

## The Ten Commandments # 4

### Introduction

Today our study in the Ten Commandments moves to the command that is perhaps the oldest of all, the fourth command. Exodus 29:8 puts it succinctly: "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy." It is a pointed law being much older than the time of Moses (Genesis 2:3) and relates to a matter of life as plain as the calendar on the study wall. Yet this commandment is actually one of the most abused in spite of its stature and prominence. The abuse comes from two sources: those who completely ignore the will of God and those who offer hypocritical aspersions of keeping it. The heart of the command is a test of loyalty and love which the worshipper must feel for God. It is not a performance for which the commandment calls, it is for an expression of love from the heart.

In the role of the commandments we are taught to respect the Lord before we do anything else. We are to honor His Person, worship, and His name. Then, in order that the reality of His goodness might be known in our lives, we are to honor His day. That means we are to allow God time in our lives, we are not to be too busy to listen to Him or to speak with Him. This day of reflection brings to a conclusive head the basic relationship with God. We are to be willing to love, worship, honor and to set aside our times for Him.

### THE Fourth Commandment: The Sabbath

"Honor His Day" that is the point of this word. It is his day by virtue of creation as we read in Exodus 20:11. Creation was the work of God in Genesis 1 when in six successive days he spoke and the force of His speaking brought into existence the world as we know it. Creation ceased with the 7th day and God rested. We should not imagine that the Lord was