

The Fourth Commandment: Sabbath Rest in Jesus

Chi Chi Rodriguez -- famous Golfer > Driving with a Friend > Too FAST
 Light changed from Yellow to Red > Zoomed thru Crowded Intersection
 Friend: "Chi Chi, what are you doing? Went thru Red Light! Don't you Stop?"
 Chi Chi: "My brother taught me to drive and he doesn't stop for red lights."
 Farther Down road Another Intersection > Blasted right thru Red Light
 Friend > "C'mon, man! You're gonna get us killed. What are you thinking?"
 Chi Chi > "My brother taught me to drive, and he doesn't stop for red lights."
 Another Intersec > GREEN Light > Chi Chi slammed on BRAKES & Looked
 Friend: "Why are you stopping now? This is a GREEN light."
 Chi Chi: "I know. But, my brother might be coming!!"

LAW of GOD > UNCHANGING Standards > Safety, Protection, Blessing

10 C > TWO FOCUSES – Loving God and Loving Neighbor

1– 4 Love Right God, Right Way, Right Name, Right Day / 5 – 10 Love People

1. Meaning of Sabbath / 2. Mandate of Sabbath / 3. Message of Sabbath

1. Meaning of Sabbath

a. Completion > Sabbath is CELEBRATION of FINISHED CREATION

MOST BASIC Biblical DEFINITION > Who is God? He is MAKER of ALL!

Abe Family gods of Mesopotamia/ MANY gods of Egypt/ MORE gods Canaan

FIRST Claim of Moses - TRUE AND LIVING GOD > CREATOR of Universe

Thus the heavens and the earth were *completed* in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had *finished* the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he *rested* from all the work of creating that he had done. Genesis 2.1-3

Lit. Definition SABBATH = To Cease, To Rest, Peace

ACCOMPLISHMENT > God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.
Genesis 1.31

PERFECTION > SHALOM > Complete Peace – God, Man, Nature

God RESTS > NOT about Being TIRED > God NOT a MAN

If WE Made UNIVERSE in SIX Days > We'd NEED a LONG BREAK!!

And Need to RESTOCK our Supply of DUCT Tape!!

WE are Made in GOD'S IMAGE > Cannot MAKE HIM in OURS...

God created the Sabbath rest because He had finished His work. It was not because He was tired. This excludes the possibility that the primary purpose behind the Sabbath is its usefulness to us...this explanation is a human-centered rather than a God-centered and Christ-centered way of looking at it. Michael Horton

NOT ONLY Did God MAKE WORLD > MADE US > FOR HIMSELF!

You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.
Augustine

b. Communion - People Invited to ENTER the REST of God by FAITH

GOD'S PROMISE to TRAVELING ISRAELITES

The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and *I will give you rest.*"
Exodus 33.14

REST is RESULT of SALVATION > SALVATION is by FAITH...

My soul finds *rest* in God alone; my *salvation* comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation
Psalm 62.1-2

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will *rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*
Psalm 91.1

The VERY PEOPLE Who RECEIVED COMMANDS > **Lacked FAITH**

Powerfully Taken OUT Egypt: Saw 10 Plagues, Red Sea, God's Voice @ Sinai

Not BELIEVE God could Take IN to Promised Land > Canaanites TOO BIG

AT MERIBAH and MASSAH in the Desert...

All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! ... The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? *How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?*"
Numbers 14.1-23

Like PERSON Raised in CHRISTIAN HOME / CHURCH / SCHOOL

But TURNS their BACK on GOD'S GRACE in JESUS

We are SAVED by FAITH not by FAMILY Connections

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." So I declared on oath in my anger, "*They shall never enter my rest.*"
Psalm 95.7-11

COMMUNION > Enjoying God's SABBATH > Only Received by FAITH

To the man who *does not work but trusts God* who justifies the wicked, his *faith is credited as righteousness.*
Romans 4.5

c. Christ > Ushers in NEW CREATION > FINAL REST Never UNDONE

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and *I will give you rest.*"
Matthew 11.28

Teaching of Pharisees > HUMAN ADDITIONS to Law of Moses

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields *on the Sabbath*...the Pharisees said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath"... Jesus replied, "If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. *For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath*"
Matthew 12.1-8

JESUS MISSION was to COMPLETE Work of FATHER

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and *to finish his work.*”
John 4.34

SIN was the UNDOING of God’s Completed SABBATH

JESUS Sent to FINISH the NEW CREATION > REDO what Sin UNDOED

JESUS PRAYER to Father > NIGHT BEFORE the Cross

I have brought you glory on earth by *completing the work* you gave me to do.
John 17.4

FROM the PULPIT of the CROSS Jesus Preached: “It is *finished*” John 19.30

OT > Temple IMPORTANT Pieces of FURNITURE > Missing?? > CHAIR!

WORK of OT Priest NEVER FINISHED > Endless Repetition of Sacrifices

SYMBOL of FINISHED WORK - When this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, *he sat down* at the right hand of God. Hebrews 10.12

Sin is the basic cause of restlessness...we are the sinners...But the Lord Jesus Christ pays the penalty for sin...we can begin to enter into God’s rest now and can look forward to that day when we will be made like Jesus and stand before God in holiness.
James Boice

There remains, then, a *Sabbath-rest for the people of God*; for anyone who *enters God's rest also rests from his own work*, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest Hebrews 4.9-11

We no longer look back to the old exodus for our salvation; we look to Jesus Christ who accomplished a greater exodus by dying for our sins and rising again. Jesus is the fulfillment of the fourth commandment, as he is of all the others. The Old Testament Sabbath pointed to the full and final rest that can only be found in him.
Philip Graham Ryken

2. Mandate of Sabbath

4th Commandment - LONGEST of the 10 Commands...

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20.8-11

WHAT to Do / HOW they should Do It / WHY they should Do It

a. Celebration

What PHRASE Jumps at YOU? USA - 5 Day Work Week / France – 4 Day

ISRAELITE > Slaves in Egypt 400 Years > No Days Off, No Holidays

EVERY SEVENTH DAY WE REST!! Work ONLY 6 Days!!

1st EXAMPLE of WORKER'S RIGHTS in HISTORY > God their ARBITER

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "*In repentance and rest is your salvation*" Isaiah 30.15

...the days of old, the days of Moses and his people--where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock?... *they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD.* Isaiah 63.11,14

"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, *then you will find your joy in the LORD...* The mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 58.13-14

b. Serious > STRICT Command of the Law of Moses

Sabbath BEGAN at Creation > But NO COMMAND to OBEY until SINAI

Observe the Sabbath, because *it is holy to you*. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be *cut off* from his people.
Exodus 31.14

While the Israelites were in the desert, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. Then the LORD said to Moses, "*The man must die*. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp." So the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD commanded Moses.
Numbers 15.32-36

SO SERIOUS Even the BODY of Jesus NEEDED to WAIT...

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But *they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment*.
Luke 23.55-56

REASON for Seriousness? ONLY WAY of SALVATION – REST in God
SABBATH BREAKING > Brazen Rejection of GIFT of God, Save SELF!
REFUSAL to REST by FAITH in GOD as SAVIOR = ETERNAL DEATH

c. Symbolic > POINTED People of GOD to ETERNAL REST of GOD

...you must observe *my Sabbaths*. I am the LORD your God Leviticus 19.3

The commandment was worded this way to remind the Israelites that their relationship with God was special. No other nation could claim that the Lord was their God; so no other nations kept the Sabbath. Philip Graham Ryken

SYMBOL of CIRCUMCISION, Sign of COVENANT MEMBERSHIP

Uncircumcised Male > COVENANT BREAKER > NO PLACE before God

This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: *Every male among you shall be circumcised*...Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.
Genesis 17.10,14

GOD Calls Moses then tries to KILL MOSES...

Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt... At a lodging place on the way, the LORD met [Moses] and was about to kill him. But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son's foreskin and touched [Moses'] feet with it. "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me," she said. So the LORD let him alone.
Exodus 4.19-26

SERIOUSNESS of Circumcision > Moses IGNORED PARENTAL DUTY

TOTALLY DIFFERENT Situation in NT Church of Gentiles and Jews

Circumcision is *nothing* and uncircumcision is *nothing*. Keeping God's commands is what counts.
1 Corinthians 7.19

APPARENTLY that SERIOUS OT COMMAND is NO LONGER BINDING

For in Christ Jesus *neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value*. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galatians 5.6

DIFFERENT REASON for 4th Command in SECOND GIVING of LAW...

Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you... *Remember that you were slaves in Egypt* and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.
Deuteronomy 5.12-15

SABBATH was DAY OF FREEDOM > Pointing to LIFE OF FREEDOM

SIGN of REDEMPTION > Looks to FINAL EXODUS thru the CROSS

It is the prospect of the grand finale to the whole of history, the Sabbath rest that is the promised sequel to the sum total of the toils and labours of history.

John Murray

d. Continuous? > 9 of the 10 Commandments REPEATED in NT, Not 4th C

NO Explicit COMMAND KEEP Sabbath // NOR Explicit CANCELLATION

EXPIRY Date on SABBATH Keeping // CIRCUMCISION

BOTH Important OT SYMBOLS Now FULFILLED in Christ

REFERENCES to HOLY DAYS > Days NO LONGER IMPORTANT

Chapter on SPIRITUAL FREEDOM, NEUTRAL Matters of FAITH...

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. Romans 14.1-6

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods... *You are observing special days and months and seasons and years!* I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.
Galatians 4.8-11

DAYS AND SEASONS have NO SPIRITUAL BENEFIT > Only FAITH in X

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a *Sabbath day*. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; *the reality, however, is found in Christ*.
Colossians 2.16-17

3. Message of Sabbath for New Covenant Believer

a. Lord's Day? > NT Church worshipped 1ST day of Week > Resurrection

APOSTLE JOHN on Patmos: On the *Lord's Day* I was in the Spirit... Revelation 1.10

CORINTHIAN CHURCH met on SUNDAYS and Gathered Collection...

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income... 1 Corinthians 16.2

CHURCH in EPHESUS...

On the *first day of the week we came together* to break bread. Paul spoke to the people.... Acts 20.7

QUESTION > Is Sunday the 'Christian Sabbath'??

There is no subject of Christian practice on which there is, among sincere Christians, more practical diversity... than the duty of Sabbath observance.
Robert Dabney

FIRST DAY of Week > SOMETHING NEW > from Shadow to Substance

OT Sabbath > LOOKED FORWARD in HOPE // NT > HOPE has COME!

OT Sabbath > Day of PROMISE // NT > Day of FULFILLMENT!

Christ took the Sabbath into the grave with him and brought the Lord's Day out of the grave with him on the resurrection morn. B.B. Warfield

NEWNESS of Life in Christ > Come to Worship with EXPECTANCY!

One reason I love Sunday is that I never know in advance what will happen...whom I will meet...who will be present in church...who will respond to the preaching...Lives are changed. Not infrequently, the day is the turning point in someone's entire spiritual experience. James Boice

LORD'S DAY – First Day of Week – NEVER called SABBATH in NT

b. Liberty > Respect the CONSCIENCE of OTHER VIEWPOINTS

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. *Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.* He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord...For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord...why do you judge your brother? Romans 14.5-10

MANY Close Friends / Dear BROTHERS & SISTERS > SABBATARIANS

Strict ADHERENCE to DAY of Rest, Worship, and Service on SUNDAYS

PRACTICAL EXPRESSION > My Life & Practice, NOT Much DIFFERENT

BELIEVE Sabbath was PICTURE > FULFILLED in Jesus FINISHED WORK

NOTHING to FIGHT ABOUT > JOYFUL TRUTH > We are IN HIM!

Let us be done with long faces and solemn demeanors that so often characterize the people of God on the Lord's Day! And let us be done with the type of worshipper who comes to church only to go home. If you do not enjoy the worship of God and the fellowship of God's people, if you do not enjoy the preaching of the Word and the response of the congregation in word and song, stay home! James Boice

COMMANDMENT Teaches IMPORTANT TRUTH about WORK

COMMON IDEA > Work is CURSE, CRUEL JUDGMENT of God....

When God foreclosed on Eden, he condemned Adam and Eve to go to work. From the beginning, the Lord's word said that work was something bad: a punishment, the great stone of mortality and toil laid on the human spirit...

Lance Morrow, *TIME*

Perhaps GOOD Journalist > BAD THEOLOGIAN > Work is GIFT of God

GOD WORKS > Made in His IMAGE > Co-LABOR with Him > DIGNITY

BEFORE FALL into SIN, At CREATION....

God blessed them and said to them, "*Be fruitful* and increase in number; fill the earth and *subdue* it. *Rule* over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1.28

SABBATH of SABBATHS > Year of JUBILEE > 50th Year > LIBERTY

Consecrate the fiftieth year and *proclaim liberty throughout the land* to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you

Leviticus 25.10

VERSE Inscribed on LIBERTY BELL in Philadelphia > Theological Statement

JESUS is OUR JUBILEE > Entered into REST and LIBERTY in HIM

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Galatians 5.1

c. Legalism?? > Standing with GOD Not BASED ON Sunday Activities

Legalism: Adherence to the law as opposed to the gospel; the doctrine of justification by works.

Shorter Oxford Dictionary

SABBATH was CENTER of FIRE-STORM btwn Jesus and PHARISEES

Constantly Attacked & Accused for what DID or DID NOT DO on Sabbath

Today MANY QUESTIONS > What I can, and cannot, DO on Sunday??

Many TIMES Questions > Look for LOOP HOLE > God-Sanctioned Excuses

Our problem is that we find it so hard to take genuine delight in the sanctified pleasures of God. Dare I say it? God bores us. We are willing to spend some of our time worshipping him, but then we feel like we need a break and so we go back to the world's lesser pleasures. Philip Graham Ryken

Man NEW BELIEVER at ICF KZ > Church-Goer from Youth in USA
 Highlight of Sunday > Not Service > Seeing HOW QUICKLY RACE HOME
 Clicked Stopwatch at Final AMEN > to SITTING before TV in Living Room!
 'Been there, Done that!' > NOW Let's ENJOY the SPORTS on Sunday TV!

FIRST Words of RISEN JESUS > SHALOM – Peace! Blessing! Rejoice!
 NOT about POINTS with GOD > But FINDING our PLEASURE in God

THEOLOGICAL Reason for Sabbath > Not just UTILITARIAN
 TRUE > Having Day of REST is Healthy, Makes People More PRODUCTIVE
 God's Law is RATIONAL and REASONABLE >> About ENJOYING GOD
 Pointing to KINGDOM He has PREPARED >> HIS GLORY FOREVER

d. Lordship > Life with GOD is EVERY DAY > Have that Life NOW

When ASKED WHY he is NOT BELIEVER IN GOD....

Just in terms of allocation of time resources, religion is not very efficient. There's a lot more I could be doing on a Sunday morning. Bill Gates

PROBLEM Giving ONE WHOLE DAY to God?? EVERY DAY is HIS!

If BILL GATES – or Anyone – Wants to BE SAVED – Give ALL to JESUS

BEST Use of TIME Now > KNOW God leads to ETERNAL Life in HEAVEN!!
 I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." *My times are in your hands*
 Psalm 31.14-15

We ought to serve the Lord every moment of every day... We should dig or plough with as much devotion to the Lord as we pray or sing in the assembly of the saints. Whatsoever we do we are to do it to the Lord and to his glory.
 John Murray

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
Psalm 139.16

LIFE is FROM GOD and FOR GOD > Knows our EVERY DAY from Eternity

The Sabbath is not confined within a single day but extends through the whole course of our life, until, completely dead to ourselves, we are filled with the life of God.
John Calvin

e. Life Together > NT is MORE, of God, of Grace, of Salvation, of Service

No Sabbath Day? > God RAISES the BAR in the NT > People of God 24 / 7

N.T. FREEDOM in Jesus > No Sunday Services? Possible but DANGEROUS
NOT as STRONG as We Think: MANY EXAMPLES Leave Church, Lv God

“...your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years... 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared on oath in my anger, *'They shall never enter my rest.'*” See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. *But encourage one another daily*, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ *if we hold firmly till the end*
Hebrews 3.9-14

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. *Let us not give up meeting together*, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10.23-25

TRAGEDY > Careless about Worship > Kids will be Careless about GOD

BELONG to God's People > Not about CEREMONY or RITUAL

Come to SEE FAMILY > God Head of Family AND Sons & Daughters

QUESTION NOT What Can I Do on Sunday...or ANY DAY > Q. WHY??

WHAT Reason are you DOING IT? Who are you TRYING to PLEASE??

College Days > Church at 8 am to Pray with Pastor, Sunday School, Church
Eat Something, All-Church Softball Afternoon, Evening Service, Eat More
Non-Christian Parents Suspicious > Left Home at 7.30, back after Midnight

‘You have been at church all this time??!’”

SHOPPING?? SPORTS?? PARK?? > For God’s Glory, Good of His People??
Celebration of JOY of the LORD or TRYING to Find Joy outside the Lord??

Seminary Student > Sunday Services, Morning and Evening

Afternoon > Led Worship services at OLD FOLKS HOME

> Protested Abortions at Einstein Hospt in Downtown Philadelphia

> Some SPENT SUNDAY – and Next Day in Jail – for Protesting

Pastor in Hawaii > Great to See VACATIONERS Coming to Worship

Vacation FROM WORK did not mean a VACATION FROM GOD

CHRISTIAN in DUBAI > Meet on Friday – In ISRAEL > Meet on Saturday

Q. What is God’s will for us in the fourth commandment?

A. First, that the Gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I regularly attend the assembly of God’s people to learn what God’s Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings to the poor. Second, that every day of my life I rest from evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal Sabbath. Heidelberg Catechism

In SERVING HIM we find SABBATH REST...

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and *you will find rest for your souls.*"
Jeremiah 6.16
