

Sunday School- September 12, 2010

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Unifying Topic: GOD'S LAW AS A COVENANTAL AGREEMENT

Lesson Text

I. Honoring God (Exodus 20:1-7)

II. Honoring the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11)

The Main Thought: I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (**Exodus 20:2-3**, KJV).

Unifying Principle: People look for guidance from someone or something they can trust. Where can we find a trustworthy guide for our lives? In the Ten Commandments, God laid out unimpeachable



instructions for building a trusting relationship with Him.

Lesson Aim: To teach your students how to honor and revere God through keeping His commands.

Life aim: To teach believers how to build and maintain a healthy and sustainable relationship with God.

- 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,
20:2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
20:10 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:
20:11 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.

HISTORY:

For over four hundred years, the descendants of Israel have been in Egypt's bondage. Now the process begins of bringing the nation into the Promised Land. They came to the Wilderness of Sinai or Mt. Sinai. Sinai was the place where Moses had his "burning bush" experience with God. It took them three months of trusting God to get to this place, led by Moses, but they finally arrived. Now, God is about to declare His great plan for the nation of Israel.

¹Exodus 19:1-4 "In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt... They camped in front of the mountain of God, Mt. Sinai! *Moses went up to God*, and the Lord called to him from the mountain... tell the children of Israel... I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself."

Eagles Wings – ¹Like the young eagle, the Israelites were in their nest while in Egypt. Though they suffered hardships, disappointments, despair and oppression, they were never out of the watchful, careful eye of God. Swiftly and safely God removed them from their place of hardship and limitation, distinguishing them from all other nations, having chosen them to be a special people to Himself. Those on the internet can view this: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afdulqhJHXk&feature=related>

He is speaking to us now, saying, "I bore you on eagle's wings." Every difficult situation is designed by God to teach us to soar, to excel. God didn't deliver Israel so they could "do their own thing," but so they could be God's people.

¹ <http://crossheart.org/hearttoheart.html>

Exodus 19:5-8 "... if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation ...And all the people answered together and said...And *Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.*"

Moses called the elders of the people; told them all the words that the Lord had commanded him to tell; all the people answered and said that they would obey, and they meant it. The problem was that they forgot the weakness of their flesh. God gave them three titles: "My own possession", "a kingdom of priests" and "a holy nation", all on the contingency of, if they obeyed. As the priestly order in times past, was set apart from the common mass, so were the Israelites. They were to sustain the same near relation to God.

Exodus 19:9-14 "*The Lord said to Moses, Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever... The Lord also said to Moses, Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people...set bounds for the people all around...do not go up on the mountain or touch the border...shall surely be put to death...no hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether beast or man, he shall not live. When the ram's horn sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain...So Moses went down from the mountain...*"

God was specific with His instructions to Moses for the people. Moses was the only one He talked to and through. And Moses would in turn tell the people all the instructions in which God had spoken. Moses was the leader, the one God put in charge to deliver His people. God was about to come down to them in a thick cloud and was going to speak to them and tell them about His Ten Commandments. However, before they could come into God's presence, preparation had to take place. There was an inward preparation for meeting with God where it would be mirrored in the outward actions of maintaining bodily cleanliness. They were to consecrate; sanctify themselves; and wash their garments for two days. They were to be totally and completely clean. **V15** "*He said to the people, Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman.*"

Exodus 19:16-20 "...on the third day...there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who {were} in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai {was} all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and *Moses went up.*"

It is the third day and what an awesome sight! And the people trembled with fear at what was happening on the mountain. The unusual was happening, not the usual phenomena from volcanic activity.

Exodus 19:21-25 With such a mass of people, it was very imperative the people obeyed the instructions about the mount of God, that God reiterated again to Moses in verses 21-23, go down and warn the people—do not touch the mountain—not to come up—do not let the priests break through to come up. God's message was that the people learn to respect Him and reverence Him; respect the holiness of His presence on Mount Sinai. He is to be set apart and they are to be set apart unto Him. Moses went down and communicated these boundaries to the people again. In Chapter 19, a total of three times (v3, 8, 20), Moses went up the mountain to see God; then came back down to talk to the people. When Moses descended this time, he was to return with Aaron after talking to the people. Their leadership was thereby confirmed.

LESSON:

Exodus 20:1-7 Honoring God

God is about to put those laws on tablets of stone so that the people can see them and fear God. This was a holy God and one approached Him only to the degree that He told them to approach Him. There were boundaries around that mountain that had smoke and fire and thunder and flashes of lightening. Israel lived 400 years in Egypt, a nation which had many gods, and the Israelites continued to attempt to worship them. The first four commandments all deal with man's relationship with God. The last six commandments deal with man's relationship with man.

^{v1}Then God spoke:

Verse 1 informs us that God not only engraved the commandments on stone, but that He spoke these words in Israel's hearing. These commands, God wants us to know, came directly from God. The first commandment stresses God's complete uniqueness.

^{v2}**I am the Lord thy God**--This is a preface to the Ten Commandments.

²**Verse 2** distinguishes the God of the Israelites from all of the gods which are about to be forbidden. God's actions in history on Israel's behalf are the basis for all that He is about to command.

- God *first* reminds Israel that He is the God who has acted in history, altering the course of world history in order to fulfill His promise to Abraham and the patriarchs, and to deliver Israel from her bondage in Egypt. No other gods control history. They, in the words of the prophets, are carried by men, they do not carry men.
- *Second*, God acted in history for Israel's specific benefit and blessing. God delivered Israel, and made them His own people.

³**THE REASONS WHY GOD GAVE ISRAEL THE LAW ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. To reveal His glory and Holiness – Deut. 5:22-28
2. To reveal man's sinfulness – Rom. 7:7, 13; 1 Tim. 1:9; James 1:22-25.
3. To mark Israel as His chosen and to separate them from the heathen – Psa. 147:19-20; Eph. 2:11-17; Acts 15.
4. To give Israel a standard for godly living – Deut. 4:1ff; 5:29.
5. To prepare Israel for the coming of Christ – Gal. 5:24.
6. To illustrate in type and ceremony the Person and ministry of Christ – Heb. 10:1.

THE LAW IS:

1. A Mirror – James 1:22-25 – It reveals man's sins.
2. A Yoke – It brings bondage since the flesh finds it impossible to keep – Acts 15:10; Gal. 5:1; Rom. 8:3.
3. A Schoolmaster – Points men to Jesus – Gal. 3:23-4:7.
4. A Shadow – Contrasted with the reality and fulfillment found in Jesus – Heb. 10:1; Col. 2:14-17.

THE LAW WAS UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH CERTAIN THINGS:

1. Make anyone perfect – Heb. 7:11-19; 10:1-2.
2. Justify from sin – Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 3:20-28.
3. Give righteousness – Gal. 2:21.
4. Give peace – Heb. 9:9.
5. Give life – Gal. 3:21.

The Law was merely a guideline for living that possessed no saving power.

(III. Many in our day desire the bondage of the Law over the freedom found in Jesus.)

^{v3}**Thou shalt have no other gods before me**

V3 ⁴WHO'S FIRST?

We need to know who is in first place in our lives. This issue must be settled! If anyone, or anything, occupies first place in our lives ahead of God, then our lives are out of control and out of balance. This is the gist of the 1st Commandment. God wants to tell us who must be first if our lives are to be everything they can be for His glory.

GOD'S REQUIREMENT

A. God's requirement is very simple. He demands to be in first place in every area of our lives. He knows that all men will have a God of some sort, and He demands that it be Himself.

(III. Ex. 34:14 – Jealous – God alone is worthy of our love and devotion. He will allow no interferers.) Some would ask, "Well, isn't there only One God?" Yes, there is only One true God, but there are many false gods!"

B. Man, by nature, is a religious creature. He will find someone, or something, to give his worship to. Often, things and people occupy first place in our lives. Notice some things we elevate to the status of god will top first in our lives. The point is:

1. to have other gods is always to forsake God
2. to have other gods is evidence of one's lack of faith in God

The first and second commandments are similar in that both deal with the matter of Israel's worship. They are distinct in that the first commandment has restrictions pertaining to the object of worship (God alone), while the second has restrictions regarding the means of worship. The second commandment prohibits worship by means of "visual aids," more commonly known as idols.

^{v4}**Thou shalt not make . . . any graven image . . .** ^{v5}**thou shalt not bow down thyself to them**

V4-6 ⁵THE RESTRICTION OF DEITY

2nd Commandment: People made carvings, statues, pictures, etc. to help them visualize who or what they were worshiping. It is sad that even today, a huge section of the church who claim to worship the true and living God bow down to statues of Jesus, and His mother Mary.

- A. **A Command To Follow** – God says, in no uncertain terms, that producing an image intended to receive worship is forbidden!
- B. **A Custom To Flee** –
(III. When a person needs some image or representation of God to assist in worship, it is a sure indicator of a lack in the spiritual life of that individual.)
- C. **A Change To Fix Our Hearts On** –
(III. Idolaters genuinely believe that their idols are truly god. This is proven by their bowing to it, praying to it, sacrificing to it, giving to it, etc).
(III. Many even hold installation ceremonies where the deity is invited into the idol to take up residence.) You and I should resolve that we will allow no image to take the place of God in our hearts!
- D. **A Commitment To Forbid The Foolish and Vain Activity** –
 1. an idol is demeaning to God
 2. an idol is contrary to the nature of faith
 3. an idol is contrary to God's goal for worship

The consequences for violating the second commandment are severe: *"... visiting the iniquity of the father on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me."* We do of course see biblically that "the sins of fathers become sins of the sons."

(III Isaac fell into the sin of his father Abraham. King Ahaziah sinned in the way of his father King Ahab. King Abijam sinned in the way of his father King Rehoboam. Study after study shows that people are susceptible to fall into sinful addictions and behaviors that their parents committed. The son sins in the same manner as his father. Why is that? These "*sins of the father*" might be transferred in a spiritual way, as Adam's sinfulness was passed to all mankind. They might be also transferred in a biological way, through genetic tendencies. Or they're just transferred by example of the father's ways - the children simply watch and imitate). God visits iniquity upon people that reject and hate Him. "*And shews mercy unto thousands of them that love me...*"

⁶THE REASON FOR THE DEMAND

- A. **Their Inferior Nature** – No matter how hard man tries, he can never properly represent God. After all, God is a Spirit – John 4:24. Man, in his zeal to worship and honor God, has sought to flatter Him by producing images of Him. However, the Almighty cannot be limited to stone, wood, plastic or some paint on canvas. As hard as man might try, he can never properly depict God. No matter what form that image might take, it will always be inferior to the True and Living God –
(III. Psa. 115:5-8; Jer. 10:1-7; Rom. 1:23.)
(III. Men usually become like the thing they worship.)
- B. **Their Insidious Nature** –
(III. Insidious is a fifty cent word that means "*crafty*.") God's desire for man is that every man enters into a living, personal relationship with Himself. He doesn't want us giving our devotion to a false god. He wants us to be intimate with Him. You see, we do not need some image to aid us in our worship of God. We have a Person on the inside who will guide us in our worship of God – John 14:16; 16:13.
(III. God is also well aware of the fact that behind any idol there is a very real devil, who is looking for souls to claim for Hell!)
- C. **Their Invading Nature** – According to verse 5, God is a jealous God. The Israelites were God's people and He would tolerate no interferers in that relationship.
(III. Imagine a man flirting with another woman in the presence of his wife!) God will have no idol, no image, no person or thing taking His rightful place on the throne of our hearts.
(III. Isa. 45:5) We must search our hearts and lives to see if we have removed every thing that would insert itself ahead of God in our lives.

THE RESULTS OF DISOBEDIENCE:

- A. **The Burden Of God's Judgment** – When we elevate any thing or anyone to the place of God, we will find out too late that neither it, nor they, will be able to protect us from the awesome wrath of God – Psa. 59:8.
(III. The Contest: The Philistine god Dagon in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant – 1 Sam. 5:1-5). Judgment will always pursue the idolater.
- B. **The Blight On Succeeding Generations** – (III. Patterns of abuse, walk, talk, etc.) God is not saying that He will punish the children for the parent's sins, Deut. 24:16; Ezek. 18:19-32. He is saying that sin leaves its mark on our children! Children tend to resemble the environment they are exposed to. Often, it takes generations to break the cycle established by the parent. (III. The contrast between judgment and mercy – verse 6! III. Rom. 5:20!)

^{v7}Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain

V7 ⁷We have come to the 3rd Commandment. Sadly, too many it seems, use God's name as no more than a curse word; a by-word they can throw around at will. It deals with something far more serious than just a filthy mouth. This Commandment discusses the misuse, or profane use of God's Holy Name. God's Name is a Holy Name! It isn't to be used unless it is used in connection with His praise or His proclamation.

- A. ²The warnings in the Scriptures concerning oaths and swearing have to do with attaching God's holy name to false statements. People say, "I swear to God this is the truth..." "As God is my witness..." "...So help me God..." It wasn't swearing by God's name that was the problem...it was swearing falsely. We desecrate His name through profanity, through dishonesty, etc, and through insincerity.
- B. When we "*say*" prayers instead of "praying" prayers...we desecrate His name. When we sing "*O how I love Jesus*" but we really don't...; "*I surrender all*", but we really won't.
- C. God commands us not to use His name in vain. The word "*vain*" is the Hebrew word "*shav*." It has a variety of translations including emptiness, vanity, falsehood, nothingness, emptiness of speech, lying, and worthlessness.
(III. To misuse God's name means literally, "*to lift it up to or attach it to emptiness*"). They might say, "Oh G-d!" Or "J-sus!" or "J-sus Chri-st!" "GD-it." No one is to use the Lord's name in this manner.

The Adoration Of God's Name – ³God is the one who inhabits eternity. He is the eternal being. His name is the transcendent, the eternal, the continuously present, and the holy pronouncement of "I AM." The name of God is Holy because it is self given. It comes from God's own mouth and God is holy. Therefore, the name is holy. He disclosed His own name.

- A. God's Name is to be held in extreme reverence and adoration). It is only the Christian, who truly has the right to use God's name. Why? Because of the Cross—Because of the Cross we have access to the throne.
(III. Psa. 66:2; Psa. 34:3; Psa. 29:2; Matt. 6:9)
- B. Since God's name is the expression of His Excellent Character, His Unsearchable Holiness, His Immeasurable Grace, and His Incomprehensible Majesty, let it never come from our lips without conveying something of those qualities to others--to the honor and glory of His name, we honor God.

Exodus 20:8-11 Honoring the Sabbath

^{v8}Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

V8-11 This is the 4th Commandment: Each seventh day belonged to the Lord and would not be a work day but one set apart (*i.e. holy*) for rest and for time devoted to the worship of Yahweh. The term "*Sabbath*" is derived from "*to rest or cease from work*." Keeping the Sabbath involves much more than abstinence from labor. It requires the acknowledgment of the sacredness, the sanctity, of this day because of God's deeds and declaration. ⁴To set aside one day of the week for rest and worship is not just convenient, good for you, and expedient; it is God's will, His commandment. To neglect it is sin. Do not let the legalistic excesses of either First-Day or Seventh-Day sabbatarians keep you from seeing this.

⁸**SUNDAY IS A DAY OF REST**

- A. **Man's Labor Is Crucial** – **V 9** – Contrary to popular belief, work is not a part of the curse! Before man sinned, he was given work to do, Gen. 2:15. It is a privilege! Work and the ability to work, are blessings from the hand of the Heavenly Father!
- B. **Man's Lull Is Commanded** – **V10** – Just as man is expected to work; man is also expected to rest! Our bodies were never designed to work constantly, but we were made to have a season of rest. The purpose in God's command is to allow man time to refresh his body for the six days of work that are ahead. God didn't give this Commandment to interfere with our pleasure, but to insure our health!
(III. T. Dewitt Talmadge – "Our bodies are seven day clocks and they need to be wound up, and if they are not wound up, they will run down into the grave.")
(III. Today, we are not under the bondage of the Law, but under the liberty of grace! However, God still expects us to maintain that one day from seven of Sabbath rest for His glory and your health.

SUNDAY IS A DAY OF REFLECTION

- A. **Reflection On God's Pattern** – **V 8, 11** – "Remember" The Israelites are challenged to "bring to mind" the pattern God Himself set forth for them regarding the rest of the Sabbath). (III. "Sabbath = Rest, cessation).

² <http://www.brandonweb.com/sermons/sermonpages/exodus11.htm>

³ <http://www.carm.org/exodus-207-do-not-take-name-lord-vain>

⁴ http://doulomen.tripod.com/sermons/Ex20_8-11.htm

When God finished His great work in Creation, He paused to rest and reflect upon all that He had done, Gen. 2:2. We know He didn't need the rest, yet He knows we do! Therefore He Himself set the pattern that we are to follow.

- B. **Reflection On God's Provisions** – Sunday is a great day for us to step back from life and look at all the blessings we have enjoyed over the last six days. This practice will keep us current in our praise and in our thanksgiving – 1 Thes 5:18; Eph. 5:20.
- C. **Reflection On God's Promises** – As we contemplate the coming work week, we need to call to mind God's promises for our lives. Remembering that regardless of where we go, He will be with us – Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5. No matter what we face, He will constantly be meeting our needs – Phil. 4:19. In every task, He will continually strengthen us for the job – Phil. 4:13. Sunday is an excellent day to begin preparing our spirit, heart and mind for the week ahead!

SUNDAY IS A DAY OF RENEWAL

- A. **Renewal Of Commitment** – **V 8, 11** God has declared this day to be a holy day. He expected man to keep this day holy. God hasn't changed His mind! He still expects man to keep 1 out of 7 for His glory and honor! (III. Rom. 14:5-8). (III. The Jews took this Commandment very seriously. Dr. Ken Trivette shares the following insights concerning the Jewish mindset – "The observance of the Sabbath was strictly observed and strictly enforced. Whereas, they took God's command to rest on the Sabbath seriously, as the years passed they added their own rules and regulations about the Sabbath. There were approximately 1,521 things that were not permissible on the Sabbath. For example:
 - (III. you could not rescue a drowning person on the Sabbath).
 - (III. Untying knots that needed only one hand was permissible, but if two hands were required, it was forbidden).
 - (III. If a man's ox fell into the ditch, he could pull it out, but if the man fell in, he had to stay there).
 - (III. One could take a sup of vinegar for food, but if he took a sup in order to help his aching toothache, he had broken the Sabbath).
 - (III. If a man was bitten by a flea on the Sabbath, he had to allow the flea to keep on biting. If he tried to stop the flea from biting or killed it, he was guilty of hunting on the Sabbath").

Through the years, there have been those who observed the Sabbath (or Sunday) in a very strict manner. Some people would not sweep or dust the house, make the beds, or allow any food to be cooked on the Lord's Day. Some of the restrictions that have been observed and enforced concerning the Lord's Day are somewhat humorous. In Scotland in the 17th century, one poor fellow was hailed into court for smiling on the Sabbath.) The Lord's Day is a wonderful time for His people to renew their commitment to follow Him and to follow His commandments. Are you keeping His day holy?

- B. **Renewal Of Conscience** – All week, the world, the flesh and the devil battle against the spirit. Sunday affords us the privilege of coming apart and refreshing our lives through Fellowship – Sunday is time for believers to come together as they have for 2,000 years.
 - a. Adoration – Of a risen Lord – 1 Cor. 11:20-25)
 - b. Celebration – Of a returning Lord – 1 Cor. 11:26
 - c. Examination – Of a rebellious heart – 1 Cor. 11:28

There is something special about getting together with the saints and attending worship.

SUMMARY:

⁵The Israelites left Egypt and on the third month they came to the wilderness of Mt. Sinai. There they set up their tents and made camp facing Mt Sinai. Then on the mountain the Lord gave through Moses His commandments, which the people were supposed to keep. These commandments are known as "The Ten Commandments." I [Am] **The Lord Your God** the God who led you from the land of Egypt, the house of slaves," (verse two). Then The Ten Commandments come next. There are only four commandments in this lesson.

Before the Lord gave them His commandments, they had to consecrate themselves unto Him. They had to be prepared for what He was about to give them. So, how then does a person live in response to God's grace? An appropriate response to God's grace is that we love God and we will obey Him. So, how should we love God? *First*, the Lord said, "**There shall not be to you any other gods beside me,**" (verse three). God is not half-hearted about His relationship with His people, [but] says "I am your God." And He takes the ones to whom He speaks that message as totally His own. He is not willing to hand them over to the power of any other person [or thing]. So,

⁵ <http://www.j-e-s-u-s.org/english/2002/e020602.htm>

when we love God it is the same as delivering ourselves up to only the power of God and into His hands. That is indeed the true worship of God.

Secondly, the Lord said, "**You shall not fashion any image,**" (verse four). In verse five, image is defined as an image that becomes an object of worship to which we bow down and serve. It is an image used for worship. The Lord says not to build them. The construction of divine images is nothing but an activity that puts a limitation on God. It is equivalent to an act that puts God under human ideals or puts God under human ownership and power. When humans bow down before an image of a god as expressed according to human fancy, they are no longer in God's presence. They are bowing down to a godless thing.

Thirdly, the Lord says, "**You shall not recite the name of the Lord your God recklessly,**" (verse seven), meaning "To recite recklessly, without authority, arbitrarily, indiscriminately, in vain" means magical applications of the name of the Lord. To put it another way, it means that we should not try to use the Lord's power any way we want just for ourselves. What the Lord is looking for is a face-to-face personal relationship as seen in the words "I" and "you."

Now the *fourth* commandment: "**Remember the Sabbath and make it holy,**" (verse eight). What the Bible calls the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week. It is a set day. Thus, the fourth command has to do with "*time*." In having to do with time, it means that it directly concerns our specific every day lives. The three commandments that we've already looked at state that in worshipping God properly, we are to turn ourselves over into the hands of God and only into his hands and none other. The Lord said, "*Make this holy!*" Make it holy is the same as saying, make it God's! We make one day out of seven, God's alone. This is linked directly to living as God's people. If we don't make one day of seven for God, then in using all the time of those seven days based on our own fleshly will and convenience, or in living our lives racking up such [selfish] hours like that can we really claim that "*I love God. I am His?*" I don't think we can. This matter of loving God and living a life of worshipping Him is quite specific, dealing with the very hours of time in which we live. The word "*Sabbath*" is derived from the word "*stop*." This is not a command to "*move*" but to "*stop*." It is not a command to "*work*", but to "*rest*." The reason we can stop is because God is working ahead of us. If we can rest, it is because God is already at work for us. The purpose of the law was to demonstrate God's complete holiness; and man's total inability to measure up, thus pointing to man's need for a Savior.

APPLICATION:

Moses wanted the Israelites to understand that morality began with God. All things begin with God. The same reason applies to those of us in Christ, because Christ came to show us the Father. He came to show us how to live according to the moral precepts of the law. Our future hope of heaven was made possible because of what God did for the Israelites in Egypt. We must realize that our obedience is not without the promised blessings of God. Jesus promises blessing to the faithful. Putting God first is the basis of all morality and the very basis of all human relationships. How we behave is the only way we have of seeing ourselves in relationship to God. If we fail to exalt God in our lives, there will be no permanent change. Change begins with honoring God and then we can honor the Sabbath. Keep His day as a day holy unto the Lord.

¹ Exodus Kay Lecture Lesson 7: Ch's 19-20 Why the Commandments When I Can't Keep Them?

² <http://bible.org/seriespage/israel's-worship-exodus-201-7>

³ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus_20_1-17.htm

⁴ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/ex20_1-3.htm

⁵ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/ex20_4-6.htm

⁶ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus_20_1-17.htm

⁷ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus_20_7.htm

⁸ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus_20_8.htm