



Lecture # 14 Part 2

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty to God (Part 4):

Commandment Four Concerns *God's Day*—Never Fail to Observe the Sabbath, to Keep it Holy, Exodus 20:8-11

2. (Exodus 20:9-10) Commandments, The Ten—Obedience—Sabbath—Sunday—Work—Worship: What is the charge of the fourth commandment?

Exodus 20:9-10 (NASB)

⁹“Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
¹⁰but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.”

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Several facts need to be noted.

1. The word “remember” (*zakar*) is imperative, a strong, strong imperative: “You must remember—remember to the point of *keeping* and *observing*—the day of rest and worship.” When the Ten Commandments are repeated in Deuteronomy, the Hebrew word is translated “keep” or “observe.”

Deuteronomy 5:12 (NASB)

¹²“**Observe** the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.”

2. The Hebrew word “Sabbath” does not mean the seventh day (Saturday) as so many people think. The word “Sabbath” (*shabbath*) means “to rest, to repose, to cease.” It means to cease from work, to rest from work.

This is significant, for God is charging us to keep the Sabbath, the day of rest and worship. He is not specifying a particular day of the week when man is to worship and rest.

God simply says, work six days and then rest on the seventh day.

- a. This fact is important for industrialized and technological societies. **Why?** Because so many people *have* to work on Saturday or on Sunday, on the day set aside by their religion as the day of worship and rest. In many cases, factories cannot shut down their huge furnaces, boilers, and machines without damaging



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them mechanically. They have to be operated continually; therefore, thousands upon thousands of people have to work on Saturday and Sunday. The same is true with many service industries and other businesses.

Thought 1. When businesses have to operate seven days a week, what are the employees of these businesses to do about worship and rest?

Two very practical things must be done throughout the remaining generations of history:

1. The church must provide other services through the week for worship and rest; provide them for people who have to work on Saturday or Sunday.
2. People who work on the regular day of worship and rest must still worship God and rest at the alternate services and days scheduled by the church.

Hebrews 10:25 (NASB)

²⁵“Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

Mark 1:21 (NASB)

²¹“They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He [Jesus Christ] entered the synagogue and *began* to teach.”

Luke 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.”

Acts 13:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.”

b. When the law was given by Moses, the Jews set aside the seventh day, Saturday, as their day of worship and rest. Today, others follow their practice. **But the largest body of Christian believers have switched their day of worship and rest from the last day of the week to the first day of the week, from Saturday to Sunday. Why?**

- a. Because Jesus Christ burst loose from the bonds of death on the first day of the week. Believers wish to celebrate His glorious resurrection and the great hope of their salvation on the very day He arose.
- b. Because the first day of the week is called “**the Lord’s day**” (**Revelation 1:10**). Believers wish to worship on the Lord’s day.

Revelation 1:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet.”



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- c. Because the early followers of Christ switched their day of worship and rest to the first day of the week. The tradition has continued down through the centuries.

Acts 20:7 (NASB)

⁷“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.”

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NASB)

²“On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.”

3. The Sabbath, the day of rest and worship, is to be kept *holy* (**Exodus 20:8**) **Holy** (*qados*): means “sanctified, separated, set apart, devoted, dedicated, consecrated, hallowed, honored, made sacred.” It means to be pure, clean, and free from all pollution and defilement, totally free from sin and evil. It means to be totally different and distinct from anything else, from all that is in the world with all its corruption.

The Sabbath, the day of worship and rest.....

1. is to be a day sanctified, set apart, devoted, dedicated, and consecrated to God, for worship and rest.
2. is to be a day hallowed, honored, and made sacred in obedience to God and His command.
3. is to be a day that focuses our minds upon living pure and clean lives, lives that are free from all pollution and defilement, lives that are totally free from sin and evil.
4. is to be a day that is totally different and distinct from all other days of the world and their busy schedules.

Psalm 99:9 (NASB)

⁹“Exalt the LORD our God And worship at His holy hill, For holy is the LORD our God.”

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷“Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN”; And I will welcome you.

¹⁸And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NASB)

¹“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”



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Hebrews 12:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.”

1 Peter 1:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

Revelation 15:4 (NASB)

⁴“Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.”

4. Note that two clear instructions are given by God, two demands, two “you shalls” concerning the Sabbath commandment:

Exodus 20:9-10 (NASB)

⁹“Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
¹⁰but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.”

1. You *shall* work six days, but only for six days ([Exodus 20:9](#)).
2. You *shall not* do any work on the seventh day ([Exodus 20:10](#)).

a. You shall work six days, but *only* six days a week ([Exodus 20:9](#)). This commandment declares that man is to work, to work diligently. From the very beginning of creation, God commanded man to work.

1. God told Adam (man) to dress and keep the Garden of Eden, to develop and maintain it.

Genesis 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”

2. Scripture clearly says that a man must work if he is to eat and meet his needs.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 (NASB)

¹⁰“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

¹¹For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.



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¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.”

3. Scripture also says that a person should look after his own affairs and work with his own hands.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 (NASB)

¹¹ “And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you.”

What about people who have enough money, so much that they do not have to work? They have worked hard and earned huge amounts of money, or have inherited large estates or won a large sum. Does this commandment apply to them? Yes. No person is ever to neither sit idle nor live an extravagant lifestyle, wasting and hoarding wealth. Scripture warns us: we are responsible to meet the needs of the world.

Every person is to work as long as he lives, helping to conquer the evils of this earth—all the ravaging and destructive forces that bring suffering and destruction to man:

- a. hunger
- b. thirst
- c. disease
- d. loneliness
- e. emptiness
- f. death, both physical and spiritual

Matthew 19:21-24 (NASB)

²¹ “Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

²² But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

²³ And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

²⁴ "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Luke 12:16-21 (NASB)

¹⁶ “And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive.”

¹⁷ “And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’”

¹⁸ “Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’”



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¹⁹ “And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.”

²⁰ “But God said to him, 'You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?’”

²¹ “So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”