

**Creation Rests – Life’s Work and Rest**

**4th in the “Creation Matters” Series**

**Genesis 2:1-3, p. 2**

April 29, 2018

Pastor Mickey Klink

8) The other six days of creation had defined beginnings and endings (e.g.,

 “evening and morning”). Why might it be significant that the seventh day

 has no definitive time frame (no ending)?

9) How does the entire creation account offer a pattern for work and rest? How

 are both work and rest good and God-honoring?

10) Read Exodus 20:8-11, the Fourth Commandment. What larger biblical

 warrant did Christians have for seeing the fulfillment of the Jewish Sabbath

 (Saturday) and establishing in its place the Lord’s Day (Sunday)? How

 does that make the church’s corporate worship on Sunday very important?

**Further study this week**: Exodus 20 on the Ten Commandments (Mon); Psalm 95 on the promise of rest (Tues); Hebrews 3-4 on the future rest for the people of God (Wed); Colossians 3, especially vv. 17 and 23 on work (Thurs); Matthew 25:14-30 on faithful work (Fri).

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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**Introduction**

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In this sermon we explore how life was designed for both work and rest, and how such truths apply to our life

**The Text: Genesis 2:1-3**

1. We were designed for Work, and it is a wonderful gift from God.
2. *Work is not primarily about making money, but about being*

*human (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:7-9, 15).*

*b) God is a Worker – and our work reflects and continues his work.*

* Redemptive work (God’s saving and reconciling actions).
* Creative work (God’s fashioning of the physical and human world).
* Providential work (God’s provision for and sustaining of humans and the creation).
* Justice work (God’s maintenance of justice).
* Compassionate work (God’s involvement in comforting, healing, guiding, and shepherding).
* Revelatory work (God’s work to enlighten with truth).
1. We were designed for Rest, and it is finally realized in Jesus Christ.
2. *On the final and climactic day of Creation, God declares himself*

*to be the Lord of Creation.*

Deuteronomy 12:10: “But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies around, so that you live in safety.

1. *The reason the Sabbath Day is holy and has no stated ending is*

*because it requires a continual participation that looks forward to “the true rest” that only Jesus provides.*

Hebrews 4:9, 11: “there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God…Let us therefore strive to enter that rest….”

1. Some applications and reflections on life’s work and rest.
2. *Work is a primary way we love God and love neighbor.*

1. *Rest is not the opposite of work, it is the opposite of self-*

 *sufficiency.*

John 5:16-17: “And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

1. *Weekly observance of “the Lord’s Day” is how Christians “Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.”*

*London Baptist Confession* 22.8: “The Sabbath is kept holy to the Lord by those who, after the necessary preparation of their hearts and prior arranging of their common affairs, observe all day a holy rest from their own works, words and thoughts about their worldly employment and recreations, and give themselves over to the public and private acts of worship for the whole time, and to carrying out duties of necessity and mercy.”

**Response**

We gather here today to celebrate the triumphal lordship of Jesus Christ and Rest in his Work!

**Would you like to be involved in a Small group? Contact Pastor Brad at pastorbrad@hefc.net**

**Creation Rests-Life’s Work and Rest**

1. Starter Question: What do you think the Fourth Commandment requires when it says “Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy?”
2. Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
3. What might the phrase at the end of v. 1 be referring to: “and all of the host of them?”
4. How has the seven-day week of creation become a pattern for the created order – for organizing time and living?
5. Read John 5:16-17. How do these verses in John help explain how “rest” in v. 2 does not mean that God actually stopped working? Can God take a day off from sustaining the world?
6. What does it mean in v. 3 when it says “God blessed the seventh day and made it holy?”
7. Read Hebrews 4:1-13. How does this text explain that the “rest” of God is still future? What (or who) is the “true rest” to which Hebrews 4 points?