

CREATED TO WORK & REST FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

The Story of Scripture, part 10

Exodus 31, ESV

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EXODUS 31

“The LORD said to Moses, ‘See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you: the tent of meeting, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furnishings of the tent, the table and its utensils, and the pure lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin and its stand, and the finely worked garments, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place. According to all that I have commanded you, they shall do.’ And the LORD said to Moses, ‘You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, “Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.”’ And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.”

GOD DELIGHTS IN WORK AND HAS DESIGNED US TO WORK.

God works for us.

God works through us.

GENESIS 2:15

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF REST AND COMMANDS US TO REST.

GENESIS 2:1 - 3

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 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. 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.”

EXODUS 20:8 – 11

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 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. 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.”

From physical labor in our lives.
With total trust in His love.

GENESIS 3:17 – 19

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 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.”

ECCLESIASTES 2:18 – 20

“I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun,”

ECCLESIASTES 2:22 – 23

“What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation.”

WE ARE PRONE TO MAKE AN IDOL OF WORK.

We overvalue work, thinking that it [will provide us] ultimate meaning.
We resist rest.



WE ARE PRONE TO BE IDLE IN WORK.

We undervalue work, thinking that it has little to no meaning.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:10

“... If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”

WE EXALT RETIREMENT.

THE GOSPEL SECURES OUR SALVATION, FREEING US TO REST IN JESUS'S FINISHED WORK.

COLOSSIANS 2:16 - 17

“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. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”

MATTHEW 11:28

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

HEBREWS 4:9 - 10

“So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.”

THE GOSPEL SECURES OUR SATISFACTION, FREEING US FROM THE IDOLATRY OF WORK.

THE GOSPEL SECURES OUR SIGNIFICANCE, FREEING US FROM IDLENESS IN WORK.



BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WORK DILIGENTLY TO DISPLAY THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

COLOSSIAN 3:23 - 24

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WORK STRATEGICALLY TO ADVANCE THE MISSION OF GOD.

CELEBRATE BLOOD-BOUGHT REST AT THE START OF EVERY WEEK.

PRIORITIZE GOD-GLORIFYING REST OVER THE COURSE OF EVERY WEEK.

PSALM 127:2

“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.”

LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING WILL WORK PERFECTLY, AND WE WILL REST FULLY AND FOREVER IN GOD’S GREAT LOVE.

