

# LESSON 12

## CHAPTER 22. “Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day”

Regulative Principle (Puritan): Only what God has expressly commanded

Normative Principle (Anglican): Anything except what is expressly forbidden

The Fourth Commandment Debate: Is there a Christian Sabbath Law?

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” versus “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

### I. Paragraph 1: The duty and way of worship

- A. The duty to worship God is revealed by general revelation and common sense.
- B. God sets the boundaries of acceptable worship (Regulative)

### II. Paragraph 2: The object of worship

- A. The Holy Trinity is the sole object of Christian worship.
- B. Worship is not to be given to nor can it be conveyed or mediated by: angels, “saints,” or creatures (Popes, animals, “aliens”).
- C. Christ is our only mediator.

### III. Paragraphs 3 & 4: Prayer is worship

- A. Prayer is required of all men, but only made acceptable in the name of Christ by the power of the Spirit.
  - 1. This is not to say that every prayer must end with “in Jesus name.”
  - 2. The issue is that, in your understanding, you are praying to Jesus Christ.
- B. Prayer should be in accord with God’s revealed will and it should demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit.
- C. Corporate prayer should be in a known tongue.
- D. Prayers for the living, both saved and unsaved, are appropriate.
- E. Prayers should not be made for the dead or for those who have committed the “unpardonable” sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

### IV. Paragraph 5: Appropriate forms of worship: must have understanding, faith and reverence

- A. Scripture reading, preaching, singing psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, baptism, Lord’s supper, solemn humiliation and fastings, and thanksgivings on special occasions.

V. Paragraph 6: The venue of worship: spiritual, not physical

- A. OT worship was tied to the temple, observed at specific times, and in specific ways, but in the NT dispensation, the Christian is a priest and the temple, and worship is continuous.
- B. Even though we worship privately, we must not neglect corporate worship.

VI. Paragraph 7: The Christian Sabbath: the Lord's Day

- A. The Hebdomadal Cycle: One day of worshipful rest in seven, a perpetual obligation.
- B. OT weekly Sabbath on the last day of the week (Saturday).
- C. NT weekly Sabbath (Sunday)

VII. Paragraph 8: The Lord's Day Observance: A holy rest

- A. Prepare spiritually and physically to observe the day.
- B. Cessation from secular employments and common amusements.
- C. The whole day spent in works of piety, necessity, and mercy.

Questions for discussion:

What are the hazards of worshipping by the normative principle?

What are the hazards of worshipping by the regulative principle?

Which principle has the best support of Scripture?

Do Christians sin when they patronize businesses on Sunday?

Do Christians sin who work on Sunday or operate businesses on Sunday?

By being in Christ, have Christians entered into a perpetual Sabbath rest?

Does it matter what day of the week we choose for corporate worship?

Book Suggestions:

Walter Chantry, *Call the Sabbath a Delight*

John Owen, *Commentary on Hebrews*, Vol 2, Part V. pgs 261-460.

Joseph A. Pipa, *The Lord's Day*

Bruce A. Ray, *Celebrating the Sabbath*

John Bunyan, "Questions about the Nature and Perpetuity of the Seventh Day Sabbath" in *The Works of John Bunyan*, Vol. 2, pgs. 359-371.