

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-7 & 31:12-18 & Isaiah 58:13-14
Singing: 250:1, 2, 5 – 38:4-5 – 320:1-5 – 229:1, 3, 5 – 435:1. 5. 9

Fourth General Principle relating to God's Law

- A. The transgressions of God's Law
1. either sins of commission
 2. or sins of omission

GOD'S GIFT IN THE WEEKLY DAY OF REST

I. Its permanent character II. Its gracious purpose III. Its sacred observance

I. Its Permanent character

- A. The support for the *permanency* of the 4th commandment
1. The command predates the Law at Mt. Sinai
 2. The command is also written in stone with God's finger
 3. The change of day (on 1st rather than 7th) is based on change of reference point (compare Ex. 20:11& Deut. 5:15)
 - a. change is also a commentary on the *theology of salvation*

II. It's Gracious Purpose

- A. God's gracious purpose is already indicated the ***Remember...!***
1. God knows the benefit of this day
 2. God also know our tendency to *forget* this day
- B. God legislated 4th protect His ***precious gift to us*** (Mark 2:27-28)
1. the 4th indirectly defines our weekly task: *work six days!*
 2. the 4th directly commands us *to sanctify one out of the 6 as Sabbath*
 - a. given to *re-calibrate our priority in living*
 - our daily task to provide or manage His resources allows us minimal time with God
 - daily rigors of work and life can strain our relationship
 - b. given by our Divine Employer to profit us
 3. Every culture that has *honors the weekly rest day* will experience that 'in keeping of this commandment there is **great reward**

III. Its sacred observance

A. "holy" means keep separate – hold up special character

1. Implies we refrain from *ordinary labors and duties as far as possible*
2. Also includes *we prepare our hearts* for the Sabbath day

B. How do we keep Sabbath holy so we will experience God's intended gift?

1. Turn away from *making Sunday a Fun (Family) day*
 - a. consider God's Words in Isaiah 58:13-14
2. Be diligent with *His work on the Sabbath day*
 - a. the 'freed time' is to be dedicated to God
 - b. to rest is not *be lazy or sleep*
3. Be vigilant in reviewing your practices on the Sabbath Day
 - a. review your *visiting habits*
 - b. review your *talking habits*
 - c. review your *traveling habits*
 - d. review your *media habits*
 - e. review your *reading habits*
4. Prioritize to spending *time with God and His Word*
 - a. need to make time free & separate
 - to spend in prayer and meditation privately
 - to share corporate worship with congregations
 - to feed on ministry of Shepherd
 - b. fathers/mothers need to *structure day to teach the young*
5. Remember the works of mercy/charity

Conclusion: Honoring the Lord's Day brings huge spiritual blessings to the quality of our personal, family, church and social life.