

Fourth COMMANDMENT: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

LESSON 5 INTRODUCTION:

1. This commandment did not come in a vacuum.

Six weeks earlier in Exo.16 God had spoken to them about the Sabbath.

This is the first time the word Sabbath is used in the Bible.

They had been in the wilderness about six weeks, and everything was going fine and they were praising God, then they looked up one day and they were hungry, and there was not any food around.

So, they start their usual bit of complaining, griping, and grumbling against God.

READ: Exo.16:4 & 21-30.

God said He would provide, He doesn't say why they should gather twice as much, He just says to do it.

1. DISCUSSION:

1. Sabbath does not mean Saturday, or the 7th. day. It means rest, Cessation from labor.
 1. Many scholars say that the Sabbath was never observed until the time of Moses.
 - a. But When God says, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my instructions." Some think this implies that this is not the first time they had done this.
 - b. That this implies they are going to be doing something they previously knew about and forgot or neglected.
 2. Jesus said Mark 2:27, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not the man for the Sabbath"
 - a. They think this implies that he went all the way back past Moses, to the will and purpose of God in the beginning.
 - b. That Israel was reintroduced to the Sabbath because from the beginning when God made man He put in the Sabbath principle, a day of rest.
 3. My problem with this is Neh.9:13-14, READ." Also read Ezek.20:10-12.
 - a. The word Sabbath was not only used to refer to one day a week out of seven.
 - b. There were eight classes of Sabbaths. Lev.26:2 says, "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary; I am the Lord."
 - c. Every 50 years there were 2600 regular weekly Sabbath days.
 - d. There were 100 special Sabbaths known as the Passover.
 - e. The day of First Fruits came 50 times.
 - f. The Feast of the Trumpets and the Feast of the Tabernacle came 50 times.
 - g. The Sabbath of years came 2520 times.
 - h. This means that in fifth years there were 5,785 Sabbath days. Days of rest and remembering.

KEEP IT HOLY!

1. How was this to be done?
 1. The Jews were to work six days and rest the Sabbath. WHY?
 - a. Because God did. Gen.2:2 READ

2. This commandment did not degrade work.
 - a. Gen.2:15 God commanded man to keep and dress the garden.
 - b. 2 Thess.3:10 READ
 - c. On the Sabbath the Jews were not allowed to plow or reap, Exo.34:21;
 - d. press any wine or carry goods Neh.13:15;
 - e. kindle a cooking fire Exo.35:3;
 - f. Bear burdens Jer.17:20; Trade Amos 8:5;
 - g. or even pick up sticks Numb.15:32-36.
 - h. Those who violated these laws were put to death.

WHY DID GOD COMMAND THE JEWS TO KEEP THE SABBATH?

1. It was to be a day of rest for man and beast. (Exo.20:10; Deut.5:14)
 1. It was to be a day to remember.
 - a. The Jews were to remember that God created the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them. (Exo.20:11).
 - b. (Deut.5:15 READ) tells us,
 2. The Sabbath was a sign. Exo.31:17 READ
 3. The Sabbath was a day set aside to worship God. Lev.26:2, READ

WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE SABBATH.

1. Jesus kept the Sabbath, He did this faithfully, Paul wrote of Jesus.
 - a. Gal.4:4 READ.
 1. Yes Jesus was born a Jew, He lived and died under the O.T. law of Moses.
 2. The N.T. teaches that the observance of the Sabbath day was abolished.
 - a. Gal.5:4 READ
 - b. Col.2:14 READ
 - c. Col.2:16-17 READ
 - d. Heb.7:12 READ
 - e. READ:Heb.8:6 & 9:15-17.
 3. This was foretold in the O.T. 800 years before Christ. Jer.31:31-33,
 4. Historians say the Sabbath was changed first by Constantine in 321 A.D. but we know it was abolished by God on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK IS SUPERIOR TO THE SABBATH DAY.”

1. On the first day of the week, the greatest event in human history, the resurrection of Christ occurred. (Mark 16:1-9).
 1. Our Lord appeared on the first day of the week five times after His resurrection. Rom.1:4 READ
 2. The observance of the communion, Lord's Supper, or breaking of bread, on the first day of the week, shows its superiority over the Sabbath. (Acts 20:7 READ; however this is disagreement on

this verse due to the original language says 1 Sabbath, which can also mean first day of the week).

3. The early Christians were not commanded to tithe on the Sabbath, but to lay by in store as they prospered, on the first day of the week. (1 Cor.16:1-2 READ, Same argument as given for Acts 20:7 above).
4. The church began on Pentecost, the first day of the week, which came fifty days after the Passover. (Lev.23:15).
5. On that first day (Pentecost), the first gospel sermon was preached and 3,000 people became Christians. (Acts.2:1-47).
6. The first day of the week is also known as the Lord's day. Rev.1:10, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day..." (Here again we are faced with options of interpretation... The Day belonging to the Lord is the proper translation, so what is that day? Sabbath or Sunday?)
7. It is a day that belongs to Jesus. Yet even in the church, the cry is heard that Sunday is the only day I have to relax and enjoy myself.
8. WRONG! Sunday is the only day we do not have for ourselves.

CLOSING: In Numbers 15:32-36 we find a man not keeping the Sabbath by picking up sticks on that day. The Lord commanded them to stone him to death.

QUESTION: If that was the punishment for not keeping the Sabbath, what will happen to those who are not keeping the Lord's Day, the first day of the week now?

Fourth COMMANDMENT QUESTIONS Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.