2:16:

- Include The "Sabbath Day" Commanded In The Fourth Commandment!

- In Many Ways - The Sabbath Day **Was** A "Shadow" Of The Rest That Came Through Jesus Christ!

- Another Compelling Argument:

- For Those Who Hold To The Pledge View:
 - Is That - Nowhere In The New Testament:
 - Is The Fourth Commandment Repeated For The Church!
- All Of The Other Nine Commandments Are:
 - At Some Point Or Another:
 - But - Not The Commandment About The Sabbath!
- So - The Pledge View Of The Fourth Commandment:
 - Is - Perhaps - The Most Wide-Spread View Today:
 - In Evangelical Churches!
 - The Day Of The Sabbath:
 - Does Not Apply At All To Christians:
 - Nor Do The Duties Of The Sabbath!
- They Believe That The Church:
 - Though It **Should** Gather Together For Worship & Fellowship:
 - Has Complete Liberty:
 - As To When & How They Do So!
 - They Look At:
 - Romans 14:5-6 To Support Their View:
 - “One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. / He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it!”

* Now - Even Though There Is Much To Commend About This View - There Is Still Another View - Which We Can Call:

4. The Pattern View!

- This View Holds That:
 - In The Fourth Commandment:
 - There Are Both:
 - Moral And Ceremonial Elements:
 - To It!
 - That Is:
 - The Ceremonial Elements:
 - Have Found Their Fulfilment:
 - In Jesus Christ - And Are No Longer Binding On God’s People!
 - But - There Are Still:
 - Some Moral Elements:
 - That Flow From The Nature Of God Himself - And Should Be Followed:
 - By God’s People!
 - Of Course - To Observe The Moral Elements:
 - Of Any Of These Commandments:
 - Does Not Mean That You Rely On Those Works For:
 - Your Salvation & For Your Justification!
 - No - Like This Morning - Justified By Faith - Alone!
 - But - Out Of Love For The Lord:
 - A Christian Wants To Obey Him:
 - By Following His Will Found In His Word!
 - This View Has Also Been Called By Some:
 - The “Continental Sabbath” View - Because:
 - It Was Held By Some Of The Most Prominent Reformers - Like:
 - John Calvin & Martin Luther!
 - According To this View:
 - The Particular Duties:
 - Of The Sabbath:
 - Are Ceremonial In Nature:
 - And Have Been Fulfilled & Abolished By Christ!
 - The Rigid Duties Of The Old Testament:
 - Have Been Re-Formed By Christ For His People:
 - Into The Restful Delight:
 - It Was Originally Intended To Be!

- This Is Why Jesus Said:
 - In Mark 2:27 - “The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath!”
- Also - According To This View:
 - The Particular Day:
 - Of The Sabbath:
 - Is Both Ceremonial And Moral!
 - The Sabbath **Day** - Which Is **The** Seventh Day:
 - Was Ceremonial - And Was A Sign:
 - As Well As A Shadow Of The Rest:
 - That Was Fulfilled By & Provided By Christ!
 - And The Sabbath **Day** Is Not Binding On His People Today!
 - However:
 - The Sabbath **Rest** - Which Is **A** Seventh Day:
 - Was Something That God Designed For His People:
 - From The Very First Week Of Creation!
 - We Are To Use One Day Out Of Our Week:
 - To Imitate What The Lord Did:
 - On **His** Day Of Rest!
 - 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!”
 - So - For A Christian:
 - One Day In Seven Should Be A Day Of Consecration To & Blessing From The Lord!
 - God Designed This Day:
 - To Be A Day That Points To:
 - The Ultimate Rest That A Christian:
 - Finds In Jesus Christ!
 - So - There Is:
 - An “Already” Aspect:
 - Of Rest - But Also:
 - A “Not Yet” Aspect:
 - To Our Rest!
 - We Take A Day To Rest & Become Refreshed:
 - Physically, Mentally & Spiritually:
 - As We Look Forward To Our Final Day Of Rest:
 - With The Lord!
 - And This Is Why Christians - All Around The World:
 - No Matter What View Of The Sabbath They Hold:
 - Have Traditionally Met For Public Worship:
 - On Sunday - The Lord’s Day!
 - We Follow The Pattern:
 - Of Jesus!
 - Who Rose From The Dead:
 - On The First Day - And Then:
 - Established The Church:
 - Also - On The First Day!
 - The Day Of Pentecost:
 - According To The Jewish Calendar - Was On A Sunday!
 - But Also:
 - We Follow the Pattern:
 - Of The Apostles & The Early Church:
 - Who Started To Meet For Worship:
 - On Sundays!
 - Find This Through The Book Of Acts As Well As In Early Church History!
 - Though It Is True:
 - That The Early Disciples Met Together:
 - Nearly Every Day Of The Week:

- By The Time The Book Of Revelation Was Written By The Apostle John - The First Day Of The Week Had Become Known As The Lord's Day!

Conclusion:

1. The Pattern View Of The Sabbath:
 - Is The View I Believe:
 - Is Closest To How We Should See & Apply:
 - The Fourth Commandment!
 - The Apostles Exercised Their Christian Liberty:
 - In Changing The Day Of Public Worship & Fellowship:
 - From Saturday To Sunday:
 - In Commemoration & In Celebration Of The Resurrection Of Jesus!
 - And So Now:
 - In Following This Pattern:
 - We Should Use The Lord's Day:
 - Not - For Rigid Duties:
 - What You Can't Do & What You Must Do - On That Day!
 - But - For Restful Delight:
 - That Refreshes The Soul:
 - As It Looks To The Rest We Have In Jesus Christ!
 - And - This Restful Delight:
 - Can Look Differently:
 - For Different Christians!
 - But Should Always Include:
 - Public Worship Of God & Fellowship With The Church!
2. So - Yes - I Believe The Fourth Commandment:
 - Does Apply To Us!
 - And - When We Don't Take Time:
 - To Remember The Sabbath Rest:
 - Offered To Us By The Lord:
 - We Are Missing Out On One Of Greatest Blessings He Has For His People!

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