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"Work and Rest"

Genesis 2:1-3

Sunday | October 30th, 2016 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Genesis 2:1-3 "The Seventh Day, God Rests Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation."

Genesis 1:26-28 "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

Genesis 2:15 "The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

(See also Ps. 104:10-35; Ps. 121; Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:15; Mk. 2:27; 1 Kings 19:1-15)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Kent Hughes] "With the coming of Israel's long-awaited Messiah, Jesus, the Creator-Redeemer completed his work of redemption on the cross and cried out, 'It is finished' (John 19:30). It was only then that Jesus rested from his great work. His work on the cross created salvation and the possibility of entering His rest.

Present rest. Since the "seventh day" has no closing refrain—no "And there was evening and there was morning"—the seventh day has no end and is eternal. And this Sabbath rest is taken up in the New Testament and interpreted in the context of Jesus as one greater than Moses. The writer of Hebrews therefore speaks of "a Sabbath-rest for the people of God," using Israel's history to demon-

strate that the rest can only be entered by faith (4:9; c.f. vv. 1-11). And he warns, "For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened" (v. 2).

Mere intellectual belief will not bring rest to any soul. Acknowledging that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior of the world will not bring rest. Trust in him is what gives rest to our souls. True faith is belief plus trust. When you truly trust in Christ as Savior, rest comes because the burden of your sins is lifted. You rest from your works. And because you are in Christ, you enter the Sabbath rest of God. You know that he is your Creator and Redeemer."¹

DISCUSS

1. How might have the Israelite's understanding of work been skewed by their time in Egypt? What about their understanding of rest?
2. What are some possible ways in which our own understanding of both work and rest might be skewed as a culture?
3. How does the book of Genesis answer the skewed understandings of the previous two questions?
4. Pastor Patrick discussed the difference between a "job" and a "vocation." Why was this an important distinction?²
5. Why did God rest? Was He tired?
6. Why does God command that we rest (see *Ex. 20:8-11, Deut. 5:15*)?
7. How did Jesus model both work and rest? what do we learn about ourselves?

¹R. Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word: Genesis* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004), p. 45-46.

²A job is something we do because we have to (e.g. for a paycheck). A vocation is altogether different in that it connotes purpose (from the Latin, *vocare*, meaning, "to call").