"O How Love I Thy Law!" The Fourth Commandment "Restless" Exodus 20:8-11

Introduction:

1.

As We Continue Our Series:

- On Sunday Nights:

- On God's Moral Law:

- Known As The Ten Commandments:

- Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles To The Fourth Commandment:

- In Exodus 20!

- Where We Read This About The Sabbath:

- In Exodus 20:8-11 - "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. / Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: / But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: / For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it!"

2. Last Sunday Night:

- We Looked At Four Different Views:

- About The Sabbath:

- And Whether Or Not It Applies:

- To Everyone:

- Like All Of The Other Commandments Do!

- And - Even Though There May Be Some:

- Disagreement As To Its Relevance:

- Especially Since The Time Of Christ:

- There Is Almost Universal Agreement:

- That The Sabbath Day - Which Is Saturday:

- Is No Longer Binding On The Conscience Of The Church!

3. And - Perhaps The Best Way:

- To Look At The Fourth Commandment:

- Is That There Are:

- Ceremonial Elements:

- In It - That Have Been Fulfilled And Done Away With:

- By Christ Who Is The "Lord Even Of The Sabbath Day!" (Matthew 12:8)
- And Yet There Are Still:
 - Moral Elements:

- That All Of God's People Should Follow:

- Out Of Love For The Lord And His Will!

4. The Ceremonial Elements:

- Of The Fourth Commandment:

- Include Both:

- The Day - As Well As:

- The Rigid Duty:

- That Applied To The Jewish Nation In A Special Way!

- It Was - As We Find:

- In Ezekiel 20:19-20:

- "A Sign" Between Them & The Lord!

- And - Since The Sabbath Day:

- Along With Its Strict Duties:

- Were - According To Hebrews 10:1:

- "A Shadow Of Good Things To Come!"

- When Jesus Came:

- And Offered An Eternal, Spiritual Rest:

- To Those Who Believe In Him:

- The Strict Ceremonial Aspects Of The Fourth Commandment:

- Were Done Away With!

5. However - The Moral Elements:

- Of The Fourth Commandment:

- Remain - And Include:

- A Day - As Well As:

- A Restful Delight:

- That Is A Foretaste Of The Rest That Is To Come:

- For Believers In Christ!

- This Day:

- Is A Day Of Rest:

- That Follows The Pattern:

- Of God's Day Of Rest:

- After He Created The World:

- In Six Days!

- One Day In Seven:

- Ought To Be Reserved:

- As A Day Of Rest!

- Physical, Mental & Spiritual Rest!

- Of Course - Most Christians:

- Follow The Pattern Established By The Apostles & The Early Church:

- And Use The *First* Day Of The Week:

- Sunday - As The Primary Day Of Rest & Worship & Fellowship:

- Which - Very Early On - Became Known As "The Lord's Day!"

- But - That Day:

- Is Still Meant To Be:

- A Day Of Rest & Refreshment:

- For The Whole Man!

- Body & Soul & Spirit!

- Since - Jesus Himself Taught:

- In Mark 2:27 - That - "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath!"

6. And Yet - How Many Christians:

- Remember To Use The Lord's Day:

- Or Any Day Of Their Week, For That Matter:

- In The Special Way:

- That The Lord Intended?

- It Is On This Account:

- That We Can See This Commandment:

- Like All Of The Others:

- Is Profitable Also For "Reproof!"

- It Reveals How Christians Have:

- Neglected The Moral Elements Of This Law:

- To Their Own Detriment!

- And So - Tonight:

- I Want Us To See 3 Ways:

- We Fail To "Remember The Sabbath!"

- If Not The Day Itself:

- The Divine Rest That It Represents!

* First - We Forget The Sabbath - When:

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1. We Are Overwhelmed With Work!
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- Are You A Workaholic? Or Do You Know Someone Who Is?

- This Is One Area Of Life:

- That May Or May Not:

- Be An Issue For Some People!

- But - One Of The Moral Truths That We Can Glean From The Fourth Commandment:

- Is That - Even Though God Created Man To Work:

- He Did Not Create Man:

- To Work All The Time!

- This Is Why In Exodus 20:9-10 - The Lord Said:

- "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: / But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work!"

- You See - Work & Labor:

- Was Not A Part Of The Curse!

- When God Created Adam:

- We Are Told In Genesis 2:15 That - "The LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it!" - And Later - In Genesis 2:19 - God Gave Adam The Responsibility To Name The Animals As Well!

- So - God Created Adam:

- To Work!

- Work Is A Good & A Noble Thing!

- It Wasn't Until After Adam & Eve Sinned:

- That Their Work Became Toil!

- When - In Genesis 3:19 - God Said - "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return!"

- So - Ever Since The Beginning Of Time:

- God Gave You Six Days:

- In Which To Work:

- And To Meet The Physical, Financial, And Material Needs Of Yourself & Your Family!

- But - God Also Gave You:

- Another Day - One Day In Seven:

- In Which To Rest:

- And Recharge:

- And Be Refreshed!

- And This Kind Of Sabbath Rest:

- Was Encouraged By The Lord:

- When He Was On Earth!

- In Mark 6:

- Jesus & His Disciples:

- Were Weary!

- They Were Physically Exhausted:

- Because They Had Just Returned:

- From Going All Throughout The Land Of Israel - "Two By Two" - To Share The Gospel!

- According To Mark 6:12-13 - "They went out, and preached that men should repent. / And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them!"

- They Were Weary From:

- Their Work!

- They Were Also Emotionally Exhausted:

- Because - During That Same Time:

- They Heard That Their Good Friend, John The Baptist:

- Had Been Arrested, Imprisoned, And Unjustly Executed By Herod The Great! - Perhaps They Wondered:

- Who Would Be Next!

- And So:

- They Were Also Spiritually Exhausted!

- They Could Probably Say - What The Apostle Paul Would Later Say - To Describe His Service: - "I Will Very Gladly Spend And Be Spent For You!" (2 Corinthians 12:15)

- The Disciples Of Jesus Were Spent!

- And - What Did Jesus Say To Them?

- Mark 6:30-31 - "And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. / And he said unto them, Come ye vourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat!"

- When You Are Overwhelmed With Work:

- You Will Become Restless - And:

- You Will Not:

- "Remember The Sabbath Rest" That God:

- Not Only Intended For You:

- But Provided For You!

- But - When You - Use The Lord's Day:

- As Christians Have Done Now:

- For Two Thousand Years:

- As A Day To Cease From The Ordinary Work And Labor Of The Week:

- You Can Experience A Taste Of The Eternal Sabbath Rest That Is Yet To

Come!

- So - When You Are Overwhelmed With Work:

- Remember The Taste:

- The Sabbath Rest:

- Offered To You By God!

* Second - Though - We Also Forget The Sabbath - When:

2. We Are Overwhelmed With Worry!

- Are You A Worrier? Or Do You Know Someone Who Is?

- According To One Source, An Average Person's Anxiety Is Focused On:

- 40% Of Things That Will Never Happen!

- 30% Of Things About The Past That Can't Be Changed!

- 12% Of Things About Criticism By Others, Mostly Untrue!
- 10% About Health, Which Only Gets Worse With Stress!
- Only 8% About Real Problems That Will Be Faced!

- So Why Do We Worry?

- We Worry Because We Fear:

- And - Because We - Even As Christians:

- Doubt!

- We Doubt God's Care:

- About Our Circumstances!

- We May Say / Sing That God Cares For Us:

- But When We Worry, It Is Because We Don't Believe It:

- And We Become Restless!

- Other Times:

- We Doubt God's Control:

- Over Our Circumstances!

- We Have Personal Needs & See Public Needs:

- And Wonder & Even Worry About Them!

- And We Become Even More Restless!

- Still Other Times:

- We Doubt God's Comprehension:

- About Our Circumstances!

- Does God Even Know What We Are Going Through?

- And We Remain Restless And Listless:

- In Our Souls!

- The Apostle Paul Addressed:

- This Kind Of Worried & Restless Spirit:

- When He Wrote Philippians 4:6-7:

- "Be *careful* (Anxious / Restless) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. / And the *peace* of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus!"

- When You Are Overwhelmed With Worry:

- You Will Become Restless - And:

- You Will Not:

- "Remember The Sabbath Rest" That God:

- Not Only Intended For You:

- But Provided For You!

- Now - Even Though We Shouldn't Worry:

- On Any Day - Yet - The Lord's Day:

- Is A Good Day:

- For God's People To Remember And Rest In The Facts About God:

- And Our Circumstances!

- Are You Worried About God's Care?

- Remember & Rest In These Words From Jesus:

- Luke 12:6-7 - "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? / But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows!"

- Are You Worried About God's Control?

- Remember & Rest - Even As David Did:

- That "My Times Are In Thy Hand!" (Psalm 31:25)

- And - Are You Worried About God's Comprehension?

- Then - As Jesus Tells Us In Matthew 6:31-32:

- "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? / (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things!"

- So - When You Are Overwhelmed With Worry:

- Remember The Trust:

- That The Sabbath Rest:

- Teaches You About:

- The Care, The Control, And The Comprehension Of The Lord!

* But Then - Third - All Too Often - We Forget The Sabbath - When:

We Are Overwhelmed With Wandering!

3.

- Life Is Very Distracting, Isn't It?

- Sometimes Its Hard:

- To Keep "The Main Things" The Main Things!

- Isn't This What We Find In The Life:

- Of Mary & Martha?

- In Luke 10 - The Lord Jesus:

- Took A Deliberate Journey:

- To Meet Up With His Friends:

- Mary & Martha & Lazarus!

- And - He Used This Trip:

- To Teach Them & Us:

- An Important Lesson:

- That - "One Thing Is Needful!" (10:42)

- A Lot Of Good Things Happened:

- When Jesus Arrived:

- But - There Was Only One Thing:

- That Was Absolutely Necessary At That Point In Time!

- Because - When Jesus Came:

- There Was An:

- Enthusiastic Welcome!

- Luke 10:38 - "And A Certain Woman Named Martha Received Him Into Her House."

- It May Have Been A *Surprise Visit* - Or:

- It May Have Been An Anticipated Visit:

- We Don't Know For Sure:

- But Martha Readily "Received Him Into Her House!"

- With Open Arms!

- It Would Have Been A Pleasing Welcome!

- What Great Joy It Must Have Brought Her To See Jesus & Invite Him Into Her House!

- It Would Have Been A Proper Welcome!

- It Was Only Proper & Fitting For Martha To Welcome Jesus The Christ In The Best Possible Way!

- It Would Have Been A Practical Welcome!

- After His Arrival, Martha Immediately Sought To Serve - Probably Arranging:

- Where Jesus Would Sleep! - What Jesus Would Eat! - She Wanted To Be Able To Meet Any Of The Practical Needs He Might Have! - And - It Would Have Been A Polite Welcome! - Martha Was The Perfect Hostess! - But - Was This: - What Was Truly Needful? - We Also See - When Jesus Came: - There Was: - Energetic Service! - Luke 12:40 - "But Martha was cumbered about much serving." - Martha Was Busy! - Martha Became Distracted! - And - Martha Even Became Upset With Her Sister: - When She "Came To [Jesus], And Said, Lord, Dost Thou Not Care That My Sister Hath Left Me To Serve Alone? Bid Her Therefore That She Help Me!" (12:40) - You See - At That Point: - Martha Thought Her Service Was Most Important! - But In Reality, She Was Distracted From What Was Most Important! - She Was "Cumbered!" - At That Point: - Martha Thought She Was Caring For Her Lord's Needs! - But In Reality, She Was Focused On Her Own Interests! - She Was "Careful" & Anxious & Worried! - Martha Thought She Was Putting Things In Order! - When In Reality, She Was "Troubled" - And: - Restless! - And That Is Why: - Jesus Pointed Out That: - Eager Listening: - To Him & His Word: - Was The Most Needful Thing: - At That Time! - Even As Mary: - Luke 12:39 - "Which Also Sat At Jesus' Feet, And Heard His Word!" - So Jesus Commends Mary: - And Says - Luke 10:42 - "But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her!" - It Is So Easy To Be Distracted: - From The Most Needful Things: - In Life! - By Trivial Things - Or: - Even By Good Things! - And That Is Why The Lord's Day: - Is, Perhaps, The Best Day: - For God's People To Re-Prioritize: - Their Life In The Light: - Of God And His Rest! - So - When You Are Overwhelmed With Wandering: - Take Time To Remember The Truth: - That The Sabbath Rest: - Teaches You About What Is Most Needful: - In Your Life! - Use The Lord's Day: - To Rest & To Be Refreshed: - Not Just Physically! - Not Just Mentally! - But - Most Importantly:

- Spiritually!

- As Jesus Tells Us:

- In Matthew 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you!"

Conclusion:

- 1. Do You Remember The Sabbath Rest:
 - That Was Created By God:
 - And Provided To You?
 - Not The Sabbath Day:
 - And Its Rigid Duties:
 - As Was Followed In The Old Testament:
 - And Ultimately Fulfilled By Jesus Christ!
 - But The Sabbath Rest:
 - And Its Restful Delight:
 - Which Is Offered To You:
 - By Faith In Jesus Christ Who Said:
 - Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!"
- 2. So For Now The Lord's Day:

- Is The Best Day:

- To Set Aside In Each Week Possible:
 - To "Come Apart" & "Rest Awhile!"
- Rest From:
 - Work!
- Rest From:

3.

- Worry!
- And Rest From:
 - Wandering & Distraction!
- And Find Your Refreshment:
 - In The Place & Times Of:
 - Public Worship Of The Lord:
 - And Fellowship:
 - With His People!
- * What Are You Overwhelmed By?
- * Do You Remember The Rest That God Provided For You?

* Is The Lord's Day A Different & A Special Day For You To Be Refreshed, Physically, Mentally, Emotionally, And Spiritually?

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