

The Christian Sabbath

Promises to Gentiles (note esp. vv 2, 6): at v. 7 are promised assistance, acceptance, and assemblage. No serious Christian proposes we should approve idolatry or theft, yet many think it “legalistic” to keep the Sabbath in our day. The fourth commandment is the “Joseph” of the commandments. God promises increase for keeping it, yet the church continues to sell it into slavery.

- I. God’s sovereignty
 - a. Over your time
 - b. Over your work
 - c. Over your rest
- II. Origin of Sabbath in OT and Continuation in NT
 - a. Creation
 - b. Exodus
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. Final (eternal)
- III. Final words
 - a. Relationship of OT/NT not identity, but continuity. Sabbath remains, but day has changed.
 - b. The Sabbath should be both holy and happy.
 - c. We do not need nearly 1500 rules as the Pharisees. We just need integrity. Rest is not idleness. Our focus should be on the fact that it is God’s day and not ours. This extends to motives as well as actions and words.
 - d. Problem most Christians have with the Sabbath is neither intellectual nor practical. At root it is a spiritual problem. Many think of it as a small problem, because it is small to them. We resist God’s sovereignty over our time, work, and rest when we resist his Sabbath.
 - e. Compare going to a football game to going to church.