

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 8TH-9TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

REST: NOW, THEN FOREVER (HEBREWS 4:1-11) THE PROMISE TO ENTER HIS REST REMAINS (V. 1)

Ancient Israel was not allowed to enter the promised land in Canaan due to their unbelief and disobedience. The writer of Hebrews is warning us to not be guilty of the same sin. However, they are encouraging us that the promised "rest" is still available today, if we beware, consider, and examine history and ourselves.

- **We must not be complacent or drifting through.**

NOT UNITED WITH... WHO HEARD IT IN FAITH (V. 2)

Because "older" Israel did not trust in the guidance of the Word of God with confidence and faith, they were not allowed to share in the gift of His blessing and peace along with their children and grandchildren. It is not enough to only hear the Word of God (James 1:22-25).

- We must receive it with faith that follows through with obedience (James 2:14-26).

...WORKS HAVE BEEN FINISHED (V. 3)

Christ's work on the cross has finished the "work" needed to satisfy the wrath of God on our behalf. This is true only for those who have put their faith and trust in Him alone. We are not saved by our own righteous works, and we are not kept by our works, **but we are not saved away from our good works either** (Matthew 7:15-20; Ephesians 2:10).

- **The power and work of God should be evident.**

...ON THE SEVENTH DAY, GOD RESTED (VS. 4-5)

We are not above God. We, too, need rest. God set aside time for us to rest—to be revitalized to pour out worship, love for others, and service to Him. "**Sabbath rest**" is not a passive inactivity or neglect of responsibility. It's intentionally finding balance in our week to pause and **rest in the finished work of Christ** (John 19:30).

- **This takes diligence and effort to reorganize.**

TODAY, IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE (VS. 6-7)

God has perfectly revealed His character, will, and desires through the Word of God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are to read this passage about "today" as an urgent call to action. We must not harden our hearts with unbelief or disobedience but **receive and respond to the "good news."**

- **We have two options: to receive or to reject. This may take time, but it should take root.**

GREATER THAN JOSHUA (VS. 8-10)

Jesus is greater than the angels and Moses. Now, we see He is greater than Joshua. Joshua was one of two sons of Israel who responded to God with faith and obedience and led Israel into "Canaan rest." But this rest was not eternal. **Joshua, Yeshua/Jesus: rescuer, deliverer, savior.**

- **A present rest is available to those who trust in Christ. This present rest is a shadow of eternity.**

MAKE EVERY EFFORT (V. 11)

How are we to "make every effort to enter that rest" when the work of salvation that only God can do has been finished on the cross?

- **We are to examine our hearts and actions for any unbelief and disobedience to God's Word and hold that up to the good news we have received.**
- **If our faith is true, it will be battle-tested and persevere. This takes humility and endurance.**

LIVING AND EFFECTIVE (HEBREWS 4:12-13)

WORD OF GOD—STABBING AND SLICING (V. 12)

The Word of God is many times related to Jesus Christ himself, but in this context, it is the general message of the Bible and how it relates to our lives. The Holy Spirit, if you are listening, is **working through the Bible to examine the reader's mind and soul; exposing things that need to be removed or matured.** It is not a dead book of wisdom writing.

- **Vulnerability leads to pain, then leads to growth.**

NAKED HONESTY AND EXPOSED TRUTH (V. 13)

This is the point at which we shrink back and reject the Word, or we take a knee in trust and reverence to Christ. It is deeply uncomfortable to be vulnerable and honest with ourselves, let alone a holy and just God, but this is where our faith becomes real **in spirit and in truth** (John 4:24).

- **How many times do we lie to ourselves, justify our sins, or ignore God completely?**

THE DANGER

Rejecting the truth of God's Word in our lives can be very dangerous. It's the exact warning Hebrews is laying out for us (John 16:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:19)!

- You say you believe, but are you sure your life is not exemplifying unbelief in God's promises or warnings?
Are you disobedient to the commands of Scripture? Are you rejecting the love of Christ?
- **He chastises those who are His (Hebrews 12:6).**

THRONE OF GRACE (HEBREWS 4:14-16)

A GREAT HIGH PRIEST (V. 14)

Jesus is greater than Aaron and his house. The high priest was the only one who could enter the holy of holies once a year to give sacrifice and atonement for the sins of himself and the people. Jesus, the Son of God, has exceeded this earthly ministry and passed through to the heavenly presence of God (Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:7).

- **This gives us confidence in our hope in Christ.**

...SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESS (V. 15)

The Son of God, Jesus, is completely man. He came to Earth and lived a perfect life as an example. He endured temptation and conquered sin so He could be our Great High Priest and suffering Savior. He endured the same and greater temptations we all have, yet he did not sin even once. **Because of this, we can cling to Him.**

- **To reject this truth is to reject Christ completely.**

APPROACH...WITH BOLDNESS (V. 16)

Mercy is *not* receiving what we deserve (punishment). Grace is *receiving something* we did not earn (righteousness). This is the gift of God. We who have faith (and obey), are His children and share in the benefits of being in the family of Christ. **This means we have direct access to the throne of grace without shame!**

- **We can boldly ask for what we need in Christ!**

PRESENT REST

- **Rest is available now as peace with God.** You can have peace with God through trusting and obeying Him as your Lord and Savior, TODAY!
- **Rest is available now as peace in God.** We can have peace in God throughout our lives as we have faith and obey Him by responding to His Word and keeping our hope in the inheritance we have in eternity. **This world has nothing for us!**

WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK

- **Many of us struggle with this by trying to hold on to the ways of this world AND trying to love and serve Him.** In so doing, we are tossed by the waves and wind, **slowly drifting away.**
- **Before we know it, we feel lost at sea: fearful, shameful, convicted, numb, or hopeless.** This is where Satan can get a grip on us, feeling defeated and discouraged (1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7).

LETTING GO. CLING TO HIM.

- **For others of us, our pride or love for the things of this world is built back up, and we are unwilling to receive correction or guidance.** So, we lose faith and hope in the "confession" we once had.
- **Jesus, you are Lord. I am not. I need you to save me from myself and my sin. God, please help me enter Your rest and give peace to my soul!**