

## *Genesis 2:1-3*

## *Real Rest in Christ*

*02/26/17*

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup>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.<sup>3</sup> 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. (Pastor prays)*

Here it is the end of February and they tell us that Spring is just around the corner. Christmas was yesterday, January is forgotten and February is just a blur.

The grinding routine of life seems to rush the days by and all we get is more worn out. Sometimes you feel like you are just searching for a few hours to just stop and *be*. Between the job and the kids and homework and practice and church, it can feel like there's not a spare moment to gather yourself for the next day's demands.

There's something built into us that longs for stillness and stability for a different pace... A few moments to be still and know that He is God, that this God of creation knew that you would be struggling in life. He knew that you would be burned out, used up and worn to a frazzle. He knew that you would try to substitute every fake form of satisfaction for the ultimate rest that is found in Christ.

So here in Chapter 2, we are introduced to the 7<sup>th</sup> day of creation. The 7<sup>th</sup> day is not like any other day. There is no introductory formula. No "And God said." There is no closing "evening and morning" formula. This is the only day that's blessed and consecrated by God, and the uniqueness of this day will speak to the uniqueness of God's people. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of creation, God modeled a cycle for that which He created.

Here is the model. In chapter 1 there are 6 days of creation with intense labor and a flurry of creative activity. And then there is one day, the 7<sup>th</sup> day, that is completely different. Jesus tells us that man was not created for the Sabbath, the Sabbath was created for man and he is to lord over it because Christ rested in the grave on a Saturday, keeping the law on the Sabbath, and was raised on a Sunday, our day of worship. Saturday gives testimony to God as creator and Sunday gives testimony to God as redeemer. This passage reminds us...

## **God Created You to Be Satisfied in Christ**

This seventh day of creation, this day of rest, points us to some things. It reminds us what to trust.

### **We Trust in His Finished Work**

In verse 1-2 we see all the work of Creation is done and the 7<sup>th</sup> day is completely different. *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup>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.*

When you read v. 2 the text says that God rested. (It was) Not rest like we do. We rest because we are tired. He ceased creating and now stands satisfied with what He has created. And in the creative order, God has given us a principle that there should be one day that stands in contrast to all the other days, a day that reminds us to trust God's work more than we trust our own, a reminder of grace; and the writer of Hebrews picks this up and uses God's rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of creation to point us to the real rest for our souls that is in Christ.

If we are created in the image of God, we are created to stop from the flurry of activity and see our satisfaction in Him. And here is the root of most Christian problems: we don't see our ultimate rest and peace and treasure in Christ. Instead we fill it with the trash of this world and live in a perpetual state of being hung over from the devil's brew instead of trusting Christ and His finished work. It's the Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ that provides us with eternal security.

I want to ask you (even as we have The Lord's Supper today) to think about doing a radical reorientation of your life that says, "no matter what has happened before or whatever awaits me in the future, I'm going to trust and rest in Christ." I want you to join Habakkuk and learn to rest in Christ. I want to be like that prophet Habakkuk 3:17-19,

*Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail*

*and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,  
18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.  
19 GOD, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places.*

By God's grace through faith in Christ, I will trust His finished work. There is something else to trust.

### **We Trust In His Ongoing Work**

The truth is that God never stops working. The Psalmist says in Psalm 121:1-3,

*I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?  
2 My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.  
3 He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.*

The Lord never stops working. In v. 3, God introduces us to God's extended work after creation. There are two words to pay particular attention to. In v. 3, *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.* He blessed it. It's a gift, a benefit. It was given as a blessing.

The other word is Holy. He made it Holy. It's the first time the word "holy" is used in the Old Testament. It's where we get the idea of sanctification, being made holy. God separated this day and He blessed it and made it holy. It is an Old Testament picture of a New Testament truth. It reminds us that He withholds no good thing from His people and He's ready for you to come out of the emotional sewer and find your identity in Christ.

You were made for so much more, and these two words in verse 3 give indication to what our God desires to do. Just as God created the world, He desires to recreate you in Christ when you turn from sin and turn to Christ. Just as He blessed the 7<sup>th</sup> day and made it holy, God desires to bless your life with satisfaction in Christ and make you holy through difficulty and discipleship. It's part of the reason we have The Lord's Supper so often here at Hickory Grove: to remind us of the Gospel that saves and sanctifies us, to take us to the cross and remember the perfect life of Jesus that earned righteousness, the death of Jesus on the cross for sinners and His resurrection that guarantees our life. And so, with settled joy, we get ready for The Lord's Supper.

*(Pastor explains the Lord's Supper and Prays)*