



Thinking Like a Christian 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## Fourth Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day

### 1. A law that brings death, a law that brings life

2 Corinthians 3:7-11 Two eras, two 'ministries'.

Draw up a table to compare the situation under Moses, to the situation now Christ has come...

Old (Moses)	New (Christ)

Moses: You've *got* to keep this law

Jesus: You'll *get* to keep this law

### 2. The Sabbath: a day of rest

What is commanded:

*Remember* the Sabbath

To keep it *holy*

Six days of work

The seventh day is rest – for you, and for everyone who works for you.

Read Exodus 5:6-14.

What was it like being a slave in Egypt?

How would this command have sounded to you?

Back to Exodus 20. Why do you think God lists all the different people (and animals!) in v10?

v11 What is the reason given *why* we should rest?

Look up Genesis 1:31-2:3. Why did God rest? Was he tired?

### 3. A day to be kept Holy

Holiness describes God's own being

For anything else to be holy = set apart for God's special use

This is the day for God to take delight in his creation

And so it is the day for his images to declare his glory back to him. To meet with him, relate to him, interact with him. For **Communion** with him.

And it is a promise that one day in the future this communion will be unending.

Like A line of rivets, a family evening meal, a husband & wife's date night

For God's images, the Sabbath is the greatest possible delight, fulfilment, and rest. Rest and worship are not the same thing

#### 4. The Lord of the Sabbath

Mark 2:23-3:6

What did the Pharisees think was the point of the Sabbath?

What did Jesus think was the point of the Sabbath?

The Sabbath law without Jesus is a ministry of death

The Sabbath law with Jesus is the promise of life

Jesus brings in a new creation

Jesus came to bring Sabbath. The great end-point to which the world was always heading, for which it was created. A day in which all things have been put right. And so an *eternal* Sabbath.

As long as we live in this world, and look to the next, we must still keep the Sabbath Day holy.

But in the New Testament, the Sabbath day has moved to the *first* day of the week.

All the resurrection appearances of Jesus

The day when the church assembled (1 Cor 16:2)

The Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10)

Old Creation	New Creation
Completed on the seventh day of the week	Completed on the first day of the week
Salvation is still to come	Salvation has been achieved
Work first, rest when you've finished	Rest first, then begin your work
We're looking forward to when God <i>will</i> bring Sabbath	We're looking back to when God <i>has brought</i> Sabbath

#### 5. Keeping the Sabbath

A day for God, not myself

Worship is the centre of real rest

A day for God's people

A day to cease work – all work

A day for joy

A day to expect and hope and taste

*Sunday is a day of rest, so I'm going to stay in bed all day.*

*Sunday is a day of rest, so I'm going to let mum do all the cleaning.*

*Sunday is a day of rest, so I'm going shopping.*

*Sunday is a day of rest, so I'm going to spend it paragliding/hiking/playing football*

*Why would I want to go to church? Sunday is my only lie in.*

*Why would I want to go to church? It's such an effort.*

What could you change in order better to Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy?