

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Terry Joe Kee

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

(Exodus 20:8-11)

When God chose Israel to be His people, He set them apart as being holy. God set apart this nation, the tribe of Levi, the family of Aaron, the High Priest, the tabernacle with its court, the holy of holies, the first fruit, the tithes, the sabbatical year, the year of jubilee, and more. Therefore, is it any wonder that He would set aside a day?

From the days of Adam time had been divided into weeks, but a sabbath day had not been set until now. It was at the time of the giving of the manna and quail to feed this nation as they wandered in the wilderness, that God introduced the sabbath as a test (Exodus 16).

This day was given to the Jews. It was a covenant given to them and to no one else but them. This was truly a covenant made with them and only with them. No one other than Israel had this covenant given to them (cf. Exodus 20:2; Deut. 5:1-3; Psalm 147:19,20). This day was selected by God because on that day God had rested (Gen. 2:3; Exodus 20:8-11), but also as a memorial of their deliverance from Egypt (Deut. 5:15). The sabbath was given as a sign between God and Israel and it was not given to anyone else (Exodus 31:12-17; Ezek. 20:10-12). All nations were never subject to the law surrounding the sabbath day. The first time this law was given was at Mt. Sinai (Neh. 9:13-15; Ezek. 20:10-12). It was not even known or set aside at any time until then. The Ten Commandments was that covenant made with Israel (Exodus 34:27,28; Deut. 4:13; Deut. 9:11). Do not forget that this law was done away, abrogated, and nailed to the cross (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:6-13; Heb. 9:15; Heb. 10:9,10).

The law that was written on stones was done away with at the cross, through Christ (2 Cor. 3:1-18; Col. 2:14-16). Christians were said to be delivered from the law contained in the Ten Commandments (Rom. 3:19; Rom. 6:14; Rom. 7:4,6,7).

The day God has set aside today is the first day of the week. The significance of this day is demonstrated in the events occurring on that day. The resurrection of Christ from the grave and His being declared to be the Son of God came on this day (Rom. 1:4). This is the day Jesus met with His disciples for the first time after His death (John 20:1,19,26). Pentecost always fell on the first day of the week. It is the day the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles; the day the first gospel sermon was preached; the day upon which the first fruits were gathered. This is the day the church is born (Acts 2). It is set by God today as the day for all Christians to worship (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:20,33; I Cor. 16:1,2).

In the New Testament we have many new things:

- (1) a New Covenant (Heb. 8:6)
- (2) a new institution, the church
- (3) a new feast, the Lord's Supper
- (4) a new day, the first day
- (5) a new word for expressing that day, it is the "Lord's Day" (Rev. 1:10).

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Take a moment and let us characterize and contrast the Sabbath Day and the First Day.

1. *The Sabbath Day* was set as a memorial of one event, their deliverance from Egypt.
 - A. *The Lord's Day* is set as a memorial to the resurrection of Christ from the grave.
2. Notice the manner in which the *Sabbath Day* was observed – there was to be no work, it was a day of rest, and nothing was said about it being a day of worship.
 - A. *The Lord's Day* is a day of worship. Nothing is said about it being a day of rest. Man's need for a day of rest is physically and socially good for us, but this is not a law (cf. Mark 6:31).
3. The penalty for violating the *Sabbath Day* was death (Exodus 31:14; Num. 15:32ff).
 - A. For violating the *Lord's Day* there is no physical penalty but a spiritual loss (Heb. 10:24,25).
4. On the *Sabbath Day* there was to be no work at all. Neither was it a day for recreation.
 - A. *The Lord's Day* is a day of worship. That is all this day is supposed to be. This day should be an opportunity for complete spiritual refreshment as well as bodily refreshment, but there is no law requiring that.

The fourth commandment was something new in the history of man. There is no such law found anywhere else in history. It provided for the physical need man had for rest. The first day of the week, however, is given by God, growing out of a need for man to worship. The first day of the week is a time set aside for man to focus on his worship to God. The social customs we enjoy today come out of man's continuing need for rest.

OBEYING THE GOSPEL

Author Unknown

The word "*gospel*" literally means good news or good tidings. What does the Bible say that the gospel is? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 says, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel...by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received; that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures." Here we see the good news of the gospel is that Christ died, and was buried, and was raised again on the third day. Also notice, they were saved by the gospel.

In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 we read that, "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." Here we see that vengeance will be taken on those who obey not the gospel of Christ.

How do we obey the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord so that vengeance will not be taken on us? Romans 6:3-5 says, "Or do you not know, that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection." So, we see in obeying the gospel we are baptized into His death, we are buried with Him through baptism, and then just as Christ was raised up from the dead, we also are raised to walk in newness of life after baptism. Only after baptism are we born again and our new life in Christ begins. Only in baptism does our old sinful person die and our new person rises free from sin.

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Lou Ann Baugh, Sherrie Eddleman, Barry Roush, Kevin Roush, Amber & Baylee Wooten have all been diagnosed with Covid recently and have been quarantined.

Lanafae Stephens will be having surgery on the 7th and the 21st at the Surgery Center on Matthews.

Marshall Lands had outpatient surgery this past week and is home recovering. All went well.

Sandra Sherman is now at St. Elizabeth’s and can have visitors.

Wanda Cashion is in NEA Baptist having rehab. She has moved to room 5211.

Andy Taylor, Sheryl’s son, is now home after being in the NEA Baptist Hospital recently.

Joyce Slankard, the mother of Patti Dodson is suffering with pneumonia and heart problems.

Please continue to pray for all of these and others who are at home recovering from recent surgeries, confinement, or bereavement.

IN OTHER NEWS:

“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)

Ukraine Missions Buckets: January items are to be announced as soon as we know them.

Day Of Exhortation with Ivie Powell from West Plains, Missouri. We will have a chili and soup lunch after the morning services. Welcome Ivie to Greensboro Road and prepare to be exhorted to grow. Remember our chili and soup lunch and stay to be with us.

Men’s Breakfast will be Saturday morning, January 8th, at 8:00 a.m. in the basement.

Ladies’ Night Out will be Tuesday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the basement.

Congregational Meeting with the elders for everyone after evening services on January 9th.

Those Privileged To Serve

January 2, 2022

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer
Closing Prayer: Kevin Roush
Bible Reading: David Loggins
Preacher: Ivie Powell

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Ben Johns
Jerry Dodson Dan Nichols
Scottie Blanchard Jeff Presley
Donnie Gilliland Hayden Roush

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: Stan Honeycutt
Closing Prayer: Steve Stoker
Preacher: Ivie Powell

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

January 5, 2022

Song Leader: *Singing Night*
Opening Prayer: Mike Felts
Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

January 5, 2022
Terry Joe Kee

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

December 26, 2021

Sunday Bible Study	64
Sunday AM Worship	101
Sunday PM Worship	67
Wednesday Bible Study	56
Contribution	\$6368

“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”

Proverbs 27:1

The Friend of Truth

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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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Keep Notes

Today we begin a new year. Let us take each day one at a time and do not get ahead of ourselves. Let us work and pray each day and do what we can and at the end of the 2022 we can assess our success or failure. One day at a time is hard and no day should be taken for granted. I want to challenge you today and all this year to be present for every service of the church. If we can finally get to a point where all of our own are able to be with us, that will be a large step forward.

Pray every day for the work of the church generally, but also specifically pray for the church that meets at this place. Pray for every sick member, every confined member, every struggling member, every elder, deacon, and Bible class teacher. Then pray for your preacher and pray fervently for every single member. Take and go through the directory of members and pray specifically for each member as we go through 2022. Take one of the reading schedules from the table in the foyer and read through the New Testament every month this year. Yes, read the New Testament through 12 times this year. Invite someone every week to come and worship with us. Make this congregation and all her works a priority this year and let us see how God will bless us.

God has promised His Word does not return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11). His Word will accomplish its purpose. Therefore, let us be spending the time sowing the seed of the kingdom daily. To help with this there will be a weekly set of questions underneath the Mission Board for everyone to take. *Bible Questions For Bible Students* should remind us of some fundamental truths. Please take one each week.

Today is a good way to begin a new year. We have a guest speaker, Ivie Powell, with us to proclaim the good news. We have good preaching, good prayers, good singing, and warm fellowship to make this the beginning of a great new year. Welcome Ivie and make him feel at home. Listen to the powerful Word of God being preached and apply every Word to yourself.

Let 2022 bring on a new you. Let us all be renewed in our faith and in our efforts together every day in this new year. Give God the thanks and the glory for all that He has done and will be doing through us this year.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Stacy Eddleman
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Scott Pratt
Kevin Roush
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee,
Southeast Asia
Micah Robertson,

Montana
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

Living Anew In 2022

Visit Our Website: greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com