

Q: Why did your excellent article "Righteousness Exalts a Nation" by R. C. Sproul ignore the fourth commandment?

As one who has recently been challenged to find out whether God still expects His people to keep the fourth commandment, I have been studying the law lately to find out if it truly was nailed to the cross or if it was intended to be a guide for all believers in all ages. It was therefore exciting to read the article in the April/May 2003 edition of your magazine. Surely God DOES want all of His people to use the 10 commandments as a guide as to what righteousness looks like. No, we are not saved by keeping the law—it serves to show us that we need salvation, not to save us. But once we are saved we find in the law a wonderful tool for measuring our own spiritual maturity so that when we find ourselves falling short we are motivated to go back to the cross for a further cleansing.

The article makes the point very well that the 10 commandments are very useful and pleasing to God today. So why leave out the fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy"? The only place you have referred to it is in the children's poster—and there it only says, "Don't forget God's day of rest and worship." But the Scripture specifically says "Sabbath Day," which is Saturday—the seventh day of the week. Let's not leave out one word of God! That is dangerous. If God established the seventh day (Saturday) as His holy day, then why don't we who consider ourselves God's people, who love and serve Him, not keep His day holy?

Why do we insist on picking out the Sabbath day commandment and declaring it done away with at the cross, yet agree that we should still keep the other nine commandments? Of course we should keep the other nine commandments—let's just not forget the fourth one! This commandment even has extra force behind it, because it was established right at the beginning of the creation when God had completed His work. Genesis 2:2,3 says "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." This is where we get the concept of the seven-day week! Long before God gave Moses the 10 commandments, He gave mankind His special day in which to rest and worship his Creator. Then when He gave the 10 commandments, He told them to "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy."

It sure looks like we're going to be keeping the Sabbath in eternity, too! Isaiah 66:22,23 says "'for as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the Lord, 'so shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,' says the Lord." If God established the seventh day to be His time to meet with His people at the beginning of time and for all eternity, how dare we change the day in the meantime?

How it must hurt God's heart when His people will not come to spend time with Him on the day God is waiting for them. How successful would a marriage be if the husband arranged everything so that his wife could join Him in celebrating their relationship on Saturdays but she never showed up, having decided that Sunday would do just as well?

I think it's time for repentance in the house of God.

Sincerely,
Connie Lacelle