



Session 13

Of the Law of God

Session 13 Overview

- ▶ Westminster Confession of Faith
 - Chapter 19 Of the Law of God
- ▶ Catechisms
 - **Q. 91. What is the duty which God requireth of man? (WSC Q.39)**
 - **Q. 92. What did God at first reveal unto man as the rule of his obedience? (WSC Q.40)**
 - Q. 93. What is the moral law?
 - Q. 94. Is there any use of the moral law to man since the fall?
 - Q. 95. Of what use is the moral law to all men?
 - Q. 96. What particular use is there of the moral law to unregenerate men?
 - Q. 97. What special use is there of the moral law to the regenerate?
 - **Q. 98. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended? (WSC Q.41)**
 - Q. 99. What rules are to be observed for the right understanding of the Ten Commandments?
 - Q. 100. What special things are we to consider in the Ten Commandments?
 - **Q. 101. What is the preface to the Ten Commandments? (WSC Q.43)**

“The Covenant of Works” (WCF 19:1)

God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it; and endued him with power and ability to keep it.

- ▶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die." (Gen 2:16-17 NAS)
- ▶ Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law (Rom 5:12-13 NAS)

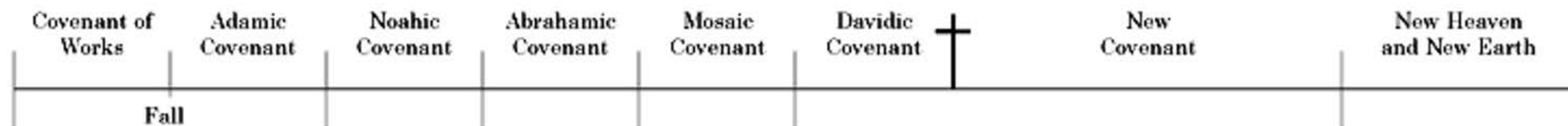
Comparison of Theological Systems

Covenant Theology

Primary objective of God: To develop an "elect People."

Important features:

1. Common "covenant of grace."
2. Singular "People of God."
3. Unity and Uniformity of God's People and Bible.

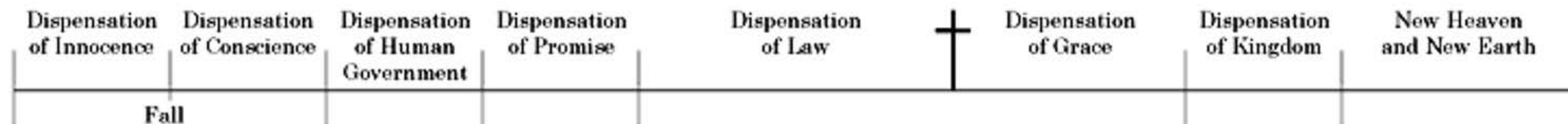


Dispensational Theology

Primary objective of God: To develop a Kingdom for

Important features:

1. Distinct dispensations of time.
2. Dichotomy of Israel and Church.
3. Unconditional covenant of God with Israel.



Christocentric Theology

Primary objective of God: To restore His divine presence in man.

Important features:

1. Messianic promises fulfilled in Christ.
2. All God's activity centers in Christ.
3. God continues to act in grace by the



Q. 91. What is the duty which God requireth of man?

A. The duty which God requireth of man, is **obedience to his revealed will**.

- ▶ The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. (Deu 29:29 NAS Also Mic. 6:8; 1 John 5:2–3;)

Q. 92. What did God at first reveal unto man as the rule of his obedience

A. The rule of obedience revealed to Adam in the estate of innocence, and to all mankind in him, besides a special command **not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, was the moral law.

- ▶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die." (Gen 2:16-17 NAS)
- ▶ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them (Rom 2:14-15 NAS)



Three Parts of the Law

- Moral Law
- Ceremonial Law
- Judicial Law

“The Moral Law” - Ten Commandments (WCF 19:2-3)

II. **This law, after his Fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness;** and, as such, **was delivered by God upon mount Sinai in ten commandments**, and written in two tables;

- “But **one who looks intently at the perfect law**, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, **this man shall be blessed in what he does**” (Jam 1:25 NAS)
- “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for **he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law**. For this, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Rom 13:8-9 NAS)

the **first four commandments containing our duty toward God**, and **the other six our duty to man**. (Also known as the Moral Law)

- And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” And he answered and said, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.**” (Luk 10:26-27 NAS see also Mat 22:36-39)

The Ten Commandments before Moses

Because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws. (Gen 26:5 NAS Also Rom 5:12-13)

- 1st One God: Gen 17:1 I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless
- 2nd Idols: Gen 35:1-5 They gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had
- 3rd Lord's name in vain: Job 1:5 Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. Curse God and die! (Job 2:9 NAS)
- 4th Sabbath: Genesis 2:1-3 God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it,
- 5th Honor Father and Mother: Gen 25:34, 27:36 Esau despised his birthright
- 6th Kill: Gen 9:6 Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man and Gen 4:9-12 Cain and Abel
- 7th Adultery: Gen 20:6 Abimelech -Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.
- 8th Steal: Gen 44:1-17 Benjamin accused of stealing the silver cup.
- 9th Bear false witness: Gen 20:2-9 (Gen 39:7-9) Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." Satan Bore false witness (Gen 3:4,13-14)
- 10th Covet: Gen 3:6 the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise

Q. 93. What is the moral law?

A. The **moral law is the declaration of the will of God to mankind**, directing and binding everyone to personal, perfect, and perpetual conformity and obedience thereunto, in the frame and disposition of the whole man, soul and body, and in performance of all those duties of holiness and righteousness which he oweth to God and man: promising life upon the fulfilling, and threatening death upon the breach of it.

- ▶ "You shall **walk in all the way which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live**, and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess." (Deu 5:33 NAS)
- ▶ "because it is written, **"You shall be holy, for I am holy."**" (1Pe 1:16 NAS)
- ▶ "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because **that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, **so that they are without excuse.**" ... **although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death,**" (Rom 1:18-20, 32 NAS)

Q. 94. Is there any use of the moral law to man since the fall?

A. Although no man, since the fall, can attain to righteousness and life by the moral law; yet **there is great use thereof, as well common to all men, as peculiar either to the unregenerate, or the regenerate.**

- ▶ “Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.” (Gal 2:16 NAS)
- ▶ “Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.” (Rom 3:20 NAS)
- ▶ “But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers” (1Ti 1:8-9 NAS)

All believers and unbelievers (WCF 19:5 - 6)

V. **The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others,** to the obedience thereof; and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve, but much strengthen, this obligation.

VI. **Although true believers be not under the law as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified or condemned; yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life, informing them of the will of God and their duty,** it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; **discovering also the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts, and lives; so as, examining themselves thereby,** they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin; together **with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ,** and the perfection of his obedience. It is likewise of use to the regenerate, to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin, and the threatenings of it serve to show what even their sins deserve, and what afflictions in this life they may expect for them, although freed from the curse thereof threatened in the law. The promises of it, in like manner, show them God's approbation of obedience, and what blessings they may expect upon the performance thereof; although not as due to them by the law as a covenant of works: so as a man's doing good, and refraining from evil, because the law encourageth to the one, and deterreth from the other, is no evidence of his being under the law, and not under grace.

Q. 95. Of what use is the moral law to all men?

A. **The moral law is of use to all men, to inform them of the holy nature and will of God**, and of their duty, binding them to walk accordingly; **to convince them of their disability to keep it**, and of the sinful pollution of their nature, hearts, and lives; **to humble them in the sense of their sin and misery**, and **thereby help them to a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ**, and of the perfection of his obedience.

- ▶ “So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.” (Rom 7:12 NAS)
- ▶ “For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,” (Rom 2:14-15 NAS)

Q. 96. What particular use is there of the moral law to unregenerate men?

A. The moral law is of use to unregenerate men, **to awaken their consciences to flee from wrath to come, and to drive them to Christ**; or, upon their continuance in the estate and way of sin, to leave them inexcusable, and under the curse thereof.

- ▶ “*Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, And sinners will be converted to Thee.*” (Psa 51:13 NAS)
- ▶ But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted. (1Ti 1:8-11 NAS)

Q. 97. What special use is there of the moral law to the regenerate?

A. Although they that are regenerate, and believe in Christ, be delivered from the moral law as a covenant of works, so as thereby they are neither justified nor condemned; yet, besides the general uses thereof common to them with all men, **it is of special use, to show them how much they are bound to Christ for his fulfilling it, and enduring the curse thereof in their stead**, and for their good; and thereby to provoke them to more thankfulness, and to express the same in their greater care to conform themselves thereunto as the rule of their obedience.

- ▶ But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that **He might redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Gal 4:4-5 NAS)
- ▶ And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, **having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us**; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Col 2:13-14 NAS)
- ▶ Blotting out the **handwriting of ordinances** that was against us, (Col 2:14 KJV)
- ▶ But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, **so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter**. (Rom 7:6 NAS)

Ceremonial and Judicial Laws (WCF 19:3–4)

III. **Besides this law, commonly called moral**, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a Church under age, **ceremonial laws**, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly holding forth divers instructions of moral duties. **All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated under the New Testament.**

- ▶ For the Law, **since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things**, can never by the same **sacrifices** year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. (Heb 10:1 NAS)
- ▶ Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- **things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ** (Col 2:16-17 NAS)

IV. To them also, as a body politic, he gave sundry **judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people**, not obliging any other, now, further than the general equity thereof may require.

- ▶ "Now these are the ordinances which you are to set before them... (Exo 21:1-23:19 NAS) (This section of Exodus has the Laws for the Israel commerce, civil and criminal government.)

Besides the daily offerings and worship, the Old Testament had scheduled Festivals and Feasts. These can be found in Leviticus.

Feasts and Festivals in Leviticus were scheduled

Below is a table of Feasts and Festivals found in Leviticus.

Verse	Festival	Hebrew	Time
Lev 23:03	Weekly Sabbath	Shabat	7 th day
Lev 23:05	Passover	Pesach	14 abib dusk past sunset
Lev 23:6-7	First Day of unleavened bread	Chag Matzoth	15 Abib 1 th of 7 Unleaven days
Lev 23:8	Last Day of Unleavened bread	Chag Matzoth	21 Abib last of 7 days
Lev 23:9-14	Offering of the wavesheaf		1 st day of the week
Lev 23:15-22	Feast of First fruits	Chag Savuoth	50 days after wavesheaf
Lev 23:23-25	Feast of Trumpets	Chag Rosh Hashana	1 st day of 7 th month
Lev 23:26-32	Day of Atonement	Chag Yom Kippur	10 day of 7 th Bible month
Lev 23:33-36,39-42	Tabernacle Tabernacles Booths	Chag Succoth	15 day of 7 th Bible month
Lev 23:36-39b	Last Great Day	Chag Simhat	22 day of 7 th Bible month

[Watching for the New Moon in Ancient Days - Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua](#)
[The Jewish Holidays - hebrew4christians.com](#)

These festivals were called "holy convocations" and were a specific covenant with the people of Israel through Moses. (Exo 12:16, Num 28:18-19, Neh 9:13-14)

The Bible teaches that the daily sacrifices would cease

Moses set up the Festivals according to specific times; however, God never intended to keep those festivals permanently.

It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was

“Law and Grace” (WCF 19:7)

VII. **Neither are the forementioned uses of the law contrary to the grace of the gospel**, but do sweetly comply with it: **the Spirit of Christ subduing and enabling the will of man to do that freely and cheerfully**, which the will of God, revealed in the law, requireth to be done.

- ▶ Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (Mat 5:17-18 NAS)
- ▶ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. (Rom 6:14 NAS)
- ▶ But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter. (Rom 7:6 NAS)
- ▶ Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law. (Rom 3:31 NAS)

The Ten Commandments

Q. 98. *Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?*

A. **The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments**, which were delivered by the voice of God upon Mount Sinai, and written by him in two tables of stone; and are recorded in the twentieth chapter of Exodus: **the four first commandments containing our duty to God, and the other six our duty to man.**

- **"So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments;** and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. "And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might perform them in the land where you are going over to possess it. (Deu 4:13-14 NAS)
- And He said to him, **"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'** "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, **'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (Mat 22:37-40 NAS)

Q. 99. What rules are to be observed for the right understanding of the Ten Commandments?

A. For the right understanding of the Ten Commandments, these rules are to be observed:

1. That the **law is perfect**, and **bindeth everyone to full conformity** in the whole man unto the righteousness thereof, and unto entire obedience forever; so as to require the utmost perfection of every duty, and to forbid the least degree of every sin. (No Exemptions)
2. That **it is spiritual**, and so **reacheth the understanding, will, affections, and all other powers of the soul**; as well as words, works, and gestures. (Convicts the inner man)
3. **That one and the same thing, in divers respects, is required or forbidden in several commandments.** (Each command relates to each other)
4. That as, where a duty is commanded, the contrary sin is forbidden; and, **where a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded**: so, where a promise is annexed, the contrary threatening is included; and, where a threatening is annexed, the contrary promise is included. (not kill or preserve life)
5. That **what God forbids, is at no time to be done; what he commands, is always our duty**; and yet every particular duty is not to be done at all times. (To do or not to do)
6. That **under one sin or duty, all of the same kind are forbidden or commanded**; together with all the causes, means, occasions, and appearances thereof, and provocations thereunto. (Kill plants, animals, humans)
7. That **what is forbidden or commanded to ourselves**, we are bound, according to our places, **to endeavor that it may be avoided or performed by others**, according to the duty of their places. (Keep others from breaking them)
8. That in what is commanded to others, we are bound, according to our places and callings, **to be helpful to them**; and **to take heed of partaking with others in what is forbidden them**. (Help and not partake)



Q. 100. *What special things are we to consider in the Ten Commandments?*

A. We are to consider, in the Ten Commandments, the preface, the substance of the commandments themselves, and several reasons annexed to some of them, **the more to enforce them.**

- ▶ **That it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.** (Eph 6:3 NAS)
- ▶ "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. **So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice,** and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." (Deu 30:19-20 NAS)



Q. 101. *What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is contained in these words,

"I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "

Wherein God manifesteth his sovereignty, as being JEHOVAH, the eternal, immutable, and almighty God; having his being in and of himself, and giving being to all his words and works: and that he is a God in covenant, as with Israel of old, so with all his people; who, as he brought them out of their bondage in Egypt, so he delivereth us from our spiritual thralldom; and that therefore we are bound to take him for our God alone, and to keep all his commandments.

- ▶ "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. (Exo 20:2 NAS)

Next Lesson – Session 14

- Westminster Confession of Faith
 - ** Chapter 21 Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day
 - Chapter 22 Of Lawful Oaths and Vows
- Q. 102. What is the sum of the four commandments which contain our duty to God?
- Q. 103. Which is the first commandment? (WSC Q.45)
- Q. 104. What are the duties required in the first commandment? (WSC Q.46)
- Q. 105. What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment? (WSC Q.47)
- Q. 106. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment? (WSC Q.48)
- Q. 107. Which is the second commandment? (WSC Q.49)
- Q. 108. What are the duties required in the second commandment? (WSC Q.50)
- Q. 109. What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment? (WSC Q.51)
- Q. 110. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q.52)
- Q. 111. Which is the third commandment? (WSC Q.53)
- Q. 112. What is required in the third commandment? (WSC Q.54)
- Q. 113. What are the sins forbidden in the third commandment? (WSC Q.55)
- Q. 114. What reasons are annexed to the third commandment? (WSC Q.56)
- Q. 115. Which is the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.57)
- Q. 116. What is required in the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.58)
- Q. 117. How is the sabbath or the Lord's day to be sanctified? (WSC Q.60)
- Q. 118. Why is the charge of keeping the sabbath more specially directed to governors of families, and other superiors?
- Q. 119. What are the sins forbidden in the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.61)
- Q. 120. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q.62)
- Q. 121. Why is the word Remember set in the beginning of the fourth commandment?