

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 17

Loving God: Part 3 [4th (Pt 2) Commandments]

In our previous studies the Bible has made it very clear that all Ten Commandments of God’s Law are still alive and valid for us today. Remember that the foundation of God’s Ten Commandment Law is love. The first four commandments apply to our direct worship and love towards God and the last six commandments deal with our relationship and love towards others. Also remember that God spoke His Ten commandments and wrote them on two tables of stones indicating its permanence.

In our last study we looked at the third commandment, “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain,” found in Exodus 20:7. We mainly learned here that taking God’s name in vain is using profane words or using His Holy name carelessly with no respect. And we also learned that those who take the name of God as Christians or professed followers of God, but openly disobey God’s explicit commandments are in essence taking God name in vain. In other words, they misrepresent His Holy name of God. Now after we studied the third commandment we began to explore and understand God’s fourth commandment found in Exodus 20:8-11. In this Bible lesson we are going to continue our study on this seemingly forgotten commandment. In our first part of our study today we are going to review and highlight some things that we learned from our previous study. And then after that we are going to get more Biblical understanding of God’s fourth commandment.

1. What is God’s fourth commandment and what were some key points we learned from our previous?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Exodus 20:8 – 11; Genesis 2:1-3

Write Bible Answer:

In Exodus 20:8, God clearly states His command, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” In the following verses 9&10 God clearly tells you what day the Sabbath is and how to keep His Day holy. And in verse 11 God tells you why you should keep His Sabbath day holy. In our previous study we learned here at the beginning of God’s fourth commandment that He uses the word “remember” as a permanent reminder for us to never forget the importance and significance of God’s Holy Sabbath day. We also learned that the root word for the word Sabbath in the original Hebrew language means to rest or to cease. So in other words, the beginning of God’s fourth commandment could read, “Remember the rest day to keep it holy.” Remember that the word holy means to set apart something for a special divine or Godly purpose. In other words, God’s Sabbath day or Rest day is set apart for a special Divine purpose.

Which day is the Holy Sabbath day or Rest Day? Verses 9&10 of Exodus 4 makes it clear. In verse 9 God tells us to do all our work in six days. In verse 10 God clearly tells us that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord so His Sabbath day of rest is on the seventh day of the week. If you go to any standard calendar you will find that seventh day of the week is Saturday. Also any standard dictionary such as the Webster’s dictionary clearly defines Saturday as the seventh-day of the week. Dictionary.com says that Saturday is “the seventh and last day of the week.” Remember in our previous study we learned that at creation in

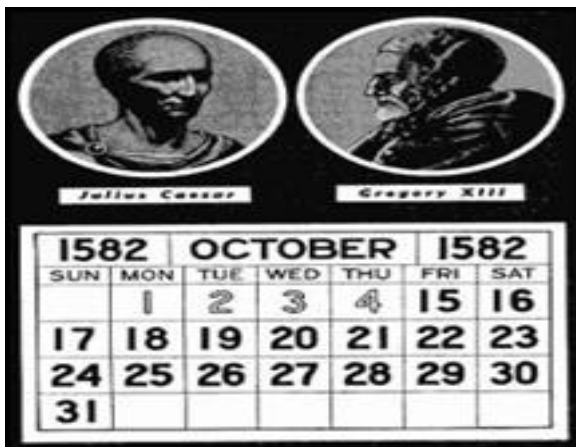
Genesis chapters 1 and 2 that God created the seven day weekly cycle and the He numbered the weekly days 1 through 7. God only named His seven days that He created by its number. So the names of each day of the week that we have today were actually added by man. Matter of fact the name of our week days that we use today are actually named after pagan or false ancient gods. For example the first day of the week, Sunday was name in honor of the pagan religion's sun god. Monday was named in honor of the false moon god, Saturday was named after the god of Saturn. And all this can be verified in history.

In our previous study we also learned that at creation in Genesis chapter 1 that each day of the week that God created actually began each evening or when the sun had set. In Genesis 1:5 after the first day of creation, God said that the evening and the morning was the first day. In verse 8 after the second day of creation, God said that the evening and morning was the second day. And God continued to clearly define a day that way each day of His creation. So according to God's creation 12 O'clock mid-night does not begin a day. That is something man made up – not God. Each of God's week days is defined from sunset to sunset. So when it comes to God's holy Sabbath day, the seventh day of the week, Saturday, officially begins at sunset on Friday evenings and ends at sunset on Saturday evenings each week.

Verse 10 of Exodus 20 not only tells us that the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath or God's rest day, but it tells us to honor God's Holy day by not working or having someone work for you on that day, including animals. Verse 11 makes it very clear that reason why we should keep God's Sabbath holy is because God is our Creator, and that He blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart from any other day for a special divine purpose each week. Matter of fact, verse 11 takes us back to creation week, the time when God instituted or established His Holy day of rest on the seventh-day. ***Genesis 2:1-3*** says "1Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2And 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. 3And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." On the seventh day God was finished with His perfect creation. So He rested or ceased from creating and made the seventh-day of the week holy. God's Holy Rest Day also known as the Sabbath day (remember in the Hebrew the root word for Sabbath means to rest) was established at the end of God's creation week. God rested, sanctified, and blessed the seventh-day of the week before sin and centuries before Abraham or the Jews. We also learned in our previous study that God's holy rest day was made for all of us as a blessing and reminder that God is our Creator and Redeemer.

2. How do you know beyond a shadow of doubt that Saturday is the seventh day of the week? Didn't the calendar change over the centuries?

As we have already mentioned in our review any standard dictionary or calendar makes it very clear that Saturday is the seventh day of the week. Yes, there have been changes to the calendar over the centuries, but there is no historical record that any of these calendar changes altered the seven day week cycle. For example in October 1582 ten dates that month was omitted from the calendar in order to keep up with the solar cycle. But this change did not alter the seven day week cycle in which the first day of the week is Sunday and the seventh day of the week is Saturday. The Jewish people spoken about in the Bible and who now live in our modern society never lost track of the seven day week cycle and honor God's Holy Sabbath Day. The Jews are people who are descendants of Abraham. This includes Messianic Jews who believe in Jesus Christ. The Jewish people for centuries, since the Bible days, have never lost track of God's Holy Sabbath day. They honor Sabbath beginning on sunset Friday until sunset Sabbath.



Another proof that God’s Holy Sabbath Day is Saturday, is that the seventh day of the week, is found in over one hundred old languages of the earth. For example the word for the seventh day of week, Saturday in Spanish is “Sabado” which means Sabbath. In French the word for seventh day or Saturday is “Samedi” which means Sabbath. In Italian it’s “Sabbato” which means Sabbath. And in Russian Saturday is “Subbota” which also means Sabbath. So it appears that centuries ago when many languages of the earth were established there was no confusion on which day the seventh day Sabbath took place.

3. Is the Seventh day Sabbath just for the Jews?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Mark 2:27

Write Bible Answer:

Remember from what we have already studied. The Holy Rest Day, God’s Sabbath day was made holy and established by God at the end of His creation week in Genesis chapter 2:1-3 before creation and centuries before Abraham and the Jews. In other words at the beginning of the world God established His Sabbath for all people, not just for the Jews. Also in Mark 2:27 Jesus says that “The Sabbath was made for man.” Jesus did not say that the Sabbath was made for the Jews only. It is clear that the Sabbath was made for all people from the beginning of time.

4. Why did God give us His Holy Sabbath Rest?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Ezekiel 20:12; Ezekiel 20:20; Exodus 31:13; Hebrews 4:1-11; Matthew 11:28-30

Write Bible Answer:

The Sabbath is a sign or a monument of your loyalty and love toward your Savior and Creator God. The obedience of God true holy Sabbath rest allows us to enter into the true resting place of God mentally, spiritually, and physically. The true honor of the Sabbath is casting your burdens to the Lord. Jesus says in Matthew 11:28 - 30 “ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

5. How do we keep God's Sabbath Day Holy?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Exodus 20:9 – 10; Exodus 16:22 – 30; Isaiah 56:2 – 6; Isaiah 58:13 – 14; Nehemiah 13:15 – 22; Leviticus 23:3; Luke 6:1 - 10

Write Bible Answer:

6. Now some may be asking. Didn't Jesus nail the law and the Sabbath to the cross when He died based on Colossians 2:14 & 16?

First of all ask yourself a very logical question? Do you think Jesus would want to do away with or nail His Ten commandments to the cross which promotes a loving relationship between us and God and a loving relationship with others? The Ten Commandments promotes a healthy society. It promotes a society to keep God first in all things. The Commandments recognizes God as our creator and Lord of the Seventh-day Sabbath. The Ten Commandments of God promotes a crime free society. It promotes an honest and truthful society. If the Ten Commandments promotes God our Creator, love, and honesty, why would Jesus nail them to the cross or get rid of them? That does not make sense.

Now let's quickly take a look at Colossians 2:14 & 16 which has caused so much controversy.

Colossians 2:14, 16 ¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; ¹⁶Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*.

A. Do you think God's Holy Ten Commandments are against us? Read 1 John 5:2,3; Matthew 5:17

READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY ALONG WITH BIBLE TEXT:

1 John 5:2,3 says ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are **not grievous**." God's Ten Commandment law is not against us. They are for us. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that God's Ten Commandment law was never abolished or "nailed to the cross." Matthew 5:17 says that Jesus did not come to destroy the law of God, but to fulfill it. The only laws that were abolished were the ceremonial laws that were connected to Israelite's sanctuary service, sacrifices, feast days, etc. **Colossians 2:14,16** are referring to the ceremonial laws, not God Ten commandments. Matter of fact, the book of Hebrews makes in clear that the ceremonial laws of the Israelites pointed the coming and

sacrifice of the Messiah Jesus Christ. So when Jesus died on the cross for our sins friends, the ceremonial laws was done away with or "nailed to the cross." Jesus was the fulfillment of the ceremonial laws that is why we have no need to sacrifice animals today. Also I must emphasize that the holydays and the sabbaths days mentioned in verse 16 is not referring to the weekly Holy Day Sabbath that God established at creation. Remember in the Hebrew Sabbath simply means rest. The "sabbath days" spoken of in Colossians 2:16, were ceremonial rest days or sabbaths, that did not necessarily fall on the seventh day of the week for each ceremony or celebration. The ceremonial sabbath days, as we stated before, were part of Moses law of ordinances that was "nailed to the cross" or abolished. The Seventh-day Sabbath Commandment in the Ten Commandments is **NOT** a ceremonial sabbath day that was nailed to the cross. It is part of the everlasting law of God. You will find throughout the Old Testament that when God is referring to His Holy Seventh-day Sabbath that is part of His law, He refers to it as "My Sabbaths". For example **Exodus 31:13**, ¹³Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily **my sabbaths** ye shall keep: for it *is* a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that *ye* may know that I *am* the LORD that doth sanctify you. Remember **Ezekiel 20:20** it says, ²⁰And hallow **my sabbaths**; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that *ye* may know that I *am* the LORD your God.

Now let's look at an example in the Old Testament when God is referring to the ceremonial sabbaths, not the Sabbath of the Ten Commandments. ***Leviticus 23:32***, ³²*It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.* This text is only referring to the ceremonial sabbath. Notice at the end of verse 32 that He referred to this special ceremonial rest day as "your sabbath." He did not call it "My Sabbath." Why? Because God is referring to the ceremonial sabbath, which did not necessarily come every seventh day. These were could be celebrated on different days. Again, these ceremonial Sabbaths were a shadow to the cross of Jesus and were nailed to the cross or done away with. The Holy Seventh-day Sabbath that is a part of God's Ten Commandment law is not a ceremonial Sabbath. It was never nailed to the cross.

Notes: _____

8. After Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected did the Sabbath day change from the seventh day of the week to another day?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 5:17, 18; Matthew 12; Luke 24:45; Hebrews 4:1 – 11; Romans 6:4

Write Bible Answer:

What did Jesus say in Matthew 5:17 & 18? ¹⁷"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. ¹⁸For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Jesus did not come to destroy or change any part of His law including His holy Sabbath day. Jesus came to fulfill it, meaning He came to give us a clearer understanding of His Ten commandment Law. Matter of fact in the Jesus taught in the New Testament that the Holy Sabbath day is not a day of strict rituals and ceremonies. In Matthew chapter 12 Jesus taught that the Sabbath is a day to help those in need physically, mentally, and spiritually. There is no where in the Bible that Jesus says or any of his disciples say that God changed His holy Sabbath day to another day to commemorate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Luke 24:45 when Jesus met with His disciples, days after His resurrection He opened the scriptures to them to give them understanding of His death and resurrection. Since the Sabbath is such an important and Holy day, don't you think Jesus would have said something about a change after He met with His disciples here? ***Hebrews 4:8*** says ⁸"For if Jesus had given them rest (referring to His holy Seventh day Sabbath rest), then would he not afterward have spoken of another day." So God's Holy Sabbath Day was never changed to commemorate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Matter of fact, Romans 6:4 clearly reveals that baptism by immersion actually commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

9. Is keeping the Bible Seventh-day Sabbath day holy truly important for you or me?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 John 3:4; James 2:10, 11; James 4:17; Acts 17:30; Hosea 4:6

Write Bible Answer:

The keeping of God's holy Seventh-day Sabbath Holy is truly important for you and me because it is a matter of eternal life or eternal death for those who have been presented and convicted by the Holy Spirit of this truth. Now of course, when a person is not aware of a certain truth in the Bible and that person is living up to all the light that he or she knows, according to Acts 17:30, God winks at his or her ignorance. But when that person is given the knowledge of truth and ignores it or rejects, to him or her it is sin. Hosea 4:6 reveals that people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge because they reject knowledge. That knowledge is the whole law of God, including God's Holy Seventh-day Sabbath. Friends, I pray that you follow the conviction of the Holy Spirit and obey this truth about God's Seventh-day Sabbath has written in His Holy Word.

10. Since the True Sabbath points to the true creator God. It Reveals True Worship. Do you think Satan would attack God's true worship and make a substitute? What warning does the Bible give?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 2 Peter 2:1 – 3; Acts 20:29, 30; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4; Daniel 7:25;

Write Bible Answer:

Paul gave to the early Christian Church elders in Ephesus a stern warning that deceptive leaders **within** the Christian church will try to pull other Christians away from the truths of God's Word with distorted truths mixing truths with error. That's a very deadly combination. Also he says in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, *"³Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition [perdition means: destruction]; ⁴Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."* The father of perdition or destruction is Satan. So the son of perdition are those people or organizations who allow themselves to be used by Satan in exchange for power, money, and glory. The son of perdition claims to have all the privileges and power of God. He wants to be worshiped. He is very cunning and deceptive. He looks true and holy but is full of corruption. The son of perdition is also known as the little horn found in Daniel 7:25. The prophecy reveals that he thinks to change "times and laws". The only law of the 10 commandments that has to do with time is God's Holy seventh-day Sabbath. It is clear that this corrupt power thinks it has the divine authority to change God's holy day to another day of the week.

11. Who is it that "thinks to change" the Sabbath From Saturday to Sunday?

Let's look at the following quotes for ourselves for answers.

"Question: Which day is the Sabbath?"

"Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath."

Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?"

"Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, by Peter Geiermann, 50.

Catholic Priest T. Enright, CSSR, lecture at Hartford, KS, Feb 18, 1884:

"I have repeatedly offered \$1000 to any one who can furnish any proof from the Bible that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep...The Bible says, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," but the Catholic Church says, "No, keep the first day of the week," and the whole world bows in obedience."

Chancellor Albert Smith for Cardinal of Baltimore Archdiocese, letter dated February 10, 1920:

"If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath day by God is Saturday. In keeping the Sunday, they are following a law of the Catholic Church."

"Sunday is a Catholic institution, and... can be defended only on Catholic principles.... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." Catholic Press, Aug. 25, 1900

"The Sabbath was Saturday, not Sunday. The Church altered the observance of the Sabbath to the observance of Sunday. Protestants must be rather puzzled by the keeping of Sunday when God distinctly said, 'Keep holy the Sabbath Day.' The word Sunday does not come anywhere in the Bible, so, without knowing it they are obeying the authority of the Catholic Church." Canon Cafferata, The Catechism Explained, p. 89.

"Reason and sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible." John Cardinal Gibbons, The Catholic Mirror, December 23, 1893.

In summary God Holy Seventh Day is a holy day that God created for us to rest in the blessing of God on a weekly basis to remember the creator and redeemer Jesus Christ. The Sabbath is truly a blessing. If you truly want to keep God's holy day Sabbath, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you a group of church believers that keep His holy seventh day Sabbath. The Holy Spirit promises to lead you to truth. God is looking for worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. Do you friend want to worship God in spirit and in truth, keep all of God's commandments including the seventh day Sabbath? If you want to learn more about God's Holy Sabbath visit pathwaytopeace.net on the web.