

WRITTEN IN
STONE

The Fourth Commandment: Sabbath

EXODUS 20:8-11

- Probably the most controversial of the ten
- The longest of the Ten Commandments
- The commandment that gives the most explanation as to why it is a commandment at all

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

1. What is the commandment?
2. How was the commandment to be obeyed?
3. Why was this commandment given?
4. Does the Sabbath still apply today?
5. Why do we gather for worship on Sunday when the Sabbath has traditionally been from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown?
6. Can we still violate the Fourth Commandment today?

SIX QUESTIONS WE WILL ANSWER

Exodus 20:8

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

WHAT IS THE COMMANDMENT?

- Means “to rest” or “to cease”
- Jews have rightly understood the Sabbath to be a special day of worship

“SABBATH”

You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

EXODUS 31:14

Exodus 20:9-10

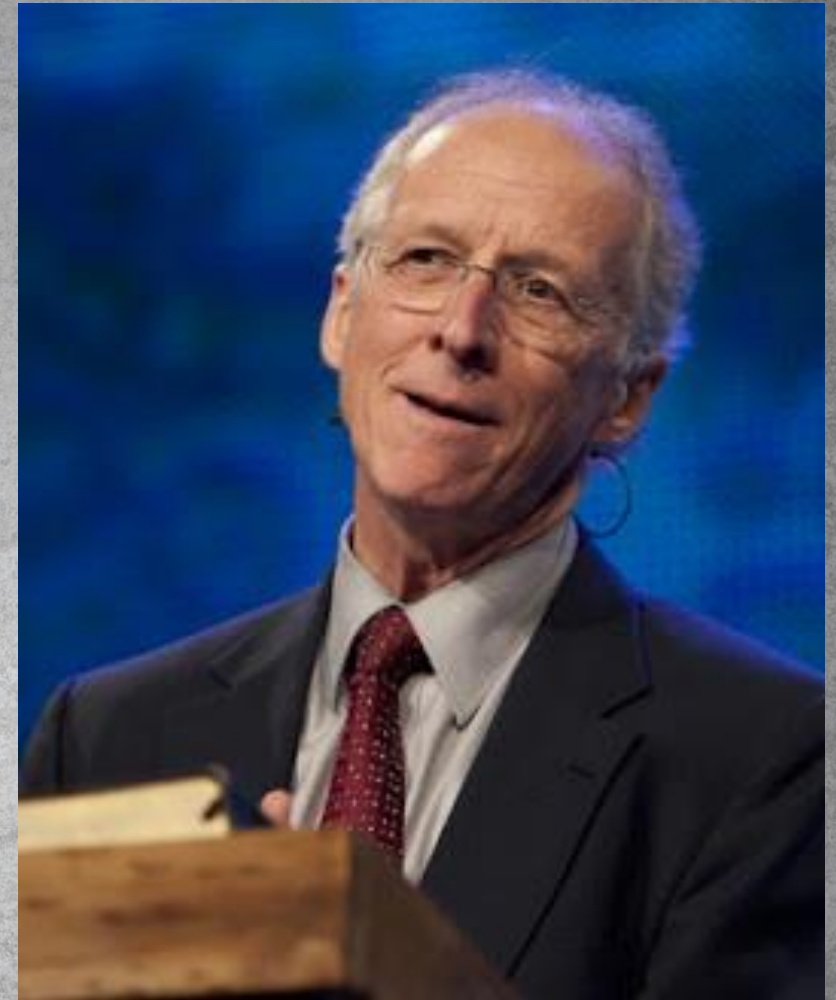
Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

**HOW WAS THIS COMMANDMENT
TO BE OBEYED?**

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

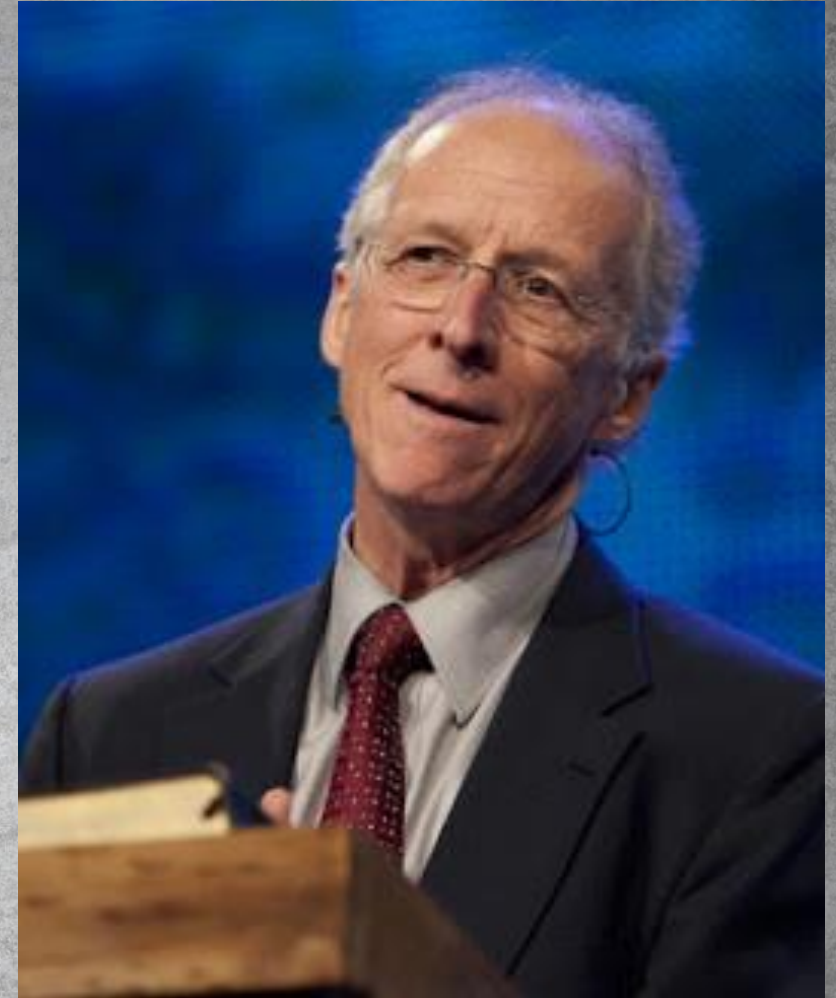
GENESIS 2:1-3

“Let my highest creature,
the one in my image, stop
every seven days and
commemorate with me the
fact that I am the creator
who has done all this. Let
him stop working and focus
on me, that I am the source
of all that he has. I am the
fountain of blessing. I have
made the very hands and
mind with which he works...



JOHN PIPER

“...Let one day out of seven demonstrate that all land and all animals and all raw materials and all breath and strength and thought and emotion and everything come from me. Let man look to me in leisure one day out of seven for the blessing that is so elusive in the affairs of this world.”



JOHN PIPER

- No plowing or harvesting (Exodus 34:21)
- No making fire (Exodus 35:3)
- No gathering sticks (Numbers 15:32-36)
- No buying or selling (Amos 8:5)

WORK FORBIDDEN IN THE BIBLE

“He also loves to see us work during the day; so, he can smile at us at night when we lie down.”



***JONATHAN
EDWARDS***

Exodus 20:11

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**WHY WAS THIS COMMANDMENT
GIVEN?**

You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

DEUTERONOMY 5:15

*"You are to speak to the people of Israel and say,
'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a
sign between me and you throughout your
generations, that you may know that I, the Lord,
sanctify you.'"*

EXODUS 31:13

***DOES THE SABBATH STILL
APPLY TODAY?***

- Jesus observed the Sabbath (Luke 4:16).
- The Sabbath didn't rule over Him as the Sabbath did over others.
- Jesus worked for the Father on the Sabbath (John 5:17-18).
- Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28).
- Cf. Mark 2; Luke 13:10-17; 14:1-6
- Mercy always triumphs over ceremony.

JESUS' EXAMPLE

- Meant to be temporary (Colossians 2:13-17)

***THE SABBATH IS ONLY A
SHADOW***

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

COLOSSIANS 2:13-17

“There is no doubt that it ceased in Christ; because he is the truth by the presence of which all images vanish. He is the reality at whose advent all shadows are abandoned. Hence St. Paul said (Col. 2:17) that the sabbath has been a shadow of a reality yet to be.”



JOHN CALVIN

- Cf. Galatians 4:8-11

***THE GOSPEL FREES US FROM
KEEPING THE SABBATH***

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

GALATIANS 4:8-11

- Cf. Hebrews 4:1-10
- Jesus didn't abolish the Sabbath; He fulfilled it.

CHRIST IS OUR SABBATH REST

***THE N.T. NEVER COMMANDS WE
OBSERVE THE SABBATH TODAY***

The Ten Commandments

[illegible]

The Ten Commandments	
Old Testament	New Testament
Commandments #1-#3	Matthew 22:37-38
Commandments #5, #8	Matthew 15:3-6
Commandment #6	Matthew 5:21-26, 38-42

The Ten Commandments	
Old Testament	New Testament
Commandments #1-#3	Matthew 22:37-38
Commandments #5, #8	Matthew 15:3-6
Commandment #6	Matthew 5:21-26, 38-42
Commandment #7	Matthew 5:27-32; 19:3-12

The Ten Commandments

Old Testament	New Testament
Commandments #1-#3	Matthew 22:37-38
Commandments #5, #8	Matthew 15:3-6
Commandment #6	Matthew 5:21-26, 38-42
Commandment #7	Matthew 5:27-32; 19:3-12
Commandment #8	Ephesians 4:28

The Ten Commandments

Old Testament	New Testament
Commandments #1-#3	Matthew 22:37-38
Commandments #5, #8	Matthew 15:3-6
Commandment #6	Matthew 5:21-26, 38-42
Commandment #7	Matthew 5:27-32; 19:3-12
Commandment #8	Ephesians 4:28
Commandment #9	Matthew 5:33-37

The Ten Commandments

Old Testament	New Testament
Commandments #1-#3	Matthew 22:37-38
Commandments #5, #8	Matthew 15:3-6
Commandment #6	Matthew 5:21-26, 38-42
Commandment #7	Matthew 5:27-32; 19:3-12
Commandment #8	Ephesians 4:28
Commandment #9	Matthew 5:33-37
Commandment #10	Luke 12; 16

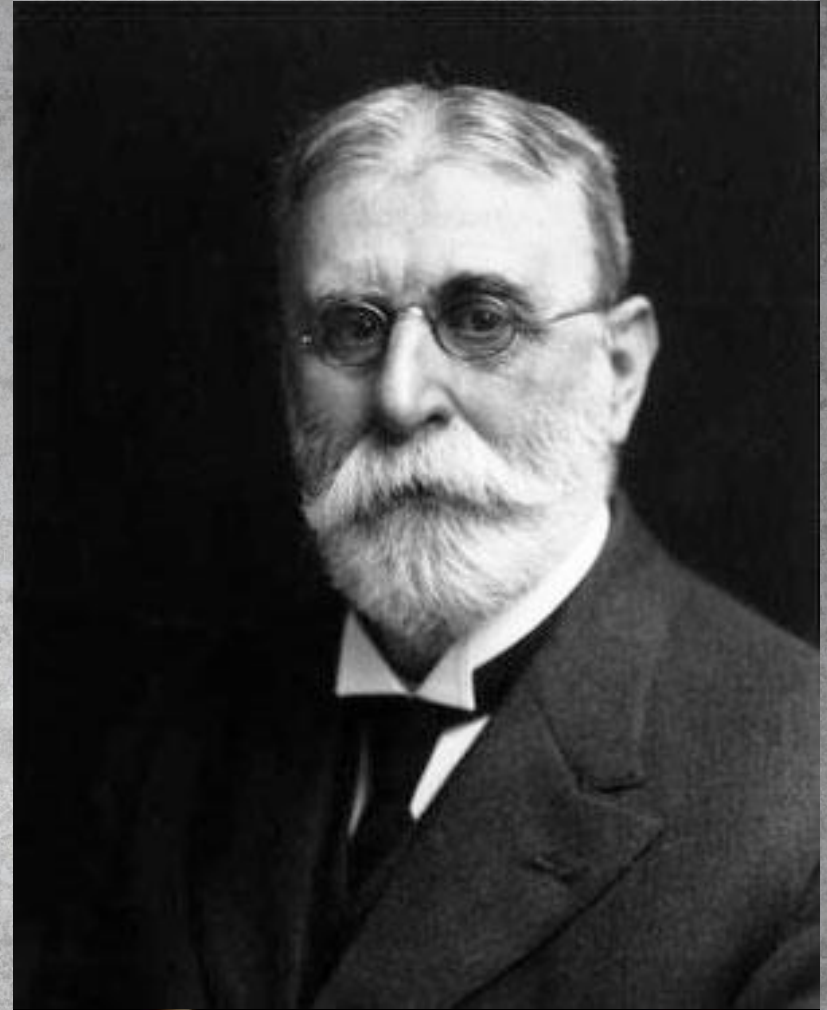
- We are not obligated to observe Sabbath law.
- We should respect those who think the Sabbath is still mandatory for believers.
- Romans 14:5

THE OVERALL ANSWER

- In Troas, believers gathered “on the first day of the week...to break bread” (Acts 20:7)
- Paul commands the Corinthians to set aside money “on the first day of every week” (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- John heard a loud voice speaking to him “on the Lord’s day” (Revelation 1:10)
- The practice had its roots in the resurrection of Jesus, for He appeared to His disciples “the first day of the week” (John 20:19) – the Sabbath being the 7th day of the week
- Even Matthew, Mark, and Luke emphasize Jesus rose “on the first day of the week” (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1)

***WHY DO WE GATHER FOR
WORSHIP ON SUNDAY?***

“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

- Sunday has not replaced Saturday as the Sabbath (the law or ceremony).
- Rather, the Lord's Day is when believers gather to worship (the spirit or symbolic)
- So ceremonially, the Sabbath has been abolished, but symbolically it has not.

***WHY DO WE GATHER FOR
WORSHIP ON SUNDAY?***

- Refusing to attend church regularly (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Working too much on the Lord's Day
- Viewing the Lord's Day as your day

***VIOLATING THE SPIRIT OF THE
FOURTH COMMANDMENT***

“Anything that would detract from our worship should not be done on the Lord’s Day. Anything that would rob the Lord’s Day of priority of worship should not be done. Anything that would be on our minds when we are worshiping, as if we can only get done with this in order to go to that, is a matter of sin, no matter what it is.”

(Words from the Fire)



AL MOHLER