

September 15, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

Are you chronically short on time? Then you're not following the rules of life.

First understand that God commands us to work:

“Keep away from any brother who is idle.... If a man will not work, he shall not eat. We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command... to settle down and earn the bread they eat” (2 Th. 3:6-12).

But God also commands us to worship, rest, and play. Weekly, we're to worship and rest:

“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God” (Ex. 20:9, 10).

(Pastors and some others do their hardest work on Sundays; they need another day off for rest.)

God also gave the Israelites commands about normal holidays: Some days were for play and rest - - in fact, a whole week of it for the Feast of the Tabernacles (Lev. 23:33-36). One day normally was for contemplation and repentance: the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:26-32).

Holidays refresh and restore you, your marriage, your family, your friendships. Breaks in the rhythm of life are God-given.

But even deeper is this wonderful truth: *rest while you work*. Let your soul be at peace. *Make every effort* to enter that Sabbath-rest of the heart (Heb. 4:11).

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