

Pastor's Notes *The 4th Commandment*

What is the 4th Commandment?

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 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. 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.

Where was I in my understanding of the 4th commandment in 2014?

In 2014 I believed and taught that the 4th commandment is no longer binding on the Christian. In teaching through the 10 commandments I put forward the idea that all of the commandments are morally binding on the Christian except the 4th commandment. I held this position for a few different reasons. First, I believed that since all the commandments are directly repeated in the New Testament except the 4th, all of them are morally binding on the Christian, except the 4th. Secondly, I believed that since Hebrews puts before us the idea that Jesus Christ is our Sabbath rest, the 4th commandment has been fulfilled in our Savior. In other words, the commandment has been abrogated since Christ has come in fulfillment of it. Since this was my understanding, I did not hold to the idea that there should be a morally binding pattern of work and rest nor did I think there is anything unique about worshipping on Sunday other than that of following the example of the early church in celebrating the resurrection of our Savior.

Where am I now in my understanding the 4th commandment?

I now believe that the 4th commandment puts forward a morally binding principle that has been, is, and will continue to be laid on the shoulders of all men and women. I hold this position now for a few different reasons. First, I am now convinced that the pattern of work and then rest is a morally binding pattern that originated with the creative work of God at the beginning of time. Secondly, I am now convinced that the 10 commandments are a timeless expression of God's character and will and are binding on both Jew and Gentile. Lastly, I have come to accept that just because Jesus provides us with Sabbath rest in terms of salvation, this does not necessarily mean that the actuality of Sabbath rest and worship is abrogated. Therefore, I now believe that the 4th commandment, while the day has been changed from Saturday to Sunday, is morally binding on the Christian. This means that Sunday should be marked by the following: ***rest, worship, acts of necessity, and acts of mercy.***