

Hebrews 4, 10; Lord's Day 38

KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY

- I. Beautiful concept.
 - A. The Sabbath is a positive blessing (God blessed it; Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:11) and therefore is a privilege, not a burden.
 - 1. God's blessing set this day apart for sacred use; hallowing it made it holy.
 - 2. God claimed the Sabbath as His: "My holy day" (Isa. 58:13); was recognized as such: "Thy holy Sabbath" (Neh. 9:14).
 - B. Thus this command touches all the days of our week and life.
 - C. The Fourth then obviously fits the New Dispensation, though this commandment is not specifically repeated in the New.

- I. The restful manner of keeping the Sabbath is resting on Jesus our Savior.
 - A. "Sabbath" means "rest," enjoying an accomplished work (as God did, Gen. 2:2).
 - 1. God gave Jesus so man can rest from the work of saving himself.
 - 2. In this way the Sabbath is a picture of heaven, the eternal Sabbath (Heb. 4:9,11).
 - B. Thus there is no rest for the wicked (Isa. 57:20,21).
 - C. The Sabbath rest is the heart of the gospel ministry to a restless world and to saints who live in this world.

- II. Wonderful implications.
 - A. God's covenant gives forgiveness, so there is no more offering for sin (Heb. 10:16-18).
 - B. Let us observe this day with great delight.
 - 1. If Adam, before sin, needed separation of one day from the rest in order to worship God, then we need it much more.
 - 2. Sanctify the day (not a few hours) by keeping it holy, i.e. separated from common use and dedicated to His praise.
 - C. Remember that God blessed the Sabbath day.