

A number of expositors have held that such a distinction should be made, and in the following manner:

The ceremonial dimension of the Fourth Commandment includes at least three emphases:

- [1] the specific designation of the seventh day of the week, as opposed to some other day
- [2] some of the prohibitions related to Sabbath observance (for example, against lighting a fire, as given in Exodus 35:13)
- [3] the strictness of observance imposed on the Israelites, especially as shown by the establishment of civil penalties for sabbath violation

The moral dimension of the Fourth Commandment includes at least two emphases:

- [1] the principle that one day in seven (not necessarily a particular day) was to be set apart for the Lord
- [2] the principle that the purposes for which God established the sabbath were to be fulfilled (these were basically three: cessation of man's occupational work, convocation of God's worshippers, and commemoration of God's works)

These expositors draw the conclusion: the ceremonial dimension of the Fourth Commandment was temporary, and was abolished along with the continued required observance of the ceremonial dimension of the Mosaic Law; the moral dimension of the Fourth Commandment is permanent, and continues to be a standard of right and wrong conduct.

- [2] Arguments for retention of that which is moral and permanent, and exclusion of that which is ceremonial and temporary
  - [a] It would seem strange if this Commandment, set in the midst of the summary statement of the moral aspect of the Mosaic Law, should be purely ceremonial and temporary
  - [b] The principle of one day in seven is retained in the New Testament (the change from the seventh to the first day is a purely ceremonial change)

I Corinthians 16:2 -- "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Revelation 1:10 -- "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet."

Acts 20:7 -- "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."

- [c] The Lord Jesus states the principle of rest in a way that indicates that it continues to have force as long as man continues to need it.