

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Fourth Commandment
“The Rest Of The Lord”
Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 4:1-11

Introduction:

1. As We've Been Going Through:
 - The Ten Commandments:
 - On Sunday Nights:
 - We've Been Looking At Each One:
 - Through The Lense Of 2 Timothy 3:16:
 - Which Reminds Us That - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!”
2. And - Even Though:
 - The Fourth Commandment:
 - Which Deals With The Sabbath Day:
 - Has Been A Rather Controversial Commandment:
 - It Really Needn't Be!
 - Because - It Too:
 - Is Profitable To Us:
 - In Those Same Ways!
3. So - Let's Turn In Our Bibles Once Again:
 - To Exodus 20:8-11:
 - Where We Read - “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!”
 - Now - As Doctrine:
 - This Commandment Teaches Us That:
 - God Is A God Of Rest!
 - And - As Reproof:
 - It Tells Us That:
 - We Have Neglected The Rest:
 - Provided To Us By The Lord:
 - Even By Refusing To Follow His Example - And Devoting One Day In Seven For Both:
 - Physical Rest & Spiritual Refreshment!
 - And - Even Though:
 - The Ceremonial Requirements:
 - Of The Sabbath Day:
 - Do Not Apply To Us As Christians!
 - The Moral Elements:
 - Remain!
4. Well - As We Will See Tonight:
 - This Commandment Is Also Profitable:
 - For Correction - Because - Like All Of The Others:
 - It Points Us To The Full & Final Rest:
 - A Person Can Only Find:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
5. You See:
 - Not Only Was The Fourth Commandment:
 - Given As A Reminder:
 - Of God's Past Work:
 - Of Creation - Which We Are Told:
 - Back In Exodus 20:11!
 - But It Was Also Given:

- As A Reminder:
 - Of God's Work:
 - Of Redemption - Which We Find In:
 - The Retelling Of The Law - In The Book Of Deuteronomy!
- So - Please Head There With Me:
 - Deuteronomy 5:12-15 - Where We Hear These Familiar Words:
 - "Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. / Six days thou shalt 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, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou!"
 - Up Until Now - It Sounds Like Exodus 20! But In Verse 15 - Another Reason For This Commandment Is Given To The Children Of Israel!
 - "And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day!"
- 6. So - Not Only Were The Children Of Israel:
 - To Keep The Sabbath Day:
 - Because Of God's Work Of Creation:
 - But Also Because Of:
 - God's Work Of Redemption!
 - And - In This Way:
 - We See The Principle Of Sabbath Rest:
 - Tied Together - In God's Eternal Plan:
 - From Start To Finish!
 - And - Where It Finishes:
 - Is In The Person & Work Of Jesus Christ!
 - And So - As We Look At How The Sabbath Rest Applies To Us Today:
 - We Are Going To Turn Over To The New Testament Book Of Hebrews:
 - Chapter 4 - Where We Read - Beginning In:
 - Hebrews 4:1-11 - "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. / 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. / 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. / 4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. / 5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. / 6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: / 7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. / 8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. / 9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. / 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. / 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief!"
 - 7. You See - The Sabbath Rest:
 - Has Always Been & Will Continue To Be:
 - A Pattern & A Picture:
 - Of The Rest That You Enter Into:
 - By Faith In Jesus Christ!
 - As It Says In:
 - 11:3 - "For we which have believed do enter into rest!"
 - This Means That You Have Taken Your First Steps Into The Promised Rest Of The Lord:
 - Which Is Described Even More For Us In Hebrews 4:4-11!
 - The Complete Rest:
 - That Is Sweeter Than Even The Rest Of A Baby!
 - 8. **IE:** You Know - One Of The Hardest Things For A Person To Hear Is The Cry Of A Baby! Upon Crying, Immediately Everyone Focuses Their Attention On The Baby – And Those Closest To It Try To Figure Out What Is Wrong: Is It Hungry? Is It Wet? Is It Tired? Is It Hurt? Is It Uncomfortable?
 - And Then, By Process Of Elimination, We Eventually Figure Out What Is Wrong With The Baby & Try To Get It To Stop Crying! In My Opinion, The Best Way To Get A Baby To Stop Crying Is To Get It To

Sleep!

- And Once That Baby Is Asleep, The Peace & Quiet & Rest Cannot Even Be Described!
- 9. So Many Times, In Our Lives As Christians, We Are Like A Bunch Of Babies – Aren't We?!
- We Cry Over The Sometimes Silliest Of Reasons – Hoping That Someone Will Come To Our Rescue & Soothe Whatever It Is That Is Bothering Us!
- Well - In The Verses We Will Look At Tonight - From Hebrews:
 - We See That The Lord Has Already Provided For Us:
 - His Rest!
 - A Rest & Peace That Passes All Human Understanding!
- Now - As We Look A Bit More Closely At These Verses:
 - I Want You To Know That:
 - ***The Rest Of The Lord Is Meant To Be A Rest That Is Shared!***
 - And - Tonight - We Will Consider Three Aspects Of The Rest Of The Lord!

1. ***The Properties Of The Lord's Rest!***

- 4:4-5 - "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest!"
 - Do Some Of Those Words Sound Familiar?
 - Well - 4:4 Begins With These Words: "For He Spake!"
 - Who Does This Refer To?
 - It Is God Himself Who Is Speaking Here!
 - It Is The Lord Himself:
 - Who Is Promising & Making Available:
 - And Sharing His Rest To His People!
 - Verse 4 Demonstrates What God's Rest Is!
 - What Is It Like?
 - Well - We Need To Look Back To That "Certain Place" That He Mentions Here!
 - And - It Takes Us Back - Once Again - To Genesis 2:2 - When - "On the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he ***rested*** on the seventh day from all his work which he had made!"
 - So - Even In The New Testament - We Must Never Forget:
 - The Timing Of God's Rest:
 - God Rested On The "Seventh Day!"
 - But Did He Rest ***Because*** It Was The Seventh Day?
 - No! God Could Have Rested On ("In") Any Day – Provided It Was His Time To!
 - Because - God's Rest Isn't Limited To A Specific Time!
 - Rather, God's Rested:
 - When The Work He Set Out To Do Was Finished & Complete!
 - And - Even Though God Rested From ***His Creating***:
 - It Did Not Mean That He Rested:
 - From ***His Creation!***
 - We Also Need To Remember:
 - The Reason For God's Rest:
 - It Was ***Not*** Because He Needed Rest!
 - Isaiah 40:28-29 - "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. 29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength!"
 - So - God Rested In Order To Show His:
 - "Utmost Delight, Complacency And Satisfaction In What He Had Done!" (Gill)
 - But - He Also Rested:
 - To Show You What You Can Look Forward To:
 - After ***Your*** Labors Are Finished!
 - We Need To Also Remember:
 - The Manner Of God's Rest:
 - According To Genesis 2:1-3, His Rest Consisted Of Him:
 - Stopping From His Work:
 - And Blessing & Sanctifying His Rest!

- And - Hebrews 4:5 Demonstrates What God's Rest Is For:
 - ***The Rest Of The Lord Is Meant To Be A Rest That Is Shared!***
 - It Is His Rest!
 - He Initiated It!
 - It Belongs To Him!
 - Yet, He Offers It:
 - So It Can Be "Entered Into" According To The Conditions He Sets Forth!
 - You Can Have A Share:
 - In The Timing Of The Lord's Rest!
 - You Can Have A Share:
 - In The Reasons For The Lord's Rest!
 - And - You Can Even Have A Share:
 - In The Manner Of The Lord's Rest!
- But, In Order To Share In The Rest Of The Lord:
 - You Must First Rest:
 - From Your Own Labors:
 - And - Rest In The Labors Of The Lord Himself:
 - Which Alone Will Completely Satisfy!
 - Not Just His Work Of Creation:
 - But His Work Of Redemption!
 - There Are, However, Some Who May Not Enter His Rest!
 - They Are Unbelievers!
 - And So - We See:

2. ***The Promise Of The Lord's Rest!***

- 4:6-8 - "Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: 7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. 8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day!"
 - In These Verses, We Are Shown:
 - That The Promise Of Rest That God Once Gave His People, The Children Of Israel:
 - Is A Continuing Promise For His People Today & For All Time!
 - It Wasn't A One Time Offer!
 - **IE:** Like One-Time Only Sales Gimmicks!
 - Instead, It Is A Standing Promise To Everyone Who Enters In Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - We See:
 - A Heavenly Reservation Of God's Promised Rest! (4:6a)
 - "It Remaineth That Some Must Enter Therein!"
 - "Remaineth" - Means That Which Remains & Is Still Available - Like A Reservation!
 - There Is Still A "Heavenly Reservation" For The People Of God!
 - Reminds Us Of What Jesus Said - In John 14:1-3 - "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!"
 - But - Sadly - It Became:
 - A Disregarded Invitation Of God's Promised Rest! (4:6b)
 - "They To Whom It Was First Preached Entered Not In Because Of Unbelief!"
 - The Invitation Was Offered!
 - But, Unbelief Turned Down The Invitation Of God's Rest!
 - But, In Spite Of The Fact That Some Of Rejected His Invitation:
 - There Is Still A "Heavenly Reservation" For The People Of God!
 - Whereas Unbelief Turns Down The **Invitation** Of God's Rest!
 - Belief Accepts & Lays Hold On The **Reservation** Of God's Rest!
 - And That's Why We See:
 - The Present Relevance Of God's Promised Rest! (4:7)
 - While David, In Psalm 95, Refers Back To What Happened Centuries Before:
 - God's Promise Was As Relevant In David's Time As It Was In Moses' Time!

- And In The Same Way - God's Promise Remains Relevant In Our Time!
- When The Lord Says: "Today" – He Means That There Is Still An Invitation!
 - And There Is Still A "Heavenly Reservation" For The People Of God!
- And It Can Either Be:
 - Accepted Or Rejected (By Unbelief)!
 - And "You Ought To-Day To Hear, Receive & Believe The Gospel Of God's Rest!" (Matthew Poole)
- But - In The Old Testament - There Was:
 - A Divine Restraint Of God's Promised Rest! (4:8)
 - Because - Giving Rest Is The Lord's Work!
 - In 4:8 - It Says - "For If Jesus (Joshua) Had Given Them Rest!"
 - The Name Jesus Here Stands For Joshua:
 - Who Was A Type Of Christ:
 - As He Led Them Into The Promised Land!
- But - Did Joshua:
 - Provide The Children Of Israel:
 - With Rest In The Land?
 - Clearly, No!
 - They Had Problem After Problem:
 - Even When They Finally Entered In The Promised Land!
 - This Reveals That The Rest Of The Lord:
 - Is Yet To Come!
- So, There Is Still A "Heavenly Reservation" For The People Of God!"
 - And It Will Be "Another Day!"
 - A Greater Day!
 - A Better Day!
 - A More Glorious Day!
- God's Promise Of Rest Is Meant To Be A Rest That Is Shared!
 - But You Still Have To Respond Properly!
 - Many Have Disregarded The Lord's Invitation As The Children Of Israel Did:
 - Through Unbelief!
 - But That Then Leads To:

3. ***The Potential Of The Lord's Rest!***

- 4:9-10 - "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is [has] entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his!"
 - The Conclusion Given Based On The Lord's Promise Of Rest (Verses 6-8) Is Again:
 - "There Remaineth (As A "Heavenly Reservation") Therefore A Rest To The People Of God!"
 - But What Has Been Reserved?
 - Not Primarily A Place Of Rest!
 - Not Even A Time Of Rest!
 - Not An Event Of Rest!
 - But A State Of Rest!
- It Is The Rest Of God! (4:9)
 - The "Sabbath" Rest Was When God Perfectly Completed His Work Of Creation!
 - And God Offers His Style – His Kind Of Rest:
 - To Those Who Believe In Jesus!
 - And - His Kind Of Rest Is:
 - A Complete Rest!
 - A Blessed Rest!
 - A Sanctified Rest!
 - And - This Rest Is The Believer's Hope!
 - Because - It is:
- Based On The Rest Of Jesus Christ! (4:10)
 - Even As We Are Told In:
 - 4:10 - "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.
 - Who Is This Verse Talking About?

- Who's Rest Is This Verse Talking About?
 - "He That Is Entered Into His Rest!"
 - It Is Referring To The Lord Jesus Himself!
- The "Gospel" Rest Was When Jesus Christ Perfectly Completed His Work Of Redemption!
 - And All The Work That Christ Has Done Is: - "Behold, Very Good!"
- And - Now - You & I Can Share:
 - In The Rest Of The Lord:
 - Not By Resting In:
 - Our Own Works Of Righteousness!
 - Not By Resting:
 - From Our Own Human Labor!
 - But By Resting In:
 - The Finished & Perfect Work Of Christ:
 - Who Forms A New Creation In The Hearts Of Sinful Men!

Conclusion:

1. So - The Sabbath Rest:
 - That We've Been Looking At In The Fourth Commandment:
 - Should Always Point You To:
 - The Rest Of Jesus Christ Himself!

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