

Sermon Title: God is Always at Work!

Sermon Text: Ephesians 2:10

It is Labor Day weekend! We love Labor Day weekend don't we... Why? Because we get a day off work/school, a day to rest & enjoy for ourselves!

Well guess what??? **We get that every week!** God in His glorious work & design for creation built in a day for rest, enjoyment, & worship every week!

The problem is, we have forgotten that, and have filled that day with so many other things that it feels like just another day of the week!

I know that for many of us, **we would say that this loss of Sabbath is not our fault!** We feel that it has been forced upon us by outside sources...

But it's not the world's job to protect our Sabbath, it's a decision we make! Will there be costs involved? Absolutely, but **there's a cost either way!**

A glimpse into the Toot home – Two working parents, 2 unpredictable jobs, 3 very active children, several time-consuming extracurricular activities, etc.

Life is chaotic in our home! And **I know most of you know that same chaos!** But here's also a glimpse into some of the conversations we have as a family:

- How much "activity", "work", "sports" is **too much** for our family?
- How do we keep the most important things the **most important things?**
- What do we need to say "**no**" to, so we can say "**yes**" to better things?
- What brings **glory to God**, & prioritizes His work in us & through us?

A few "win" stories from our home, that might inspire you in yours:

- My son got his 1st job this summer & he put "No Availability" for Sundays!
- My daughter plays on two travel sports teams, & when she has games on Sunday's, you will see her here at the early service!
- There was "High school prep" soccer practice on Sunday nights during youth group last year, but she prioritized Youth Group over soccer!
- When our Sunday's get packed with activities, **we protect Saturday** as a day of rest & family time! Our society actually gives us an extra day off!
- When my wife was working every other Sunday, we went to another church on Saturday nights b/c we know the value of worshipping together!
- On my sabbatical, we went to 12 different churches to worship God. An extended time of rest for me/us didn't mean **a break from worship!**

Our lives are busy, but we serve a very busy God too! He created the world & He sustains it in every way! **If our plates are full, consider His!**

You might say, well "He is God so He can handle it!" Maybe... **But even God experienced sabbath, & He makes provisions for us to experience it as well!**

Genesis 2:2-3 - "And on the seventh day He rested from all the work that he had done. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy (set apart)."

If God needed a day set apart for rest & worship (declaring it's goodness)... then **what do you think we need to keep doing the work He calls us to do?**

The reasons I most often hear about why people don't honor the sabbath is "I just don't have the time/I'm too busy!" But if God took the time, & wasn't too busy to take a sabbath, then we can honor & keep the sabbath as well!

The only question is, "Will we?" Will we have the hard conversations? Will we make the tough decisions? Will we prioritize what's most important?

"But Pastor Dan you just don't understand..." It's not me you have to convince as to why you can't prioritize worship & sabbath rest, it's God!

The title of today's sermon is, "God is Always at Work!" If that is true, then even on day 7 of creation, work was being done by God in the midst of rest! What was that work? **He was teaching & modeling Sabbath observance for us!**

Will we trust the God who is always at work to take care of the things we think we need to take care of, at the expense of breaking the sabbath?

Remember the Sabbath was made for us, not God! It was never intended to be a burdensome command, but a gift of grace to us from the Father!

Oh, what a precious gift that rest and worship can be for us if we simply trust God in **"honoring the sabbath day and keeping it holy!"**

Our memory verse for this week – **Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."** Do we believe these words?

If we do, then we need to submit our lives to Him, & the work He wants to do in us & through us! That takes time & commitment! It takes prioritizing that work in our lives! **God is always at work, so we don't have to be!**

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