

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 8TH-9TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

## REST (HEBREWS 4:1-5) REMINDERS AND WARNINGS

The writer believes his people know and trust in Jesus. However, he doesn't take their belief for granted. Their desire to possibly leave the faith requires the writer to issue a serious warning: **don't fall short!**

- It's possible to hear and understand the truth and still miss it in unbelief (fall short).

## KNOWING THE TRUTH ISN'T ENOUGH

We say it often but even the demons know the truth about Jesus. God promises rest to those who **trust** in Jesus by **faith**. Those who hear the truth but won't believe won't find rest.

- **We live in a culture of great unrest which promises contentment but leaves people wanting. They need Jesus!**

## GOD'S OFFERED REST

God "rested" at the completion of creation for our benefit as an example. The Israelites rested as God's people in the Promised Land. Jesus lived, died, and rose again to give us a rest from the bondage of sin. One day, Believers will enter into eternal rest in resurrection bodies free from sin with new heavens and a new earth.

## WHICH WILL WE CHOOSE?

We can choose the rest that's provided by our Lord, but it will be on His terms, not ours. His rest gives hope now and for eternity.

- Like in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23), we can let the devil **steal** our faith, let distress **push us away**, or the stuff of this world **distract** us.

## URGENCY (HEBREWS 4:6-11) UNIVERSALLY OFFERED, NOT UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED

All the Israelites coming out of Egypt were offered the chance to go into the Promised Land. All saw the power of God in the 10 plagues, in the parting of the Red Sea, in water from the rock, in the giving of the Law on the fiery mountain, and in daily manna.

- **Disobedience displays a hardened heart.**

## WHY DELAY? CHOOSE TODAY!

The writer expresses an urgency for his people to **keep choosing Jesus**.

- While God lives outside of time, we don't. We can't change the past and we aren't promised the future. All we have is today. **Each day** allows us to renew our commitment to live for Jesus as He gives us strength and opportunity.

## POINTERS TO JESUS

Moses, Joshua, and the Promised Land were all pointers to Jesus. The writer doesn't want his people to miss the point of the OT. It was all about Jesus and what He accomplished for them.

- We aren't New Testament Christians only. We are **biblical** Christians.

## THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS IS OUR HOPE.

In v. 10, the writer says that "the person who has entered his rest has rested from his own works." Yet, in v. 11, the writer says, "make every effort to enter that rest." He is saying to quit trying to earn your salvation by what you have done for Jesus and rest in what Jesus has **done for you**.

## MOVIES REVEAL MORE THAN SNAPSHOTS

The writer warns his people against patterns of disobedience like the Israelites had. This is a pattern that displays a hardened heart.

- As Christians, we will sometimes sin which should prompt **brokenness, repentance, and resolve** not to repeat that sin. We don't tolerate our sin; **we go to war with our sin!**

## EXPOSURE (HEBREWS 4:12-13) WE CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD

The writer points out the overwhelmingly powerful word of God in exposing sin. Nothing is hidden from God as the Holy Spirit works through the Word.

- We can wear masks we believe hide our deepest secrets from everyone, including ourselves. **But God sees all.**

## AS LONG AS IT'S RIGHT...RIGHT?

Not only does the Word judge what we are thinking, but it judges the intentions (motives) behind everything we do.

- We can do right things, like go to church, read the Bible, and help our neighbor. **God is as concerned about the "why" behind what we do as the "what" we do.**

## NOWHERE TO GO

In the same way Adam and Eve were naked and ashamed before the holiness of God, so will all humanity be. Jesus is the Righteous Judge who alone is worthy to judge all humanity. And every man and woman will one day give an account to Him **for everything**.

- Without Jesus, we have no hope.

## HUMILITY (HEBREWS 4:14-16) WE BETTER HOLD ON TO JESUS!

If it's possible to miss God's rest, if it's possible to fall into a pattern of disobedience and fall short, if it's impossible to hide any of our sin from God, **we need help!**

- Our help is found in our great High Priest, Jesus, who died for us, overcame sin, death, and hell for us, and now intercedes for us.

## THE PERFECT GOD-MAN

God the Son took on flesh so that He could enter into the weakness of all humanity. God the Son has been tempted in every way as we are, but He didn't sin! This makes Him uniquely qualified to be our High Priest.

- Jesus didn't have to die **for His sins** which means He is worthy to die **for our sins**.

## WHAT WE CONFESS MATTERS

The writer tells them to hold fast to their confession. Of what? It is what they believe about Jesus and what He has done for them: the gospel.

- We all live our lives by some kind of confession. But as Christians, **the Bible alone is our source and authority.**

## TO BE TEMPTED IS NOT SIN

Does "tempted in every way as we are" really mean in every way? **Yes!** While Jesus may not have been tempted in every specific expression of sin (there weren't cellphones), He was tempted in every category of sin (lust, greed, pride, etc.).

- **Jesus sympathizes when He helps us.**

## BOLDNESS DOES NOT EXCLUDE HUMILITY

Through Jesus, we can come to the throne of grace **as sons and daughters**, not as strangers. And when we come, we find **mercy** (when we don't get what we deserve) and **grace** (when we get what we don't deserve).

- This privilege is a gift to be received, not earned, **which produces humility.**

## DO NOT STOP

Notice the writer says we can approach and receive mercy "in time of need." Jesus stands ready to help us **all the time** if we will come.

- The only thing that limits Jesus' availability and power to help us is **us**. **There is no temptation that can't be overcome and there is no sin that can't be forgiven.**

## PROXIMITY TO GOD ≠ SAVING FAITH

- Hearing the gospel doesn't save us, believing does.
- Most people, especially in the U.S., know enough to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Too many things in this world pull us away.
- Remaining in Christ is both a **passive response** and an **active pursuit**.

## A PASSIVE RESPONSE TO GOD BY FAITH

- Jesus did the work and paid the price.
- By faith, we receive Jesus as Savior and His indwelling Holy Spirit.
- The gifts of the Spirit are ours.
- The Fruit of the Spirit is ours.
- We are made sons and daughters.
- We inherit everything in Jesus.

## AN ACTIVE PURSUIT OF GOD

- We make every effort to enter rest (v. 4).
- We hold firmly to the end (3:14).
- We pursue Jesus (Philippians 3:14).
- We pay close attention to our life and teaching (1 Timothy 4:16).
- We fight the good fight of the faith (1 Timothy 6:12).
- We work out our salvation (Philippians 2:12).
- We gather regularly for worship (10:25).
- We read and obey the Bible (Hebrews 1:22).
- We pray (Philippians 4:6-7).
- We tell others about Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).
- We baptize and disciple those who believe.
- We meet the needs of the community (Matthew 25:31-40).
- We love and long for Jesus (Revelation 22:20).

## WHEN WE FALL SHORT

- When we are tempted, we run to Jesus.
- When we sin, we run to Jesus, **not from Him**.
- His mercy and grace are unending.
- But don't presume upon this, remembering Jesus suffered and died in our place.
- **Let's live out what we say we believe.**