

Genesis 2:1-3

Sacred Rest

“Rest—today—in the presence of God in Christ.”

I. Rest is the Consummation of Work

- a. Rest is the cessation of work.
 - i. *Creation’s Completion: All is done.*
 - ii. *Creation’s Perfection: All is well.*
- b. Rest is the celebration of work.
 - i. *Sacred Fellowship: Ingathering the Creation.*
 - ii. *Corporate Worship: Honoring the Creator.*

II. Holiness is the Sanction of Rest

- a. Holiness is the context of rest.
 - i. *Sabbath Law: God patterns rest.*
 - ii. *Sabbath Grace: God sanctifies rest.*
- b. Holiness is the goal of rest.
 - i. *Passive Holiness: Being with God.*
 - ii. *Active Holiness: Giving glory to God.*

III. Christ is the Fulfillment of Sabbath

- a. Established but Interrupted
- b. A Shadow of the Fullness
- c. Already and Not-Yet

IV. Our Response

- a. Are you *weary*? God, who created the universe, calls you to rest with him today. The Lord of the Sabbath, Christ, has done all things well, and it is he who sanctifies you. Only a celebration of his work remains, and joy for all he invites into his rest.
- b. Are you *restless*? The work is done. You cannot drag either yesterday or tomorrow into today. These are the weights which make Sabbath rest seem like labor, for you bring labor with you. Even the Lord of Time, needless of it, was pleased to hallow the Sabbath. Rest in him.
- c. Are you *idle*? The Sabbath rest is *for God’s glory and your holiness*. The holy one of Israel did not stand aloof from the fellowship of saints on the Sabbath but was eagerly “about his Father’s business.” Make eager your readiness for and on the Lord’s Day.
- d. Are you *resting*? Rest well, for tomorrow brings many trials and temptations. This Sabbath must end, yet even so: *in order that* the Lord of Rest, Jesus Christ, may establish it forever. Carry the Sabbath with you in his Holy Spirit—your sanctification.

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