

# **The Principles of Christian Religion**

**A Study through the Baptist  
Catechism using Benjamin  
Beddome's *Scriptural Exposition***

# Outline of the BC

- I. Introductory Questions: 1-6
- II. What We are to Believe: 7-43
- III. What Duty God Requires: 44-114
  - A. The Law and our Inability: 44-89
  - B. The Gospel and the Means of Grace: 90-114

# Introduction to the Decalogue

- Interpretation

- J. Douma (cf. WLC 99)

1. “The Decalogue must be interpreted spiritually.”
2. “The negative commandments (‘You shall not . . .’) include positive commands, and vice versa.”
3. “. . . [W]here one sin is mentioned, the commandment intends to cover the entire range of related sins.”
4. “Those commandments concerned specifically with love toward God weigh more heavily than those commandments concerned specifically with love toward neighbor.”
5. “The starting point and goal of all the commandments is love.”

# Introduction to the Decalogue

- Uses
  - The “Three Uses of the Moral Law”
    - 1) The Pedagogical Use
      - Leading sinners to Christ
    - 2) The Civil Use
      - Curbing evil in society
    - 3) The Didactic (or Normative) Use
      - Guiding believers in grateful obedience

# Question and Answer 62

Q. 62: Which is the fourth commandment?

A. 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, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.<sup>1</sup>

# Question and Answer 62

- Intro to the Fourth Commandment
  - Objections to the Ongoing Validity of the Fourth Commandment:
    - The Fourth Commandment is nowhere explicitly reiterated in the New Testament.
    - The Fourth Commandment has been explicitly repealed in the New Testament (Rom. 14:5-6; Col. 2:16).
    - The typology of the Fourth Commandment has been fulfilled in Christ.
    - The Fourth Commandment is not “written on the heart” of every person (Rom. 2:15) and is therefore not part of the Moral Law.