

Reformation: The Sabbath

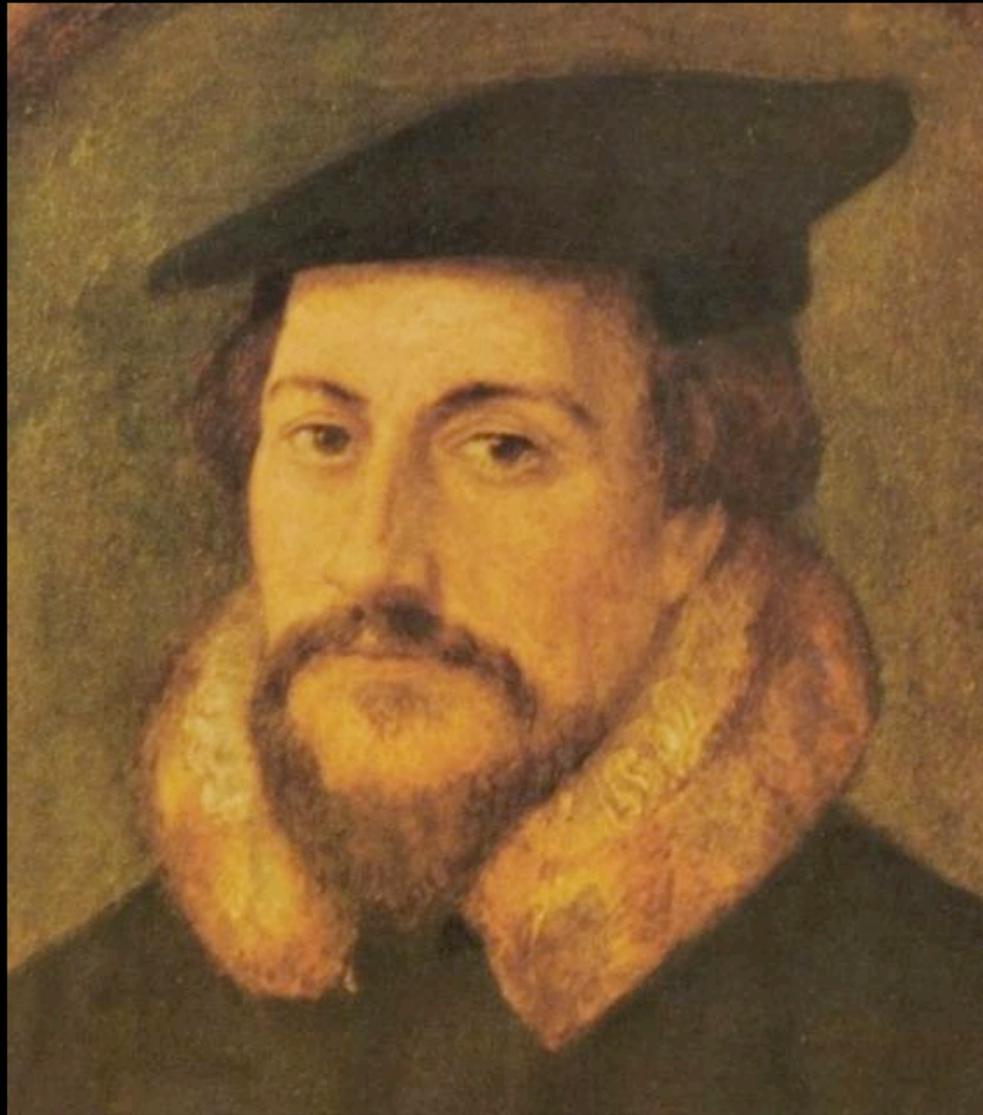
Completing the Work Begun

Martin Luther



- “This commandment... does not concern us Christians; for it is altogether an external matter, like the other ordinances of the Old Testament.”

John Calvin



- Did not see Sunday as the biblical Sabbath, or understand there to be any requirement for keeping a Sabbath. Sunday observance was a matter of church organization and order.

Andreas Bodenstein von Carlstadt



- “Sabbath keeping has a double object; in obedience we must rest in peace and pray to God for all holiness and wait to receive it.
"This rest is realized in man's recognition that holiness comes from no other source than Christ and that we must be holy as God is holy."

England

- Bear Baiting - January 1583
- Millenary Petition - 1603
- Book of Sports - 1617



Three Views of Sabbath-keeping

- Reformers:
No Sabbath command is binding, since churches must convene on a convenient day, Sunday is an appropriate custom.
- Puritans:
Sunday should be kept as the biblical Sabbath, a holy day, according to the commandment.
- Sabbatarians:
The Seventh-day is the Sabbath, and is still binding, to be kept holy according to the commandment.

Dorothy Traske



- John and Dorothy Traske, imprisoned in 1617.
- John recanted in 1619.
- Dorothy never recanted, and died in prison 15+ years later.

James Ockford



- Wrote *The Doctrine of the Fourth Commandment Deformed by Popery* in 1650.
- The mayor of Salisbury seized a copy and sent it to Parliament.
- “Resolved by Parliament, that all the printed copies of the said books be burnt.”

Peter Chamberlen



- Physician to English kings and queens.
- “The triple-crowned little-horn changer of times and laws.”
- “As for his religion was a Christian keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, being baptized about the year 1648, and keeping the 7th day for the Sabbath above 32 years.”

The Purpose of the Sabbath

- “They should devote their time and energies to spiritual exercises, that the divine influence resting upon the Sabbath may attend them through the week. Of all the days in the week, none are so favorable for devotional thoughts and feelings as the Sabbath.”

Gospel Workers, p. 209.

The Purpose of the Sabbath

- “No other institution which was committed to the Jews tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath. God designed that its observance should designate them as His worshipers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true God. But in order to keep the Sabbath holy, men must themselves be holy. Through faith they must become partakers of the righteousness of Christ. When the command was given to Israel, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," the Lord said also to them, "Ye shall be holy men unto Me." Ex. 20:8; 22:31. Only thus could the Sabbath distinguish Israel as the worshipers of God.”

Desire of Ages, p. 283.

Biblical Principles

- Even to even – Leviticus 23:32
- Preparation of food – Exodus 16:23
- Preparation of clothes – Exodus 19:10, 11
- Cessation of business – Nehemiah 13:15-21
- Cessation of secular conversation – Isaiah 58:12-14
- Corporate worship - Luke 4:16; Acts 13:42, 44; Revelation 1:10; Hebrews 10:25

Two Basic Principles

#1 – Because the hours of the Sabbath are blessed for *spiritual thought*, anything secular robs us of time with Him.

#2 – Because the Sabbath is when we meet the holy Creator God, our hearts should be cleansed and purified to enter His presence. Our outward surroundings should be illustrative of our inward condition.

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EGW's Application of Principles

“God requires that His holy day be as sacredly observed now as in the time of Israel. The command given to the Hebrews should be regarded by all Christians as an injunction from Jehovah to them. The day before the Sabbath should be made a day of preparation, that everything may be in readiness for its sacred hours. In no case should our own business be allowed to encroach upon holy time. God has directed that the sick and suffering be cared for; the labor required to make them comfortable is a work of mercy, and no violation of the Sabbath; but all unnecessary work should be avoided.

EGW's Application of Principles

“Many carelessly put off till the beginning of the Sabbath little things that might have been done on the day of preparation. This should not be. Work that is neglected until the beginning of the Sabbath should remain undone until it is past. This course might help the memory of these thoughtless ones, and make them careful to do their own work on the six working days.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 296.

EGW's Application of Principles

“Work that is neglected until the beginning of the Sabbath should remain undone until it is past.”

Principle: You'll be less likely to forget next time.

EGW's Application of Principles

The violation of the fourth commandment is not confined to the preparation of food. Many carelessly put off blacking their boots, and shaving, until after the beginning of the Sabbath. This should not be. If any neglect to do such work on a working day, they should have respect enough for God's holy time to let their beards remain unshaven, their boots rough and brown, until the Sabbath is past. This might help their memory, and make them more careful to do their own work on the six working days.

Signs of the Times, May 25, 1882.

EGW's Application of Principles

On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule you can do it. The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.

Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 355.

What TO DO on the Sabbath

- Devotional thought
- Corporate worship
- Sharing your faith
- Enjoyment of nature

“During a portion of the day, all should have an opportunity to be out of doors. How can children receive a more correct knowledge of God, and their minds be better impressed, than in spending a portion of their time out of doors, not in play, but in company with their parents? Let their young minds be associated with God in the beautiful scenery of nature, let their attention be called to the tokens of His love to man in His created works, and they will be attracted and interested. They will not be in danger of associating the character of God with everything that is stern and severe; but as they view the beautiful things which He has created for the happiness of man, they will be led to regard Him as a tender, loving Father.

“They will see that His prohibitions and injunctions are not made merely to show His power and authority, but that He has the happiness of His children in view. As the character of God puts on the aspect of love, benevolence, beauty, and attraction, they are drawn to love Him. You can direct their minds to the lovely birds making the air musical with their happy songs, to the spires of grass, and the gloriously tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air. All these proclaim the love and skill of the heavenly Artist, and show forth the glory of God.”

Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 583.

What TO DO on the Sabbath

- Devotional thought
- Corporate worship
- Sharing your faith
- Enjoyment of nature
- Helping others
- Strengthening family relationships