

A Gospel Handout For You
Calvary Chapel Bible Studies by Joe Paskewich

You Need Margin in Your Life



The Sabbath: God's Plan to Simplify & Order Our Lives

Everybody needs margin in their lives. Margin is all around us in our daily lives and when it is missing we notice it. The page you are reading has margins on the top, bottom and both sides. You very seldom fill a glass up to the very top, you leave some 'margin.' Our roads are constructed with 'margins' that we call the shoulder or the breakdown lane. If you've ever driven on a road that had no margin you know how uncomfortable it can be driving on them. When there is no margin, no space in our lives or around us, we tend to get nervous and 'edgy.' It's not unusual to feel that way, God made us with a need for 'margin' in our lives. We have a need for some time in our week, our month, our lifetime that is different than the rest of our 'regular' days. In the Bible God gave a commandment about this when He instituted the Sabbath.

Deuteronomy 5:12 – 16

"Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. "

When we institute "Sabbath" or margin into our lives, we become more aware of how we spend our time. Rich and poor have this alike: the amount of time each has to spend. We all have the same amount of time, but how we choose to spend it is up to us. God would like for us to budget our time in such a way that we have thought about it and structured our lives with time for God and important people.

You will spend 1/3 of your life sleeping, 1/3 of your life working and the other third getting ready for work and relaxing when it's done. If we're not careful and don't keep the concepts of 'margin' or "Sabbath" in our lives we can miss out on the most important reasons we were created.

A 1989 report stated that most people will spend: (1) Six months waiting at stop lights (2) One year looking for misplaced objects and (3) Five years waiting in line. Priority Management Inc. reported in U.S News & World Report 1/20/89.

The important principles of Sabbath include:

- 1) A Time of rest, where we cease from our routine labors and trust God to bring fruit out of them
- 2) A Time to remember and reflect on who God is and what He has done for us.
- 3) A Time to be together with the people that mean the most to us in our lives

The day or time matters little according to the New Testament (see Romans 14 & 1 Corinthians 10,) but it is important to remember the principle. Time is not like money, it cannot be stored up and used at another time. Let's learn to use our time and money wisely and attend to the important things in our lives and trust God with the rest!

Join us any Sunday morning 8:00; 9:30 or 11:15 as we journey together through the Bible discovering the purpose of life and answers to life's questions.
DIRECTIONS TO CALVARY CHAPEL: From 395 take exit 79 (not 79-A) turn right and follow signs to Calvary Chapel. 860-848-7400 www.revelation320.org