

Sermon Handout

“The Lord’s Day”

Exodus 20:8-11

- I. The practice of the early church – 1st day gatherings
 - a. Communion & preaching Acts 20:7 (*cf.* Rev 1:10)
 - b. Mutual exhortation & encouragement Heb 10:21-25
 - c. Presentation of tithes & offerings I Cor 16:2
 - d. Synagogue on the Jewish Sabbath – to evangelize
Acts 13:14, 44; 14:1; 17:1-3; 19:8

- II. Purpose of Sabbath – rest for laborers Ex 20:10; Dt 5:14
 - a. Ex 20:11 – rest as God rests
 - b. Ex 16:22-30 – no gathering of manna
 - c. Employers are subject to God, their rule is not absolute
 - d. Calvin’s comments (from 1536 *Institutes*)

- III. Purpose of Sabbath – training in piety Heb 10
 - a. “prayers & praises . . . the Word . . . the sacraments”
Calvin: to hear the Law, perform the rites
 - b. Not mere cessation of labor, but a turning toward the Holy One
 - c. Calvin’s comment on I Cor 14
 - d. Bucer on the Lord’s Day

- IV. Purpose of Sabbath – rest from our own works
 - a. The Sabbath was given to Adam before the fall Gen 2:1-3
It had an eschatological purpose – ultimate rest in Christ
 - b. Post-fall, the Sabbath is rest from the curse of sin
No peace for the wicked Is 48:22; 57:21
Man’s labor seems fruitless & empty Ps 90:10
 - c. Sabbath finds its eschatological purpose in Christ
Redemption rest (labor now difficult) Gen 3:17-19
Shown in the rescue from Egypt Dt 5:15 (*cf.* Ps 127:1-2)
 - d. Given to the redeemed in Jesus Mt 11:28-30 (*see* Rev 14:13)
Note: finding rest in Jesus *sanctifies* our labor! (*cf.* Eph 2:8-10)