

“This Page Intentionally Left Blank”

Have you ever seen a page in a bank statement, contract or other documents that are left blank with the words “This page intentionally left blank” on them?

- This seems like a waste of paper.
- What’s its purpose?
- It’s a bank, so surly there is a reason. They’re smart people – right?!
- So, why the blank page?

Genesis 2:1-3 King James Version (KJV)

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

It’s interesting to me that God would stop and rest.

- Does God need rest?
- Was He tired?
- I believe God was setting a Spiritual precedence in the world... this was not some random act.

There is something about a pause.

- Music sometimes has a pause. In slow music is it longer and drawn out, but in fast tempos it is shorter.
- A poem will often times have a pause.
Sometimes it’s in the middle of a sentence, but it can also be at the beginning or end.

Winnie the Pooh said, “The best somethings happen when you’re doing nothing.”

A pause

- A time of Silence.
- A time to reflect.
- A time to rest from all the work you did the other six days.

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I wonder if we consider how important the Sabbath is to God.

- If God set aside that seventh day to rest and consider all that He had done, how much more should we?

For most of us, that Sabbath is Sunday.

- But for many who work a job that requires them to work on Sunday's, they don't get Sunday off.
 - So they have to utilize one of the days they have off as their Sabbath or day of rest.

Leviticus 23:3 New International Version (NIV)

3 “There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord.

So The Sabbath is not just a day of rest, but it is a time of Sacred assembly.

- To gather together to worship and learn about the Lord.
- Here's where we have to ask ourselves, “Are we faithful to the House of God?”
- Do we honor the Sabbath the way God would want us to?

I'm not talking about the occasional vacation.

- But the days that we're too busy to come to church.
- Or entertained for that matter...
- We've got other things to do...
- “Sorry God, you're going to have to wait. I'm going to have some fun today.”

God knows something that we sometimes forget and that is our need to pause.

- To reflect.
- To refocus
- To reconnect
 - With Him
 - With our church family.

Hebrews 10:23 NIV Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, **as some are in the habit of doing**, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Paul said, some people have gotten into the habit of not meeting with the church.

- People like to talk about other people's bad habits...
- Paul said, “I got one for you.... Missing too much church!”

What was the purpose of meeting together?

1. Vs 24... to Spur one another on to love and good deeds.
2. To encourage one another.

That sounds like a good reason to Pause on a Sunday and come to church.

- To Spur one another on to love and good deeds and to encourage one another.

“Oh, I don’t feel like going to church.”

- That’s not a good reason to stay home.
- **I don’t get to! – “Pastor”**

“Well, Jesus said we could get an ox out of the ditch on the Sabbath...”

- That doesn’t mean that we go looking for ox’s to pull out of the ditch every Sunday.
- There are somethings that can be scheduled for another day!
- Come on now...

This time we share together on Sunday is important.

- It has eternal consequences for each and every one of us.

Exodus 20:8 King James Version (KJV)

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Holy! - Definition: dedicated or consecrated to God or a religious purpose; sacred.

- I know it’s not always convenient.
- I know we don’t feel like it sometimes.
- I know we have other things we’d rather do.
- I know other people don’t observe it.
- **Exodus 20:8 King James Version (KJV). 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

You know this world that we live in chooses to a large degree to forget about God,

- “...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord...” Joshua 24:15
- Sunday is His day.
- It’s a Holy Day.
- It’s consecrated to Him.

Why do we go to church on Sunday?

- Because there is someone we can encourage.
- There is someone we can spur on to good works.
- Because we need to be uplifted ourselves.
 - And most importantly because it’s the day that we stop what we are doing in our busy lives and say, “Thank you!” to Him.
 - “I honor you today.”

- “I worship you today.”

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I like that word “intentionally”.

- In fact, I like Intentional people.
- People who do things on purpose.
- It’s not by accident that they showed up to church... they are intentional about it.
- So intentional that you can “count on them.”
- So intentional that when they are not there, you worry that maybe something is wrong.

They put it on their calendar

- Or maybe they didn’t put it on their calendar because remembering the Sabbath and being at church isn’t something that they needed to be reminded to do.

God in His infinite wisdom placed into this world during creation each creative day.

- Day one... Light
- Day two... Atmosphere
- Day three... Dry land and oceans, grass, trees, seeds, reproduction.
- Day four... The Sun, the moon, the stars
- Day five... the animals, the birds, whales, fish, the bugs, big stuff, small stuff so small you have to have a microscope to see it.
- Day six... Man, then woman, then God creates His earthly kingdom and sets man up to have dominion and authority to rule over all that He had created.
- Then at the end of a busy week, just when He thought He was done, he gets sidelined by Lucifer and the whole deal of Adam and Eve eating from the forbidden tree.
- Then there’s the fall of man and the punishment of Lucifer and Adam and Eve and then the whole curse thing.
- God had a busy week!
- But at the end of it all, instead of going on to the next thing Day seven comes around and He says... “This page intentionally left blank.”
- “I’m going to rest.”
- “I’m going to pause.”
- “I’m going to reflect.”
- “I’m going praise myself for all I’ve been doing...”
- Does anyone feel like praising Him for all that He’s been doing?

Of all the decisions we make throughout the week...

- “Should I do this...?”
- “Should I do that...?”
- “Am I doing the right thing?”

- One decision that you make will always be the right decision and that is whether or not to Keep the Sabbath Holy.
- Whether or not to come to church.

God knows “what you have need of”. Matthew 6:8

- God knows you need a day of rest, reflection, worship.

How can we expect God to bless us 6 days out of the week if we won’t even bless Him with one day?

People are like, “God I need your help today.”

- “And tomorrow too God, I’m going to need your help tomorrow.”
- “Oh, and I’ve got that other thing coming up the next day... God... I’m going to need your help there too....”
- And God’s like, “Well that’s all good, but where were you on Sunday?”
 - “You know... the Holy Day?
 - The day of consecration?
 - The day to reset
 - To refocus
 - To get your heart and mind in order?
 - The day I set aside for you to get your soul filled with my Holy Spirit?”

You know, It’s a lot easier to get through a hard week when you’ve been in good church.

- “I had a bad week, but man we had some good church!”
- You could feel the Spirit!
- You could sense His presence!
- I had goose bumps.
- Something Changed.
- I showed up tired and worn out from 6 days of “stuff”,
- But I went home encouraged.
- By the time it was over, I felt like my world was a better place.
- I wasn’t so worried.
- It wasn’t so dark.
- I felt better.
- I felt blessed.
- Why?
- Because I kept the Sabbath.
- I intentionally kept a page blank.

Where does your “Blank Page” land?

- Where is your Sabbath?

- Would you pause and take this moment to consecrate a Holy Day to the Lord?
- Make a commitment today to be committed.

Prayer:

“Lord, help me to understand the value of my church in my life.

Help me to be a blessing of encouragement to others as I faithfully serve and minister to others here.

Let this be a consecrated day to you, where I reflect on your goodness and learn about your majesty.

Thank you for this day that is set aside in my life every week to give you praise and to grow closer to you.”