

## Exodus 20: 9

### WORK - A DIVINE COMMAND

- I. The fourth commandment.
  - A. The law, in general, reveals God and His character.
  - B. The fourth commandment specifically addresses man's duty to work from three angles.
    1. It shows that a way to keep the Sabbath is by working the other six.
    2. Further, God spoke specifically to the other six days and did so in the form of a command: "shalt thou labor."
    3. The reason given in the fourth for keeping the Sabbath holy speaks to the six days of work.
- II. This identifies the attitude of those who "would not" (unwilling) work on the six days as a violation of God's law.
  - A. As with all other violations of God's law, this is rooted in the ugliness of the natural hatred of man's heart.
  - B. Thus the church is called to deal with those who perpetually violate this command to work.
    1. Notice how the language of II Thess. 3 concerning one who refuses to work parallels that of I Cor. 5.
    2. We must not provide for one who declines to work.
  - C. This sin shows our need for Jesus Christ.
- III. The applications when we take this Word of God seriously.
  - A. There may be no freeloaders in the Christian household.
  - B. My problems are because I am not obeying God's will, including His will concerning work.
  - C. Consider the opportunity we have to give witness to God's grace in our lives by the way we work (Phil. 2:14,15).