

VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

*The Ten
Commandments*

STUDY OUTLINE

Lecture #11

The Fourth Commandment



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

© 2024 by John Knox Institute of Higher Education

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means for profit, except in brief quotations for the purposes of review, comment, or scholarship, without written permission from the publisher, John Knox Institute, P.O. Box 19398, Kalamazoo, MI 49019-19398, USA.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

Visit our website: www.johnknoxinstitute.org

Rev. A. T. Vergunst is minister of the gospel at the Reformed Congregation of Carterton, New Zealand, a congregation of the Reformed Congregations of New Zealand.

www.rcnz.org

The Ten Commandments

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst
in 18 lectures

1. Introduction
2. The God of the Law
3. Paradise and the Law
4. Jesus and the Law
5. The Law and the Sinner
6. The Law and the Saint
7. The Law at Mount Sinai
8. The First Commandment
9. The Second Commandment
10. The Third Commandment
11. The Fourth Commandment
12. The Fifth Commandment
13. The Sixth Commandment
14. The Seventh Commandment
15. The Eighth Commandment
16. The Ninth Commandment
17. The Tenth Commandment
18. The Law in Eternity

The Ten Commandments

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

STUDY OUTLINE

Lecture #11

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Lecture Title:

The Weekly Gift

Key Texts:

“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, verses 8 through 11

“Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath command thee. Six days thou shalt 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, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.”—Deuteronomy 5, verses 12 through 15

Summary:

The Old Testament church, from creation to the coming of Christ, was looking forward to their sabbath rest, working six days to come to the seventh day for their sabbath rest. But now, in the New Testament, when the gospel is full and clear, we now begin with a sabbath rest on the first day of the week, and then we go forth into our week, to do the work that God calls us to do. The Christian Sabbath Day is anchored in Christ’s merits, and rests upon his finished work. We consider the Fourth Commandment with two questions: Why did God legislate this Fourth Commandment? And what does it mean to keep or observe the Lord’s Day as a holy day?

Structure:

1. Introduction – the fourth general principle.
2. Two principles regarding the Fourth Commandment:
 - a. The permanency of this commandment.
 - b. The sabbath in the New Testament has become the first day of the week.
3. Why did God legislate the Fourth Commandment?

4. What is meant by keeping or observing the Lord's Day as a holy day?
 - a. Keep it separate.
 - b. Four ways in which we are to keep the Sabbath Day holy.
 - c. Four test questions concerning keep the Sabbath Day.

5. Conclusion.

Review Questions:

1. What is the fourth general principle concerning the Ten Commandments? How does it change our view of sin?

2. How do we understand the permanency of the Fourth Commandment?

3. How do we know that the sabbath in the New Testament has become the first day of the week? What is the spiritual significance of it?

4. What are some reasons why God legislated the Fourth Commandment?

5. What is the relationship between the Fourth Commandment and quality time with God?

6. What is meant by keeping holy or observing the Lord's Day?

7. What four principles about keeping the Sabbath Day holy did you learn from this lecture?

8. How does a biblical view of keeping the Sabbath Day determine our actions on that day?

9. What are the four test questions we can use for Sabbath Day keeping?

10. What consequences will there be if we ignore the keeping of Sabbath Day?

Further Application:

1. Meditate on Exodus 20, verses 8 to 11, and Deuteronomy 5, verses 12 to 15, comparing with the Heidelberg Catechism and the Westminster Shorter Catechism concerning this commandment.

2. After reviewing this lecture, what changing or renewing of mind did you receive concerning the Lord's Day and keeping it holy?
