

Friday, February 2, 2018

## Rested

## Genesis 1-2

*By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.*  
Genesis 2:2-3

In the beginning, a glimpse is given of that which was undistorted by sin. Resting on the seventh day is part of that design. God sets a day apart and makes it holy. He creates a sanctuary in time in which men and women can come to worship Him. It is the Sabbath. That is the meaning of the word we translate as "rest." It means "to cease." God rested—not because He was weary. God rested to set aside a day for His children to rest. Eventually it would become a commandment, but first it was a gift (Exodus 16:29). Most people shrug off this gift and do not care to open it. It is a shame. Many people boast of their workload and how much they do. This exhibits a lack of self-control. God has designed us for rest. He has designed us to cease on the seventh day. How have I viewed the Sabbath? Is it a priority for me? This text calls me to worship God in this special sanctuary of time each week, as the Sabbath comes to remind me that I have been given permission to cease from the busyness of the world.

*Dear Lord, please search me in this. Do I rest? Do I cease? How have I rationalized Sabbath out of my life? Help me open and value the gift of the Sabbath each week as I look forward to special time with you. Amen.*

Saturday, February 3, 2018

## Crafty

## Genesis 3-4

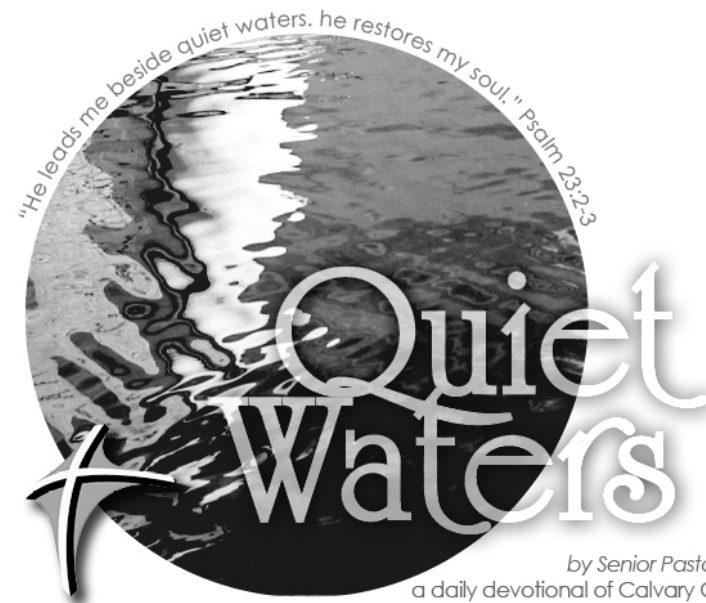
*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"*  
Genesis 3:1

Revelation 12:9 reveals that this serpent, who is so very crafty, is Satan. While he is crafty, his story really hasn't changed all that much. It is very predictable and, as such, I should be much better at recognizing it and calling it what it is. But for some reason, his age-old lie still carries power, mainly because I give it power. I listen to the lying voice of the one who hates me instead of listening to the voice of truth spoken by the Lover of my soul—the One who created me for His pleasure.

The lie of the serpent that I so easily believe convinces me that am entitled to something which God has revealed is harmful for me. And so, I sin. I choose to take that which I want even though I know it is against God's revealed best plan. I hold on to the thought that I am somehow better suited to choose what is best for me. And the crafty serpent wins yet again. I must remind myself often that God has not withheld His best from me, even though that is what Satan would have me believe. God has lavished me with every good thing I need. I must learn to be satisfied with His provision.

*Dear Lord, please help me hear Your voice of truth and may it drown out the voice of the crafty liar. May I be satisfied with Your provision and not seek more. Amen.*

January 29 - February 3, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka  
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, January 29, 2018

## Fallen

## Revelation 17-18

*After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!*

Revelation 18:1-2a

In chapter eighteen, Babylon falls. Babylon is the exporter of immorality. Over and over in Revelation, the people who refused to repent when faced with the judgment of the wrath of God are revealed. They cursed God because of His wrath poured out on them, missing the beautiful truth that they could repent and avoid the wrath. I believe that they largely refused to repent because they were so deeply entrenched in their own selfishness and desire for immorality.

I must take heed not to allow myself to be won over by the export of Babylon. I must refuse to allow immorality of any sort to have any foothold in my home. I must not consider the things that are detestable to God entertaining. I must see it as it is—ugly and despicable. I have become desensitized in so many ways that this can be difficult to determine. Babylon will fall. Perverse immorality and opposition to God will fall. It will face the final and ultimate wrath of God. Revelation 18:24, *"In her [Babylon] was found the blood of prophets and of the saints"*. Embraced immorality—in any form at all—sets the heart against God and feeds the fuel of hatred towards him. I must take great care not to side with a fallen kingdom, but rather to give my heart and soul fully to the King of ages, embracing that which is pleasing to Him!

*Father, remind me often of the ways that I can be swayed to side with a fallen kingdom. Show me any places in my life where I have taken hold of that which is detestable to You. Open my eyes to those places that I have become desensitized and illuminate the hidden sins. Please have my heart beat with Yours. Amen.*

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

## Fire

## Revelation 19-20

*If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Revelation 20:15

These two chapters cover a large period of time. Christ returns for a second time! The King is coming. There will be a battle. Satan will be bound for 1,000 years. This will be the millennium. It will be the 1,000-year, literal reign of Christ upon the earth. It follows Christ's second coming. He will come and defeat Satan and Satan will be bound for those 1,000 years. Christ will reign and rule on earth. Then Satan will be released one last time and many people will still follow him away from the King. The battle will last a moment. Fire will consume the rebellion. All the dead will come and stand before God at the great white throne and they will be condemned. Their names will not be found within the book of life. They will be condemned to eternal conscious torment. That is what awaits every single person who has not repented of their sin and believed in the one true God prior to their death. They will spend eternity in a Christ-less hell, forever separated from Him and His love for them. It is because they have chosen not to have Him be a part of their life. He is honoring their choice. They will come to realize that their choice to reject God was an eternal choice. It will be a day of great sorrow. I must have this truth overwhelm and concern me. Jesus came to seek and save the lost and has left that mission to me.

*Father, please overwhelm me with a passion to proclaim Your plan of the gospel to every person I meet or see. Amen.*

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

## Eternity

## Revelation 21-22

*He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.*

Revelation 22:20-21

As I read these last two chapters, I pause to consider eternity. I believe that too many people spend too little time considering their eternal state. Anyone who has had a conversion experience that has brought them into right relationship with God will experience what these last two chapters describe. Anyone who has chosen instead to stay with their own self-effort and opposition to God will not see what is described here. But every person is an eternal being. Every person will live forever and therefore every person makes decisions that impact eternity. It is hard to maintain an eternal perspective and yet I must! I must consider this carefully. I have this waiting for me. I can live my life in fullness, as an eternally alive person indwelt by God in the Person of the Holy Spirit. I do not need to get weighed down in the endless pursuit of trying to make this temporary existence have the fullness of the eternal existence. My time here is a moment in light of all that waits for me. My role here is to live out the joy of the "already" relationship I have with Jesus as I look forward to the "not yet" realized peace in His presence. As I live that life, God will draw others to Himself through me. I must keep an eternal perspective!

*Father, please give me a glimpse of heaven that alters my perspective here so that I can walk in Your truth, love, grace, peace, and freedom! Amen.*

Thursday, February 1, 2018

## Read

*Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth: mediate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.* Joshua 1:8

Read or read. This is one of those words in the English language that requires context in order to be understood. I wanted to offer a personal thank you to all who have read through the Bible with me in the Quiet Waters devotional each day. Yesterday, we finished a two-year journey of reading the Bible together. Tomorrow we will begin again, in case there were parts you missed the first time around. It is my prayer that, in the process, we have learned that it is not as important that we read Scripture as it is that we allow Scripture to read us. Has Scripture read you as you have journeyed through the Bible? Have you learned the joy of meditating on the words day and night? Have you held the Word of God in you so that everything you say comes through the filter of God's Word? Have you learned to be careful to obey the God whom you love and who loves you? I pray that, like me, you are closer to Him now than you were yesterday and that you are seeking to know Him more tomorrow than you do today. Thank you for traveling with me. Grace to you and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Dear God, I praise You for Your Word that reads me and helps me know how I can become more the man that You desire for me to be so that I may serve You wholeheartedly and rest in Your love. You are an amazing God and I am so very grateful for Your love. Amen.*