

The Seventh Day: Set apart

Genesis 2:1-3, 15

I. Introduction

The wide angle view of creation comes to an end in our passage today.

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth..."

Genesis 2:3 "And God blessed the seventh day and he consecrated it, because on it he ceased from all his labour which **God created** to make."¹

II. The 7th Day

A. Observations from the Genesis 1:31-2:3

B. What is meant by "rest"?

1. Isaiah 40: 25-26, 28
2. The word "rested" actually means "he ceased from his work"
3. This is NOT the Sabbath that we find in Exodus 20 (no command is given here).

III. The Sabbath

A. In the 10 Commandments, God tells Israel they are to do no regular work on the 7th day (Saturday).

Exodus 20:8-11 (see Exodus 16)

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

B. Is the Sabbath for us to keep today? No.

1. **Colossians 2:16** "Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath."
2. **Romans 14:5-6** "One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God."
3. **Hebrews 3-4 Summary:** The promise of our entering God's rest is attained by faith in Jesus.

¹ Currid, J. D. (n.d.). [A Study Commentary on Genesis: Genesis 1:1–25:18](#) (Vol. 1, p. 93). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

IV. Our Work and Rest

A. *Genesis 2:15 – Man is to work the Garden (prior to the Fall into sin)*

B. *The Fall into sin doesn't create work, but it does make work hard, frustrating, and less productive (futile).*

Curse on the man is Gen 3:17b-19

cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

C. *We are still to work even though sin affects every aspect of it. And it is glorifying when we work with a trust in God*

Col 3:22-24

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters,^[f] not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

D. *Should we work with no days of rest since the Sabbath is not required of us? No.*

1. First, we need to make time to worship God with fellow believers (Hebrews 10:24-25).
2. Second, if our motive is more and more stuff or money that is greed and does not honor God.
3. Third, although we are responsible and required by God to work, we are to work with an attitude of trust in him to provide.

Psalms 127:1-2

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.