



God's fourth commandment is to "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God." (Exodus 20:8). This commandment has instigated more controversy than the others in the history of the church. Some equate the Sabbath with the "Lord's Day." Others deny any connection at all.

Foundational to this commandment is the principle that on "every seventh day the community is to recognize that it is God who sees to the community's needs; the community is not able fully to care for itself." This is nothing less than their acknowledgement of a "radical dependence upon the transcendent God." Rest is as important as work.

As we investigate the text, we must consider the historical context if we are to arrive at an acceptable interpretation and suitable application of this divine imperative.

1. Compare and contrast Exodus 20:8-11 with Deuteronomy 5:12-15
  
2. Consider the account of Creation. How does Genesis 2:2 inform this discussion?
  
3. Consider the collection of Manna. How does Exodus 16:4-5, 19-30 inform this discussion?
  
4. What does Jesus teach about the Sabbath? Mark 2:23-27
  
5. What else does Jesus teach about the Sabbath? Mark 3:1-6
  
6. Is the Sabbath the same as the Lord's Day?
  - John 20:1
  - Acts 2:1, 42
  - Acts 20:7
  - Romans 14:5,6
  - Colossians 2:16
  - Hebrews 4:9-10
  - Hebrews 10:24-25

*"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." --Jesus  
(Mark 2:27)*