

Painting a Masterpiece  
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Landscape artists, painting, do not always stand at an arm's length from their canvas. They know that it is best not to limit their attention just to the isolated details of what they are doing. They need to see how their thousands of small brush-strokes are fitting together to produce the overall result. The best artists know that they need to occasionally step back from their work and view it from a distance.

Likewise, our perspective on life is much improved if sometimes we can step back and see it whole. We can become so occupied with its daily brush-strokes that we have no real perception of the whole scene we are painting on our canvas of life. Our attentions can be so consumed by the requirements of daily living that we have little awareness of the dimensions and directions of life itself.

There is a reason that God has given us instructions to take time out of our lives to “be still”. There is a reason why we are instructed to labor six days and to rest one. Doing this helps us keep our perspective. Doing this helps us maintain our direction. Doing this helps us feed our inspiration. Doing this helps keep us connected with our Creator. All of these are vital in the art of our life’s painting.

This week, I encourage you to join me in taking some time to step back from the canvas a little. Let us look beyond the varied episodes of our daily doings and try to see the picture as a whole. Let us look beyond the brush-strokes which make the art to see the art which the brush-strokes have made - and are making.

A stroke here or there, the colors we've used, the lights and shadows we have painted in - what does it all come out to be? What should we do now? What colors should come next? What strokes are needed to complete the art we began so long ago?

Do what you know in your heart you need to do.

As we continue painting on our canvas of life, remember that the Master Painter has made Himself available to help us in all of our needs. There is no errant brush stroke that the Master Painter can't correct. There is no canvas that is so messed up that it can't be transformed into a work of art. Remember also that the dark colors are as needful as the bright colors to create a masterpiece in life, and that you are a masterpiece!