

# A Selective Annotated Bibliography on the Sabbath

## I. Very Accessible and Easy to Read (in recommended order)

Chantry, Walter, *Call the Sabbath a Delight*, Carlisle: Banner of Truth Trust. *Written at the popular level, down to earth, practical, and a great introduction. Probably the best contemporary introduction to the sabbath from a practical theology perspective.*

Ryle, John Charles, "The Sabbath," in *Knots Untied* (pp. 313-340), Moscow: Charles Nolan Publishers, 2000 (reprint from 1874). *This essay incorporates Ryle's characteristic "punch" and is both encouraging and challenging to the soul.*

Packer, J.I., "The Puritans and the Lord's Day," in *A Quest for Godliness* (pp. 233-244), Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1990. *This essay expresses well the edifying nature of this command when obeyed out of a heart purified by faith.*

Pipa, Joseph A., *The Lord's Day*, Ross-Shire: Christian Focus, 1997. Another contemporary treatment on the sabbath. *This is probably not as good as Chantry's book above, but Pipa helpfully address a number of practical concerns.*

## II. A Bit More Challenging, Yet Worthy of Notice

Gaffin, Richard, Jr., "A Sabbath Rest Still Awaits the People of God," in *Pressing Toward the Mark* (pp. 33-52), C. Dennison & R. Gamble, eds., Philadelphia: Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 1986. *A good contemporary treatment of Hebrews 4 - "There remains a sabbath rest for the people of God." Dr. Gaffin is an OPC minister and uses this essay to critique Mr. Andrew Lincoln's essay (in From Sabbath to Lord's Day, ed. D.A. Carson) where Mr. Lincoln attempts to prove that Hebrews 4 does not address the weekly sabbath question. Dr. Gaffin's critique has gone unanswered to date.*

## III. Very Challenging Read, Yet Very Thorough and Profitable

Edwards, Jonathan, "The Perpetuity and Change of the Sabbath," in *Works* 2:93-103, Carlisle: Banner of Truth Trust (reprint). *In this short treatment Edwards covers a considerable amount of ground. Edwards does a particularly good job at addressing this subject from a redemptive historical vantage point, showing how the progress of redemptive history from the Old Testament to the New Testament impacts the sabbath command. Well worth the time to read through. Edwards packs a tremendous amount of thought into a relatively small number of pages.*

Owen, John, "Concerning a Day of Sacred Rest," in *Owen's Works* vol. 18, pp. 263-460, Carlisle: Banner of Truth Trust (reprint from 1854 edition). *Probably the most thorough exegetical and theological treatment of the sabbath question. This is imperative reading in order to make a well informed decision on this question. If you reject the enduring nature of the sabbath and have not read Owen, you have not fairly considered the subject. This is contained as "Exercitation #5" in the introduction to Owen's commentary on the book of Hebrews.*