

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

THE FATHER AND THE SON ARE ALWAYS AT WORK

John 5:17 (NIV) “My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working.”

The Jews, makers of many laws, put up picket fences that they, without perhaps realizing, used to restrict God. Out of their desire for religious purity, they criticized Jesus for healing a man on the Sabbath. They were, by this criticism, telling Jesus He was forbidden to show grace and mercy to a person in great need of physical healing, simply because it happened to be the sabbath day.

God, through the Third Commandment, instructed that the Sabbath Day is to be kept holy and sacred. He knew that sinful human beings needed spiritual refreshment and bodily renewal. Thus, He said that the Sabbath Day was to be reserved for the good of humanity and that all human beings should use this day to give Him glory and honor. The Sabbath Day is a day, set apart by God for you and all people to come into His presence for spiritual renewal and to receive a foretaste of the eternal life to come.

Jesus needs no Sabbath in that He keeps an endless sabbath. He takes no time for special rest on one day in seven, because He must sustain and provide everyday for the world He created with His heavenly Father. Father and Son have promised to provide all we need to support our body, soul, life and spirit. So, Jesus said to the Jews who criticized Him for healing on the Sabbath, “My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working.” (John 5:17)

No one can tell God what to do or when to do it. Creator and sustainer that He is, knowing all and having all power and authority, He does what He knows is right and good for you and all of His creation. The handicapped man needed healing. The Sabbath Day did not restrict Jesus’ grace toward this man. Jesus saw His need and healed him. No day restricts His grace from your days either. His love for you is never-ending. Thanks be to God who grants you daily victory over Satan, sin, death, this world and all that comes your way through Christ Jesus, your Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, bringer of God's grace into my life, minister to my every need according to Your will, for my good and to Your glory. In Your holy name. Amen.

Amazing grace— how sweet the sound— That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.
(LSB 744)