

of mercy—helping the sick, cheering the sad, teaching the ignorant. But above all, is to be day for *(b) Worship*. This always been so with Jews and Christians. Day for prayer, praise, reading God's Word, preparing for heaven. For this have example of Christ Himself. "A Sabbath well spent brings a week of content." Best preparation possible for heaven.

LESSON. *There remaineth a rest for the people of God.*

PART II.

INTRODUCTION. Ask a few questions on the last lesson. What did we learn from fourth Commandment? Sabbath day for rest and worship. The day changed by early Christians from the seventh to the first. Why? What works may be done on Sunday? So far, only half the Commandment; the other half to-day. Not only *rest* on Sabbath, but *work* on other six days.

I. THE DUTY ENJOINED. *Work*. (Read Ex. xx. 9; Gen. ii. 15-20.) Story of creation well known. World made in six days or periods of time, with intervals between; that is to say, *God worked*. Man made in God's image. (Gen. i. 26.) To be like God. As far as possible to imitate God. Therefore, Adam taught to work. What was he to do in Eden? *(a) Till the earth*. World had been made very good. Made more beautiful by man's work. See this still. Illustrate by flowers; e.g., wild roses, small and scentless; cultivated, become large, beautiful, and full of scent. Compare wild fruits, strawberries, plums, etc., with those grown in gardens. On other hand, gardens neglected become deserts.

Remind how man's sin brought curse on ground. (Gen. iii. 18, 19.) Thorns and thistles began to grow; ground requires much more hard labour now than did at first; work

often full of sorrow; difficult to get daily bread. Still, in all labour is profit (Prov. xiv. 23), and the diligent are made fat. Take as examples Jacob serving under Laban faithfully (Gen. xxx. 30), Joseph with Potiphar (Gen. xxxix. 2, 3), or Ruth gleaning in the fields of Boaz. So, to this day, diligence in work brings reward—honour, success, independence. Another kind of work given to Adam. *(b) Dominion over animals*. He gave names to animals, subdued them. But animals became wild; yet still are subdued by man. Instance lions tamed (James iii. 7), oxen used in ploughing, horses trained for riding and driving, dogs used in sledges, etc. Therefore this Commandment teaches also duty to dumb animals. What does it say about them? They must have day of rest. God cares for cattle as well as His other creatures. So must we. Duty to treat them kindly, let them have needful rest.

II. SIN FORBIDDEN — *Idleness*. (Read Prov. xv. 19; xix. 24; xx. 13.) All these verses, and many others, rebuke sloth. Such people called idle, lazy, sluggards, etc. Commandment tells us to labour or work hard; i.e., not be idle. St. Paul says if a man will not work, shall not eat. Describe the farm of an idle man. Weeds choking corn because not plucked out when small; hedges not mended, letting in cattle; end poverty. So a lazy child will not get up in the morning; careless about learning lessons; grows up in indolent habits; comes to poverty and perhaps shame.

Remind how Christ was eager to learn. Asked questions of doctors, and thus did His Father's business. (Luke ii. 49.) This learning especially the work of all children. Must remember that to do that well is to do their Father's business.

LESSON. *Study to be quiet, and to do your own business.*