

## The School of Biblical Law

### Covenant and Law

#### Lesson Twenty-Four: "The Covenant Model and Commandment Four, Part 3"

The main focus of Commandment Four deals with reward. The Bible affirms hard work along with the acquisition of supply and increase of substance based upon that hard work. Sabbath-keeping is two-fold:

1) Man may not use every day to work and gain increase because one in seven is holy; 2) Man may fully celebrate his achievements under God's providence and enjoy the fruit of his labors on the day of rest.

1. Because Adam failed to honor the reward of the Garden and because Adam sought to change the reward that God's providence had provided, God returned to the Garden to place a curse upon the ground and a curse upon man's labors.

God's curses had a redemptive and a tutorial aspect.

- Mankind would be forced to serve the earth and motivated to do so in order to eat.
- Because of the difficulty of labor, mankind would seek to discover easier ways to eat and thus would release the potential of the earth, which was the charge in the dominion mandate.
- The sentence of death would force mankind to face his own nature as creature not creator.

On day eight, Adam entered his work week with a broken relationship with the Father, a fallen mind and soul, and no heavenly blueprint; therefore Adam went forth to build a fallen world arrangement or a fallen kosmos.

2. Jesus came to the earth as the Last Adam to redeem and restore all that the First Adam has lost.

Jesus was successful where Adam failed.

- Jesus acknowledged full sovereign rights of the Father.
- Jesus resisted the devil's temptation.
- Jesus did not seek to change His reward or break the Sabbath principle.

Jesus' death was the payment to redeem mankind and to redeem the earth.

- Jesus was raised on the third day, which was a testimony of a new earth. (Mt.16:21; Gen.1:9-13)
- Jesus' third day resurrection occurred on the first day of a new week, day 8, or on Sunday (Mt.28:1; Mk 16:1), which was a testimony of a new week.

3. Adam started a week for his heirs and for the earth in which a fallen kosmos would be built, but Jesus started a new week for the earth in which a heavenly kosmos (Mt. 6:10) would be built through his commissioned church (Mt. 28:18-20).

Jesus demonstrated the true principle of the Sabbath.

- Luke 6:1-5 tells the story of Jesus eating from the corn fields, being rebuked for working on the Sabbath, and responding by stating, "The Sabbath was made for man not man for the Sabbath (the Mark 2:27 account).
- Luke 6:6-11 continues the narrative of Sabbath when Jesus heals the withered arm of a man.
- We could rightfully say that all the right hands of all the heirs of the first Adam were withered and unable to accomplish the work of heavenizing the earth because of Adam's sin and the earth's curse; therefore Jesus came to redeem God's plan, heal mankind, and restore the Sabbath.

4. The New Testament Christian is still required to obey Sabbath principle by:

- Entering the rest of God – or receiving the eternal reward – by accepting the finished work of Calvary rather than attempting to earn heaven by one's works (Heb.4:1-10).
- Earn a reward through six days of labor and forfeit a reward one day a week.
- Traditionally, the church has gathered on the first day of the week to acknowledge the work of Christ and celebrate the new week for humanity that Jesus instituted.

Sabbath-keeping acknowledges that man's labors, provision, and future are guided by the providence of God and affirms trust in God. Sabbath-keeping is worship.