

The Fourth Word

Ex 20⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work,¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

► **Of the ten words**, the fourth ranks near the _____ in terms of confusion and controversy. People tend to fall out along two lines: _____ it or “_____ keep” it, but both were rejected by _____. We must approach the fourth word with the heart and mind of _____ to have any hope of understanding and keeping it.

Mk 2²³ He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and ... His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain.²⁴ And the Pharisees said to Him, “Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”²⁵ But He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him:²⁶ how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the show-bread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?”²⁷ And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”²⁸ Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”³¹ And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.² So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.³ And He said to the man who had the withered hand, “Step forward.”⁴ Then He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they kept silent.⁵ And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.⁶ Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.

Seven observations and applications of the fourth word:

► **1) Christ is _____** of the Sabbath throughout Scripture. _____ preincarnate established the Sabbath pattern in the garden of Eden and spoke the fourth word on Mt Sinai. Christ incarnate clarified its _____ during his ministry.

Jn 1¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ...³ All things were made through Him ...¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jn 8⁵⁸ “Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

1Cor 10¹ [A]ll our fathers ...⁴ ... drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Heb 12²² [Y]ou have come ...²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant ...²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth [*i.e., at Mt Sinai*]

Mt 5¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill ...¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven ...²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Mt 23⁴ “The [scribes and Pharisees] bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.⁵ But all their works they do to be seen by men ...²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”

► **2) Christ commands**, not that we have a Sabbath, but that we _____ in his. This is _____ man (Mk 2.27).

Isa 40²⁸ The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary.

Prov 8²⁷ “When He prepared the heavens, I was there ...³⁰ I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him,³¹ rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men.”

► **3) Christ did not** break from _____ activity or labor; He broke from his work of creation and dominion. Entering into Christ’s Sabbath means breaking from our vocational dominion work, not from _____ activity of rejoicing in and enjoying the fruit of God’s work and ours, nor from the needful work of caring for what God has placed in our care.

► **4) Meeting and communing** with Christ and his gathered people is _____ to Christ’s Sabbath.

Gn 3 ⁸ [T]hey heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day ... ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

Lk 4 ¹⁶ [A]s was His custom, [Jesus] entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.

Heb 10 ²⁴ [L]et us ... ²⁵ not forsak[e] the assembling of ourselves together

► **5) Christ established** the Sabbath in the garden by simply _____ it and including man, with the expectation that man would imitate him and carry it on. Christ initiated the new creation Sabbath the same way – by _____ it on the first day of the week with his disciples included. Christ's new creation does not scrap the old and start over, but redeems the old and makes it _____. Christ's new creation breaks in upon the old and works like _____.

Eph 5 ¹ [B]e imitators of God as dear children.

Mk 16 ⁹ Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.

Lk 24 ¹ Now on the first day of the week, ... ¹³ ... two of them were traveling ... to a village called Emmaus ... ¹⁵ ... Jesus Himself drew near and went with them ... ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself ... ³⁰ Now ... as He sat at the table with them, ... He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him

Jn 20 ¹⁹ [T]he same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." ... ²⁶ And after eight days [i.e., using Jewish counting, which includes the current day, which bring us to the first day of the next week] His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

Act 20 ⁷ Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

1Cor 16 ² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Rev 1 ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet

Mt 13 ³³ "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

► **6) Christ anticipated** the new _____ when he redeemed Israel in the exodus and formed her into his special nation at Mt Sinai.

Isa 51 ¹⁵ "I am the LORD your God, who divided the sea ... ¹⁶ and ... put My words in your mouth ... that I may plant the heavens, lay the foundations of the earth, and say to Zion, 'You are My people.' "

Dt 5 ¹² "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you ... ¹⁵ And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."

Gal 4 ¹ [T]he heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, ² but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father ... ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born ^dof a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

► **7) The best sabbath** _____ I know of is Neh 7 & 8.

Neh 7 ⁷³ When the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities. 8 ¹ Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square ... ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly ... ³ Then he read from it ... before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law ... ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground ... ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was he governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." ¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved." ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.