



Sermon – January 30, 2022
Phillip Bethancourt

Verses Covered This Week
Genesis 2:1 - 14

Let me invite you to open your Bibles with me. We're going to be in Genesis chapter 2 this morning. Genesis 2. And if you're a guest, whether in the room or online, welcome home. We come together each Sunday to do exactly what we just sang about. To magnify Christ. We've got a unique opportunity to do that this morning. That's why I'm representing, repping this Central Sports pullover. Because today is our Central Sports Sunday. We'll talk more about that at the end of our service. But we've got an amazing sports discipleship program that's an incredible outreach to our community. To help kids, not only to grow to be better athletes but to know God more and to become like Jesus Christ through a personal relationship with Him. Now if you remember back to when you were that age, growing up, playing sports, the whole world ahead of you. Your whole life ahead of you. You probably got asked this question regularly. What do you want to be when you grow up? Maybe for some of you, you answered that, I want to be a police officer, or an astronaut. For me, I wanted to be the next Bucky Richardson. Lead the Aggies to a national championship and then go take over for Troy Aikman when he retired from the Cowboys. And that was going to be my future. It didn't work out that way. In all the times you've ever heard that question asked before, have you ever heard someone, whether they were young or old, what do you want to be, have you ever heard them say, "When I grow up, I want to be exhausted, tired, stressed, aimless." In all the years I've never heard that one. Have you? No, it doesn't happen that way. And if you rewind the clock just two years ago, two years from this week was when the first case of COVID hit the Brazos Valley. And the whole world stopped around us. And when we got room to think and to process, we had that time during the shutdown to re-evaluate our lives and say, "Things are going to be different this time. We're not going to keep the same schedule. We're not going to run as hard. We're not going to put ourselves where we used to be." And yet, here we are, two years later and how's that working out for you? So many of us find ourselves right back to that same point of exhaustion, despair, weariness. That sense of tired. That constant pull of busy. And why should we be surprised by that? Because your day probably feels a lot like this at times. You wake up to an alarm that's too loud. That's going off too early after a night where you were up too late. And you hustle through that morning routine so you can get out the door and get where you need to be on time. And you make your way through the day trying to check things off your to-do list while staying

one step ahead doing things just good enough for what's expected of you. And when the day begins to wrap up, you race home in order to get yourself or your family off to evening activities. And all that healthy food you bought at the beginning of the week that you were planning to eat gets left in the refrigerator as you wait in that long line at Chick Fil A for the manna from heaven. And that sustains you for the rest of the evening until you can get the family to bed, you get some time to think, and you climb into your bed each night saying, "Am I going to do this again tomorrow? Is there ever going to be a breakthrough? Am I always going to be stuck in this cycle?" If that's you this morning, if you find yourself in the picture that was just painted, Genesis 2 is going to bring a word for you today.

Because in Genesis 2, as God is painting this picture of what it looks like to rule the kingdom of God, He's going to give us a picture of what it looks like to rule that kingdom through both our rest and our work. And that's what I want you to notice beginning in verse 1 with the way that this chapter begins. It says:

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And 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. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it, God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.

Let's pray together.

Father, as we turn our hearts to Your word, we're coming to you in desperate dependence. Our lives are nothing if You don't work through us. Our lives have no purpose unless You give it to us. And our lives have no rest unless You supply it. And so we pray that You would pour out each one of these things in abundance. And we ask these things in Christ's name. Amen.

So Genesis 2. I mean this is one of the most incredible chapters in the entire Bible. So many significant things find their start right here. It sets these themes that rush all the way through the Scripture. And Genesis 2 is paired perfectly with Genesis 1. Genesis 1 is like this wide angle view of the entirety of God's creation. And then from that, we find in Genesis 2 Moses comes behind that and zooms in specifically to look at day 6 and 7. This day of work; this day of rest. And what we're going to find this morning is that if we want to be faithful in carrying out the rulership that God has called us to, to embody what we've been talking about the kingdom of God, as we are people, that the kingdom of God is God's people in God's place under God's rule. If we want to see that true in our lives, then Genesis 2 is showing us that that has to be reflected in the way that we rest and the way that we work. So notice the way that this text begins there in verse 1. We're called to start out with to reflect the kingdom of God in our rest. You'll notice here that as verse 1 begins, it starts speaking about this seventh day of creation and it leaves us with the question, why does God add this seventh day to creation? How does this fit into things? Well, the reason is because the culmination of creation is not the creation of man, but the rest of God. And the reason for that is because man is not the center of God's creation, God is. He is at the heart of why He created things. And as we see this seventh day unfold at the start of Genesis 2, it's going to speak right to the heart of what it looks like to reflect the kingdom in our rest. And the way that it's going to do that is by showing us the nature of God's rest, it's going to give us a window into what the nature of our rest should look like.

So look back there at verse 1. We'll see that the purpose of God's rest should shape the purpose of our rest. Verse 1 tells us God finishes His work of creation, but now notice what verse 2 does. It says this:

²On 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 why is it that God rests here? Is He weary? Is He worn out from all the labor He's done over those six days? No. This is not the rest of exhaustion. It is the rest of excitement. The project is complete. He is now done. He's established His kingdom. He's built His temple. Now He takes up residence in it. He blesses it. He gives it this sense of finality and completion in His rest by declaring it holy. You'll see in verse 1 it says that the creation is finished. One day seven, in other words, God says to the world He created, "It is finished." Does that phrase sound familiar to you? Where else do we hear it? Not just here in the origins of creation as God speaks the world into existence and finds rest once it's completed, He says, "It is finished" about the original creation. But we also hear Jesus on the cross before He gives His life for you and me. And what does He declare? What's that statement? It is finished. This original creation, pointing to the start of the new creation. That there is a completion that takes place. And that completion is not celebrated on the cross from the comfort of heaven, but from the agony of earth. That even in this creation, even in the start of this seventh day of rest, God is pointing forward to the coming of Jesus Christ. Here's what we need to understand. The purpose of God's rest is to point back to His glory in creation and to point ahead to His greatness in redemption. Rest gives us a backward look at His glory in creation and a forward to His greatness in redemption. And if that's true for the rest of God, if that's true for the reason for His rest, it should be true for you and me. That the purpose of our rest is to look back to what God has done in creation. To look ahead to what He's doing for us in salvation. I remember a number of years ago, a friend of mine asked me the question: If you could have any super power in the world, what would it be? But he said, "Hey! Let's take the regular ones off the table. You've got to come up with something unusual. So no ability to fly or to walk through walls or to send out spider webs from your wrists or anything like that. Think of something unique." And I wrestled, wrestled, wrestled with it. And finally here's what I came up with. The idea that I had for the super power I wished I could have is the ability to skip transitions in life. Just think about it. Think about all the time you spend waiting in your life. Waiting for that cup of coffee to get ready. Waiting in line at the DMV. Waiting for your food to get ready. Waiting for those darn TV timeouts at the Aggie football games. You know what I'm talking about? That seem to last forever. Imagine if you could just go from event to event, activity to activity, moment to moment. You could skip the transitions, skip the limits, skip the waiting and just live your life. Doesn't it sound great on the face of it? But in reality, there is a fatal flaw embedded in it. The desire to skip transitions is the desire to bypass limits. And that desire to bypass limits is a longing to be God Himself. Why? Because only God is without limits. Only God doesn't need rest. And yet God is the one who rests here in this, in this seventh day. This picture is being laid out for us in verses one and two of this idea of rest. That it's looking back to God's glory in creation and ahead to His greatness. And each time we experience rest, we can only fully find the fulfillment of that rest if it's for that same purpose; for God and now ourselves.

But what should that rest look like? Well, that's what we're going to see there in verse 3. Notice the way that the text goes on. We don't just see the purpose of God's rest, but now the pattern of

God's rest. And how that should shape the way that we rest in our lives. So look back at verse 3. Here's what it says.

³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all this work that He had done on creation.

So when does this rest happen? You see it? On the seventh day. And that number seven keeps showing up over and over and over again in the Scripture. It's a number that is a signal of completeness or finality, of fulfillment, and it shows up all across the Scripture from starting right here. So on the seventh day of creation God rests. And then we find when God gives Israel the law, on the seventh day of the week, they're called to rest. On the seventh year, they're called to allow their land to rest. And in the year of Jubilee, that year that is seven times seven, they're called to have the entire nation rest. There is this reminder of completion. There is this process that is taking place that is being fulfilled in each one of these steps. These regular rhythms of work and rest. Work and rest. And each one of those, each marker that is played out through this number seven is reminding us of the ultimate rest that can only be found in Christ. That He is our Sabbath rest. That He is the one who brings the year of Jubilee. Through the shedding of His blood He doesn't just restore one nation, He offers that restoration to all people. That the lasting rest that we long for can only be found in Him. That seventh day plays a huge role in the entire story of Scripture just like what happens on the seventh day. Because if you look back at verse 3, what you're going to find is that you'll never see there the use of the word Sabbath in that verse. You see it? It's not there. The term, Sabbath, the concept, Sabbath, isn't yet there but the foundation, the principle, the pattern is begin established of six days you shall work and on the seventh you shall rest. In fact, when Moses brings down the 10 commandments, when the one is given about Sabbath rest, he explains to the nation why it is the case. And in Exodus 20, what he tells us is 6 days you shall labor and on the seventh you shall rest because that is what God did in creation. There is a pattern being laid out here. And that Sabbath is given as a sign of the old covenant to the people of God. And they keep it and they keep it and they keep it. And yet they never experience the rest that they long for. Think about what happens in the coming of Christ. Jesus comes and He fulfils the entire law of the Old Testament including this call to keep the Sabbath. In fact, the New Testament describes Him as the Lord of the Sabbath. In fact, when He goes to the cross, when He dies for you and me, Hebrews chapter 4 tells us that at last in Jesus we have a Sabbath rest. A place to find freedom from the stress, the anxiety, and the weariness of life. But even though that is true for those of us that are in Christ, we don't yet fully experience it. We're longing for the coming of that new creation where we will see the culmination of that Sabbath rest in the new creation. Where God will make all things new, all things right. Where this pattern that was set here will finely and fully be fulfilled. Genesis 2 shows us a purpose in God's rest. It shows us a process in God's rest. And so what we need to wrestle with is, what does that mean for us? What difference does it make?

And I hope you're really wrestling with that this morning because there is a danger in each one of us that we find our significance in our schedule. That our identity, our value is bound up in our achievements, our accomplishments, our performance. And that's exhausting, isn't it? One of the things I can't help but wonder is as a people in our culture, in our church, in our community, have we forgotten what it looks like to rest, to slow down? Even this quiet pause makes us feel uncomfortable. Because we're people of action. We're people of progress. We're always wanting to push more, more, more. And I'm as guilty as anybody in here. I'm the kind

of guy that will push myself, try to push through the fatigue, rather than be slowed down by it. But what we need to recognize is Genesis 2 is showing us that rest is not something that comes from the curse that we must endure. Instead, it is a gift from God for our good in His glory if we do it the right way. What I think that means for us is if we want to live out Genesis 2, then we need to recognize that we need a new approach to rest. What would that look like? I just want to put three quick things in front of you. The first thing, if we want a new approach to rest, is that we need to remember that God is our rest. OK. So you may say, "Hey! You don't need to worry about me. I love to rest. In fact, I'm probably prone to be on the lazy side." Or, "When I get to the end of the night, I just pop on Netflix, I grab my phone, I scroll through social media, I kind of zone out from the world's problems. That's what I call rest." Well, guess what. That's not all that restful. Yeah, you physically might be taking a break. But your mind is churning, it's spinning, you're finding your rest, not in the God of the universe, but in stories on a screen. It's not the way that God designed us. God designed us to find our rest in Him. And even though this Old Testament covenantal sign of the Sabbath has been fulfilled in Jesus and is no longer binding on us, we see both a creation principle and a pattern from the early church of weekly rhythms of spiritual rest. Yes, it comes together once a week on Sundays as we gather to rest corporately in God's word through God's worship in a way that re-centers our heart on Him. It also comes daily as we come to God in prayer and time in His word to feast on the bread of life so that we can be nourished to live the life that God has called us to live. I can't help but wonder this morning if the reason you feel right on the verge of spiritual burnout, right on the verge from walking away from church, right on the verge of giving up your commitments is what if you're serving on empty. What if you spent so much time pouring yourself out for God that you haven't also rested in Him? If we want a new approach to rest, we need to begin by recognizing that God is our rest.

But here's the second thing. If we want a new approach to rest, we need to recognize that our lives have limits. And those limits are for our good. When we see this picture here in Genesis 2, it's setting a trajectory to remind us of our limits. And if we're going to recognize that we have limits, we need to know ourselves. What drains us and what fills us. When I say rest and that you need to be more intentional with rest in your life, what I am not saying is every one of you needs to spend more time alone in quiet doing nothing. Now especially for you young moms, that might be exactly what you need. But for others of you, that's not restful at all. There are some of you that might not find any rest from getting out and mowing your lawn and some of you the most restorative thing that can happen is for you to be out in your pasture on your tractor doing that. You've got to know yourself. You've got to know what wires you, what drains you, what fills you, what brings you life. What are those limits that God has placed in you and to embrace those? Perhaps the most important of which is sleep. We push ourselves to the limits. We cut corners. We sacrifice sleep for the sake of our desires and our pleasures. And then we wonder why it is that we have so much trouble fulfilling the calling of God on our life. I love the way that a friend of mine once said it. He said, "Sometimes the godliest thing you can do in the universe is get a good night sleep." Can I get an amen to that? You've got to know your limits. You can't live out God's design for your life if you're not living within the limits that God creates for you. So God is our rest. We have to live within our limits.

But the third thing I want you to think about, if we're going to embrace a new approach to rest, it also means that we will love our families more faithfully. And here's what I mean. There was a survey that came out not long ago and it asked the question to some kids and then to their

parents. And the question simply stated was this: If you were granted one wish that would change the way that your mothers or fathers work affects your life, what would that wish be? One wish. It's done. You make it. Things change about your mom or dad's work life. What would you want it to be? And a majority of the parents, 56%, thought they knew the answer. They thought what their child would say is, "I wish that their work life could change so we could spend more time together." Now there was about 10% of the children that said that exact thing. But that was by far not the number one answer that children gave. You know what the number one answer that children gave? They said, "I wish I could spend time more often with my parents when they're not stressed or tired." It wasn't about quantity time; it was about quality time. It wasn't about how much they were with them, but their disposition when they were with them. And if we embrace God's limits for life, if we embrace God as our rest, if we see the virtue of reflecting the kingdom through our rest, it will change not just our lives but our entire family's. That's why I can't wait for next week when we're going to have Johnny Duran with us here for our parent conference. We'll not only focus on marriage and family in the message, but during the life group hour and at 5:00 on Sunday night, he's going to be taking us back to the core of the Gospel and what it means for faithful parenting and what it means to embrace the limits that we have to live out the calling that God has made on our lives. Perhaps one of the best gifts that you can give to your family or your roommates and especially to yourself is to see the way that Genesis 2 is calling us to follow the process of God in rest. And to embrace the purpose of God in rest so that we can be more faithful in living out the calling that God has put on our lives because we're rested for it. And rested people are ready for the mission of God. But I want you to notice now, starting in verse 4, we see a second dimension playing out. We see now, not just that we're called to reflect the kingdom of God in our rest but also now in our work. So look at the way it begins there in verse 4.

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. ⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up – for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground – ⁷then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

So notice what happens here. Genesis 2, beginning in verse 4, shifts its attention from our rest to our work. From our rest to our rule. And you'll notice, look back in verse 5. At the end of the verse, that phrase there, so key. There was no man to work the ground. In other words, it implies in the text that when man comes, his calling will be to work. To work the ground. To carry out in fulfillment everything that God has called us to as we saw last week in that kingdom mandate; to be fruitful and multiply. To have dominion. To subdue the earth. Fundamentally, what it looks like to reflect the kingdom is to work in this world. And if we're going to do it faithfully, then what we need to recognize is that these verses call us to a couple of realities. One, beginning there in verse 4, is that our work should reflect why we were created. So notice that phrase that starts verse 4. It says, these are the generations. You see that? That phrase right there, if you like to write in your Bible, I would underline it. Because that phrase shows up about 10 times in the book of Genesis. And at each point, it is telling us there's a turning point in the text. It's like a closing of one chapter and the opening of another. And that's what we find here in the first time it shows up. It's the closing of the chapter of creation and now it's

focusing and opening the new chapter that is zeroed in on the rulership that God has given His people. Adam and Eve, kings and queens, vice regents called to rule and to reign according to God's design and it's right there in the text. But you'll notice that this passage reveals a number of things about what those humans will look like. What Adam will look like. You'll see him down there in verse 7. Then the Lord God formed the man of the dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and the man became a living creature. You see at the start of that verse the word formed. It's like a potter and clay. It's meticulous, hand-crafted creation that fashions Himself, readying us for the life He's designed us to live. And look at what happens there. All, before now, every time God has created, it's been out of nothing. And yet verse 7 tells us that Adam was formed from the dust, out of the ground. In other words, even though He is a part of creation, he is called to rule over creation. And don't miss the way that it talks about how he came to life. Look there at the end of verse 7. It tells us, God breathed the breath of life upon him. He put breath in his lungs. He puts breath in our lungs. And if we want to live in a way that honors God, we need to work according to the reason why He created us. Why He established us. That He sets forth first in Adam. And before we keep going on in this text, we need to remember that this man that we speak of here, Adam, was a literal person in human history. And so much of our theology, our understanding of who God is, hinges on that reality. That this first man was created by God. That he turned away from Him in his sin. That he is the one who was created from dust and he was the first one to return to the dust. He was the one who was given the breath of life and by his sin he was promised that that breath of life would depart through death. And the reason that's so essential is because the whole New Testament is showing us that Jesus is coming as a second Adam who succeeds where he fails. Who is not created from the dust. Instead, when He goes to the cross, He has the dust of His crucifixion upon Him. The breath of life departs from Him as He breaths His last. And when He commits His Spirit into God's hands and from that comes the newness of life that is provided for you and for me, this man came in a way that not only fulfilled God's calling on his life back in Eden, but anticipated the way that one day Jesus would come and make all things new. All things right. All things according to God's purpose and design. But let's just think for a minute. What difference does a way that Adam was created have for you and for me when we think about our work? We just remember how He talks about him here. He's made from the dust. God breathes life into him. If this is painting any picture of Adam, it is that he is created by God in total dependence on God. I can't help but wonder if you and I live in a way that reflects that reality too. Where if someone was to watch our lives, especially to watch the way that we work, would they say, "This man, this woman, this student, is dependent on God." How often do we rely on ourselves? We look inward instead of upward for our success. We bypass the picture of dependence that God is giving us right here with Adam. And perhaps the reason you're so exhausted, the reason you're so weary is because you're not reflecting this reality. That you're seeking to do your work for your own purposes by your own strength. That's exhausting.

But Adam shows us a different way. And I want you to see the way that this different way plays out in the last part of this passage we'll read beginning in verse 8. Because we're also going to notice here how our work should serve where God has placed us. So listen to the way that he talks about Eden beginning in verse 8. It says:

⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He put the man who He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden,

and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there is divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first one is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of the land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

So we get this picture here of Eden. This place full of trees, rivers, and resources. And what we find in this description is the text is showing us that God doesn't just call Adam to a general rulership of all creation, He also calls him to a particular leadership over a particular place. This place known as Eden. And if you think about it, Genesis 1 and 2 is giving us this whole overview of the creation story. And it's a little bit like the tour that you might give to somebody who's coming over to your house for the first time. Somebody shows up, they want to see the house when they haven't seen it before. Hopefully, you had a heads up, right. So you get everything in order. But as you do that, you don't treat all the parts equally. You kind of breeze past the closets or the restrooms. But there are certain places where you'll linger. Where you'll focus. They're the centerpiece of your home. Perhaps it's that living room or that kitchen or that something particular that you want to display. It gets more depth of focus because it's more significant to the heartbeat of your home. That's what Moses is doing here when he describes Eden. He goes from this fast overview to just settles and rests on a place. He speaks about it with trees, with rivers, with resources. We'll talk more next week about the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But there's a tree of life, a river of life, and resources for life right here in this garden temple. And when we get to the end of our Bible, we see those exact descriptions in the new creation. That at the heart of things, when God makes all things new in Jesus, that tree of life will be in the center. That river of life will be flowing within the boundaries of that creation. That the resources for life are right there for all that we need to live out God's design for us in what is to come. And that present reality is a future glimpse of the promise of God. What Adam experiences first in Eden, we will all experience in Christ in the age to come. But what does that mean for right now? What does that mean for the way we lead? The way that we work? The way that we rule? Look back at verse 8. Notice in the middle of all this description, right there in verse 8, it tells us, there he put the man whom He had formed. So in other words, God creates the context and then He raises up the rulers. He establishes the palace and then He installs the king. He puts particular people in particular places for particular purposes. He does that here with Adam and He does that in each one of our lives. That's the way that He has called us to work in a way that pleases Him. To embrace the place that He has given us. Some of you might be looking at me saying, "Pastor, you don't understand where I work. You don't know what it's like in my classroom. You don't know what my family situation was like. There's no way that God could have me here." And it could be that God is calling you away from that spot. I don't want to dismiss that entirely. But here's what I say to you. What we find here in Genesis 2, what we see through the pattern of Scripture and through the history of the ages of humanity is that God places people for a purpose. And He's got you right where He wants you so that He can make you more like Jesus and to be a light for Jesus to others as well. That's what we find here with Adam. He forms the man and He places Him to take dominion over Eden. And He calls us to do the same thing. To take dominion in the places where we are responsible for serving. To work and to invest and to build the kingdom so that we can bring Him honor. And where that happens best is at the intersection of three things: our

purpose, our passions, and our place. God has made us a people of place. There is a longing for rootedness in each one of us. Adam and Even rooted in Eden carrying out God's design and that longing for place that you have is part of what God is using to amplify your impact for the kingdom. Just think about this text. The way that we reflect the kingdom of God is through rest and through work. And every one of us, if we were to go around the room, can testify to the difficulty of that reality. That reality's shown up in a fresh way even this week. You probably have been following along, if you follow sports or news at all about the big week that the NFL has just had over the last week. So, last weekend might have been the most exciting weekend of playoff football in NFL history. Every one of the four games coming down to a last play with a walk off win. And you would've assumed that would have been the high point moment for the NFL this week. Until Ben Roethlisberger announced his retirement during the middle of the week and then yesterday, Tom Brady did what many anticipated and announced his retirement. And seeing Brady's retirement announced reminded me of this moment in his life that speaks to the heart of this call to rest and to work that we see right here in the text. You see, back in 2005, after Brady had won his 3rd Super Bowl, he did an interview with 60 Minutes. Asked him all about his life as an athlete. Asked him all about how he sees himself. And I want you to hear this exchange. The interviewer was a man named Steve Croft and here's the question he asked. He said, "This whole experience, this whole upward trajectory which you have, what have you learned about yourself? What kind of an effect has this had on you?" And here's what Brady said. "Well, I put incredible amounts of pressure on me. When you feel like your ultimately responsible for everyone and everything, even though you have no control over it, you still blame yourself if things don't go right. I mean, that's a lot of pressure. A lot of times I think I get very frustrated and introverted and there's time where I'm not the person that I want to be." Can anybody relate? You take that pressure on yourself. But here's the more significant thing that he said. Listen to this. "Why do I have 3 Super Bowl rings and still think there's something greater out there for me? I mean maybe a lot of people would say, 'Hey man, this is what is. I reached my goal. My dream. My life.' Me, I think, 'God, it's got to be more than this.' I mean this can't be what it's all cracked up to be. I mean, I've done it. I'm 27 and what else is there for me?" Man that's reach the highest pinnacles of success, looks out from that success at what he's experienced and says, "Is this all there is? Isn't there something more for me?" You can sense that emptiness, that aimlessness, that lack of purpose imbedded in him. And maybe you can relate to that today. See, Genesis 2 reminds us that the rest and work we long for can only be experienced through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The one who is seated victoriously in the heavens resting from the work that He has done, that looks out at you and me and says with a still small voice, "Come to me all you who are heavy laden and weary and I will give you rest." Let's rest in that reality this week, Central family.

Let's pray together.

Father, in this moment of uncertainty, in this moment of anxiety, in this moment of stress, Lord, I pray that You would meet us here. You help us learn again what it looks like to rest in You. Not to depend on ourselves but to depend on Your Spirit. The way that You set us free to walk in newness of life. And I lift up our congregation. I lift up our community that if there are people wrestling with the exhaustion that this text confronts, Lord, I pray that You would renew them in only the way that You can. So that we might follow You more fully and love You more faithfully. We pray these things in Christ's name. Amen.