

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:

Rest in Christ

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

June 4, 2023

Scriptures:

Genesis 2:1-3

Theme: Rest in the God who gives and perfects life.

Introduction: Like citizens living on the edge of an impending war, we know what it is to experience fear, dread, and worry in this fallen world. Even though America has been very peaceful and secure for most of her history, still we find ourselves facing enemies to our peace. There are enemies *outside* certainly; but even moreso there are enemies *within*: self-doubt, disappointment, despair, and condemnation. But it doesn't have to be this way.

We can find peace through our great God in 2 respects:

1. God is the Life-giver

The beautiful symmetry of the creation account continues, highlighting the "work that he [God] had done" (2x in v. 2, 1x in v.3). Repeating 3x is for emphasis. This structure highlights that God is the central character in the account, not man. Fallen man likes to place himself at the center, and to presume upon God by living however we want to live. But we belong to him and are made for him. Life is in him.

2. God is the Life-protector

Genesis 2:1 forms an *inclusio* with 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (1:1) and "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them" (2:1).

The middle of the first 3 lines of verses 2-3 is a repeated phrase: "the seventh day." Seven symbolizes wholeness and completion, pointing to God's perfections.

The 7th day also does not end as the other days ("morning and evening, the xth day"). This points to the truth that the 7th day has never ended.

When healing the lame man, Jesus pointed to the purpose of the Sabbath (John 5:17) and to God's role in creation: he is even now working to uphold all things. The Sabbath is also connected to the Lord's work in rescuing his people out of slavery in Egypt. In delivering his people, the Lord brought them to a place of rest. He freed them to come and worship him.

Questions:

1. Is your soul at rest? Are you anxious, fearful, discouraged, angry?
2. What rest do you need?
3. How does God provide rest for you in Christ? How can you obtain that rest?