

# *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Question 57: Which is the fourth commandment?

**Answer:** The fourth commandment is, Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Question 58: What is required in the fourth commandment?

**Answer:** The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

Question 61: What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

**Answer:** The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Question 62: What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?

**Answer:** The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the Sabbath-day.

# *Remember To Keep It Holy*

1. We are called to \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. NAU Genesis 2:2-3

2. We are to remember to \_\_\_\_\_ the Sabbath day \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The day is set aside for \_\_\_\_\_.

- Resting \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Remember our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- There is a special call to those in \_\_\_\_\_.

# *To Keep or Not To Keep*

Over the centuries, some of the greatest scholars and godliest saints have disagreed over whether the Bible teaches Christians to keep the Sabbath or not. Our denomination and our church session here at South Dayton believe that God's word does teach us to keep the Sabbath. Below are some of the main reasons why Pastor Mark has come to this conclusion. In the daily devotional guide (pages 34-35), both sides of the debate are given and you are encouraged to study this topic out and come to your own conclusion. However, what is provided is merely a small amount of information. There are books devoted to this one topic.

## **REASONS FOR KEEPING THE SABBATH**

- This commandment refers back to the pre-fall order. God sanctified the seventh day before the fall. It is proper to assume this was kept by Adam and Eve before the fall if there were more than 7 days after creation and before the fall. It would also be proper to assume this would have continued to be the practice if there had not been a fall.
- Jesus teaches us that the Sabbath was made for man (Mark 2:27-8)
- All Christians agree that we should keep the other 9 laws. How can you keep 9 and throw out one?
- Although Jesus argued with the Pharisees about HOW we should keep the Sabbath, he never argued that we should not keep the Sabbath.
- This command was not exclusive to Jews; it was given for the Gentiles – "alien in your midst" as well (Exodus 23:12 & Deuteronomy 5:14).
- There is no clear passage that says we are not to keep the Sabbath.
- The Sabbath is singled out in Exodus 31:12-17 as being as sign of the "perpetual covenant." The Greek words used to translate this term are the same Greek words found in Hebrews 13:20 and translated "eternal covenant." The sign again rests upon the act of God in creation before the fall.
- Even admitting there is a spiritual rest as is clearly taught from Hebrews 4:8-11, there is still a physical rest emphasized in the command (for the family, the animals, and the foreigner).