

The Sabbath Rest Remains
11-24-13

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Exodus 20:8. Why did God specify ten special commandment sin stone in Exodus 20? The Ten Commandments represented the Covenant itself (Deuteronomy 4:13). Since the entire law WAS the covenant, the Ten Commandments were a physical representation of all the laws of God (Exodus 24:7). They were written in stone to symbolize that they could not be changed by men. When God spoke later of a new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31, He said that it would be written on the heart, indicating it was a Spiritual law in contrast to the carnal law of Moses (2 Corinthians 3:3).

Important to understand is that the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14, Ephesians 2:15). While this chart reveals most of the commandments are found again in the law of Christ, the legal basis and purpose of the Ten Commandments was completed on the cross. The Sabbath commandment is uniquely missing from the law of Christ; or is it?

Law of Moses	Law of Christ
No Other Gods	Mark 12:32
No Graven Images	I Corinthians 8:4
No Blasphemy	Colossians 3:8
Honor Sabbath	
Honor Father & Mother	Ephesians 6:2
Do not murder	James 2:11
Do not commit adultery	Galatians 5:19
Do not steal	Ephesians 4:28
Do not bear false witness	Romans 13:9
Do not covet	Romans 13:9

If we read the Sabbath commandment in Exodus 31:15, several things can be determined. First, the Sabbath was Saturday, the seventh day. Second, it was a day of rest, NOT a day of worship. Under the law of Moses, days of worship were days like the Passover, feast days, etc.

We do not “keep” the Sabbath (obey the command not to work on that day) because we are not commanded to do so; according to James 2:12, we are to act as those judged by the law of Liberty (Christ). As well, we are given a day of worship (NOT corresponding to the Sabbath), the first day of the week, the Lord’s Day (Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:1). If we study the Scriptures, we find that the fundamental purpose of the Sabbath was as a shadow of something to come in Christ (Colossians 2:16-17). What did it fore-shadow?

According to Hebrews 4:1-11 a “Sabbath” yet remains for the people of God. That Sabbath is the eternal rest with God; Sabbath represent heaven and eternal life. The Hebrew writer said we need to be diligent to enter it; we can fall short of it by: Disobedience; Being hearers only; Being hard hearted.

To “remember the Sabbath” means to live in hope. Worldly hope is merely wishing for something, and is futile. Divine hope means we look to something promised by God and believed by faith (Hebrews 11:1). We are saved in this hope (Romans 8:24). Living in hope means believing in the reality of Heaven and living for heaven, not this life.