**Work and Rest (Genesis 2:1-3)**

 If you want to have peace in your life, look to the example of God’s orderliness in His creation account. Greetings to you in this beautiful winter season as we begin a new series of sermons for this year. By God’s grace, we are going to be talking about “Important Events in the Bible”, beginning with the book of Genesis and going thru the books until we finish with Revelation at the end of the year. Today, God-willing, we are going to talk about one aspect of the event of Creation, that is the reality of work and rest.

 As we already may know, the first worker and rest-er in and over this universe is God Himself. We also find the style of His creation-work in a short format in the first chapter of Genesis. Generally, when a work is completed for the first time, the way it is done becomes an example and guideline for the successive generations of workers to come. Our message for today presents exactly that idea to us, drawing from God’s example of work and rest. Therefore, if we desire to enjoy peace in our lives, we shall find it by following God’s example set forth in the creation account. Once again, if you want to have peace in your life, look to the example of God’s orderliness in His creation account. Let us speak, then, about this important example set forth by God…

 In your life, you need to have both work and rest, according to God’s given example. It is very interesting that Moses remembers these two important events within the account of the Creation of the world. He remembers that God worked six days; he remembers that God stopped His specific work (of creating) on the seventh day. So, what does this matter? Why is it important to have these two, work and break/rest? For six days, God worked in an organized, orderly fashion. For six days, God saw fit to prepare the environment for mankind and make it orderly. Using six days, God completed His creation, bring forth man as the crown of His work. For six days, God saw fit to operate in a particular way, and then He stopped. Now, God did take a rest, but in the Hebrew, the word “*Shabbat*” means both to stop and to rest. God did not only stop, but He also sanctified the seventh day. In other words, He made that day different from the others before it. For six days there was to be work, but the seventh was for a break. The seventh day would be for a different purpose. It is for this reason that we find in the account of the Ten Commandments, in Exodus 20:8-11, that the idea of the Sabbath day was established.

 Once, two men were participating in an all-day wood-chopping contest. One man worked very hard, taking very few breaks, but got upset at the other man who took several breaks during the day. At the end of the day, the challenger was surprised and annoyed to find that the other fellow had chopped substantially more wood than he had. "I don't get it," he said. "Every time I checked, you were taking a rest, yet you chopped more wood than I did." "But you didn't notice," said the winning woodsman, "that I was sharpening my ax when I sat down to rest."

 What about us, then? It is true, dearly beloved, that God works and presents Himself to us with purpose. That purpose is always for our good and our welfare. When we rest and continually surrender our lives to the Lord, we not only regain our spiritual strength, but even our physical existence finds its equilibrium.

 Today’s humanity has become a work-worshipping, un-restful people. How indispensable it is to give God one day every week, both so that we benefit and His Name is glorified because of our growing spiritual life. Therefore, if we desire to see balance/equilibrium in our lives and we want to have both spiritual and physical health, we are called to work and to rest, so that our life-goal, the glorification of God, is performed and accomplished in the best possible way. In your life, you need to have both work and rest, according to God’s given example. If you want to have peace in your life, look to the example of God’s orderliness in His creation account. May God give us the wisdom to have both of these in our life and thus glorify Him. Amen.