



Mike Tucker

A  
Time  
*for you*



Pacific Press® Publishing Association

Nampa, Idaho

Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

[www.pacificpress.com](http://www.pacificpress.com)

# Contents

|           |  |    |
|-----------|--|----|
| CHAPTER 1 | A Time for Restoration.....            | 5  |
| CHAPTER 2 | A Time for Rest.....                   | 9  |
| CHAPTER 3 | A Time to Trust .....                  | 18 |
| CHAPTER 4 | A Time to Pamper Your Soul .....       | 28 |
| CHAPTER 5 | A Time to Create Order From Chaos..... | 38 |
| CHAPTER 6 | A Time to Be Loved .....               | 47 |
| CHAPTER 7 | A <i>Specific</i> Time for You .....   | 57 |

# A Time for Restoration

Ronnie was a young married man with a wife and a six-year-old son. As he looked at the future, Ronnie wanted to be able to give his family more than his current job and income provided. So Ronnie started his own business.

Owning your own business may seem exciting, but most people don't understand the tremendous commitment of time a business requires. Ronnie found himself working twelve, fourteen, even sixteen hours a day, seven days a week. This went on for months. As you might imagine, such a schedule took a toll on Ronnie's family.

One day at work Ronnie was looking for a needed piece of paper and realized he had taken it home and had left it there. So during lunchtime Ronnie hurried home to retrieve the document. He raced upstairs to his bedroom, grabbed the paper, ran back downstairs and was halfway through the dining room when his son saw him. The boy hadn't seen his father in weeks since Ronnie was gone by the time the boy woke up in the morning and didn't come home until after the boy was in bed at night.

Ronnie's son ran toward his father, shouting, "Daddy, Daddy, stay with me!" He grabbed Ronnie's leg and wouldn't let him go. Ronnie couldn't shake the boy off. So he stopped and knelt down by his son and hugged him.

His son's seventh birthday was coming up soon. Ronnie said, "I've got to go back to work now, but I'll be back, and soon we'll celebrate your birthday together. Tell me what you want for your birthday, and I'll buy it for you. Anything you want!"

The boy said, "I want you, Daddy."

Ronnie said, "You've got me. Just tell me what you want for your birthday and I'll buy it for you, if you will let me go back to work right now. Do you want a video game or a pony or a model train? What do you want?"

The boy said, "I want you. I want you to spend the day with me, Daddy."

It was then that Ronnie realized that he had to make some serious changes in his life. It hit him that he had tried to buy off his son with things, when all that his son really wanted was his father's time. His son wanted time with his father more than he wanted things.

God is like the little boy in this story. Of all the things we could possibly give God, the thing He wants most is the gift of ourselves. He longs to spend leisured, uninterrupted time with us. Not just "quality time," but a quantity of quality time.

God has longed for such time with us since the day Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. On that day God was separated from us, and we were separated from Him. Adam and Eve lost the unrestricted access they once enjoyed with God. This loss was more than just the loss of a friendship; it was potentially the loss of life for human beings since no one can exist when separated from God.

God doesn't want anyone to perish, so even before Adam and Eve broke their connection with Him, God had devised a plan by which He could reconcile His estranged creation to Himself. Part of the plan involved a Substitute who would care for the sins of humanity by dying in our place. That Substitute was Jesus, the Second Person of the Godhead.

However, God knew that the wall of separation would be difficult for man to penetrate, even after receiving Jesus' gracious sacrifice. So God provided special methods we could use in order to restore the intimacy we once enjoyed. These ancient practices are simple things, such as prayer, worship, Bible study, praise, and many more. Each of these practices was designed to help those who have been redeemed by Christ's sacrifice to enjoy an experience of personal closeness to God. They can help us bridge the gap between God and ourselves that our rebellion has caused.

God understood that it would be easy for us to become so involved with the daily grind of earning a living and raising a family that we would let these things crowd Him out of our lives. He knew that as we became busy with all kinds of things—even good and necessary things—we could neglect the one thing that is essential to life. We could neglect spending meaningful time with God.

In order to protect against this, God gave us a very special gift. He called that gift "Sabbath." Sabbath is a twenty-four-hour period of time designed to let us experience intimate interaction with God. It is a time when we step back from our work and the ordinary cares of daily living to focus exclusively on the relationship that renews and restores us. It is a time for rest, worship, praise, joy, and celebration.

This short book is intended to help explain the value of Sabbath rest in today's hectic world. As we examine the ancient practice of celebrating Sabbath, we will discover its genius for our computerized, commercialized, pressurized lives. God's gift of Sabbath is just as valuable for your weary soul today as it was on the day He created it.

It is my prayer that Sabbath will serve as a tool to help provide for you a deeper relationship with God. May God renew your soul and restore the quality relationship He has always desired to experience with you.

---

## **E**XERCISES

---

*Take an inventory of yourself. Ask yourself the following questions and write down your answers:*

- *Do I feel tired emotionally, physically, or spiritually?*
- *Do I feel separated from God?*
- *Does something seem missing from my life?*

*If you answered Yes to even one of the above questions, pray that God will guide you to an experience of reconciliation with Him. Make a covenant with God to dedicate a day every week to your spiritual reconciliation.*