

## Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

### Women's Thursday Bible Class - #31

Prayer

Review -

today finishing up #Q 119-121 on the 4th Commandment, completing the first Table of the Moral Law  
Read it in Deut. 5:12-15

#### **Q. 119 What are the sins forbidden in the fourth commandment?**

A. The sins forbidden in the fourth commandment are all **omissions** of the duties required, all **careless, negligent and unprofitable** performing of them, and being **weary** of them; all profaning the day by **idleness**, and doing that which is in itself sinful, and by all needless works, words, and thoughts, about our worldly employments and recreations.

By implication, since we are commanded to work, what would be a sin?

Jer. 17:24,27

Ezekiel. 22:8,26 despising, disregarding

Judah is denounced for a litany of sins, that are rightly recompensed by God .Ezekiel 33:30-32  
careless, negligent, certainly not spiritual devotion, therefore unprofitable

Amos 8:5 when will this be over so I .....can do my pleasure

Mal. 1:13

I Tim. 5:13; Mat. 12:36; Eccl. 10:18 and Prov. 31:27

Holy resting is not idleness

Could repenting and reclaiming the Lord's Day for the priority of God's worship result in revival and God relenting of the judgment we see all around us?

Some thoughts-

#### **Q. 120 What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment, the more to enforce it?**

A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment, the more to enforce it, are taken from the **equity** of it, God allowing us six days of seven for our own affairs, and reserving but one for

himself, in these words, "six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work,; from God's challenging a **special propriety** in that day, "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, ; from the **example of God** who in six days made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them and rested the seventh day, ; and **from the blessing** which God put upon that day, not only sanctifying it to be a day for his service, but in ordaining it to be a means of blessing to us in our sanctifying it, ; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Exod. 20:8-11

Exod. 31:15,17 and Lev. 23:3

What are the 4 reasons annexed to it?

What is meant by-

Equity- fairness

Propriety- appropriate claim to, ownership

Read Heb. 4:9-10 what meaning is involved in God resting on the Sabbath after his work of creation?

Rev. 4:8 and 21:25

So how can the Sabbath be thought to be only Jewish ?

What is the blessing which God placed upon the Sabbath?

Vos - " in the first place, the Sabbath day is blessed by being set apart as a day for God 's service. In the second place, it is an appointed means of blessing to us, and we will find it so if we observe it as God intended, in a reverent, conscientious and spiritual manner. "

### **Q. 121 Why is the word Remember set in the beginning of the fourth commandment?**

A. The word **Remember** is set in the beginning of the fourth commandment partly because of the **great benefits** of remembering it, and being thereby helped in our preparation to keep it, and ,in keeping it, better to keep all the rest of the commandments, and to continue a thankful remembrance of the two great benefits of creation and redemption, which contain a short abridgment of religion { defined as duty to God}; and partly, because **we are very ready to forget it**, for that there is less light of nature for it, and yet it restraineth our natural liberty in

things that are at other times lawful; that it cometh but once in seven days, and many worldly businesses come in between, and too often take our minds from thinking of it, either to prepare for it, or to sanctify it; and that Satan with his instruments much labors to blot out the glory, and even the memory of it, to bring in all irreligion and impiety.

Why do you think it is so easy to forget the Lord's Day?

Only in Ex. 20:8

Preparation - Ex. 16:23 manna/ Luke 23:54-56 women and spices for Jesus' body before the Sabbath/ Neh. 13:19 - Nehemiah's actions help others to obey

Ps. 92:13-14 ( a psalm or song for the Sabbath)

Neh. 9:13-14

Ex. 34:21

Why does Satan, with his servants, try so hard to break down and destroy the Sabbath day? ( by implication, anything God has instituted....)- creation, marriage,family, rightful authority....

Lam. 1:7

Jer. 17:21-23

Neh. 13:15-23

Eph. 6:10-22

II Cor. 10:3-5

Here are **some questions** I got from a pastor about trying to make personal determinations of how to practice focusing on reserving the Lord's Day.

**\*Is it really necessary?**

**\*Does it promote my neighbors good?**

**\*Does it promote the purpose of the day?**

I will leave you with this as I have tried to argue for the benefit of the Lord's Day-as envisioned by the Westminster divines in the Presbyterian Standards.

In our present day culture , even the church culture, that largely disregards the Sabbath - a culture drowning, suffocating , exhausted in the relentless busyness, noise , information barrage.... As we are hearing about God's wisdom in the Proverbs, can we not see and agree with the wisdom of God in the Fourth commandment, in giving us a special day as an ordained means of blessing. Refreshment, recharge, rest, refocus for the remainder of our week?

**Next week:** Next week will be our last class for the spring. If agreed on by class, bring a lunch to eat after class, so we can fellowship together.

I am undecided on the direction for class next week. Your thoughts?

We may start on Q. 122 and go to an introduction to commandment #5- beginning the second table of the Moral law - or- we may do a review of all we have done and deal with questions.