

The Call to Work

Genesis 2:1-15

In these first chapters of Genesis we see God working and resting. What are God's purposes for us according to these verses? Also see chapter 1:27-28.

1:28 Be fruitful, fill and subdue the earth, rule

2:15 Work the creation and take care of it

As creatures created in God's image we are co-workers with God. Why do we work?

It is what we have been made to do. We work in obedience as worship to God.

In the creation narrative we see humanity as the pinnacle work of creation, but not the end point. What is the goal to which all creation is heading? (v2-3) Also see Hebrews 3:12-4:2.

2:2-3 rest and blessing

Hebrew 3-4 Eternal rest in the new creation where we enjoy God's blessing forever.

What is the 'rest' we are still yet to enter?

The new creation

How might someone be excluded from it?

Heb 3:12 By not believing, turning away from God

Heb 4:2 By not trusting in the gospel

Jesus and Rest

The themes of work and rest fill the Bible. When we read *sabbath* in the Bible it is the Hebrew word for rest.

What did Jesus mean when he described himself as "Lord of the Sabbath"? (Mark 2:28)

He's the boss of God's rest. He's the one who will bring the rest God's people have long been waiting for: the eternal blessing.

Discuss Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28 which says: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Application

We are created for work and rest. What about you, what is your attitude towards work and rest? Do you work too much or too little? What is your pattern of work and rest?

What does it say about us if we work excessively and neglect rest? Or the opposite, idolising the pursuit of pleasure and rest?

How can we cultivate an attitude of work as worship?

How can we cultivate a longing for entering God's eternal rest?

How might you need to rearrange your lifestyle in order to reflect a godly pattern of work and rest?