

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 9TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

## A PROMISED OPPORTUNITY (HEBREWS 4:1-4) THEREFORE...

The author continues the topic of rest and shares a warning through the example of the Israelites. Much of the content discussed in Chapter 3 is also talked about in Chapter 4.

- Repetition is important. Not only was the intended audience rooted in tradition, but all of us have a sense of stubbornness and need reminders to keep us accountable.

## PROMISES OF GOD

In the Bible, there are over 7,000 promises of God to His people. Deuteronomy 28 contains numerous promises from God that result in blessings because of obedience and consequences because of disobedience.

- The promise to enter His rest remains. Promises like these should give us comfort and peace in times of doubt and anxiety.

## GOSPEL 101

All have sinned and have fallen short (Romans 3:23). Therefore, we must be justified by grace, through faith (Ephesians 2:8). We receive the good news and are united with those who hear and respond in faith (Hebrews 4:2).

- **This means no one can experience the eternal rest described here unless they respond to the good news they have heard!**

## ENTER HIS REST

Here, rest signifies both a sanctification of our faith through a relationship with our creator, and our eternal rest: our salvation. His works have been finished since the beginning of creation, and His rest is available to us only through proper humility and recognition of who He is.

- Hearing God's word is not enough. **Hearing the gospel is only profitable if faith is produced.**

## EVANGELISM 101

If we are saved by grace through faith and understand that we are not saved from our works, but for works, what then?

- Matthew 28:19-20 is a great barometer for the "what next" after salvation. **We must be sharing Jesus with others from a source of love and not from condemnation.** "Let anyone who has ears listen" (Matthew 13:9).

## "ON THE SEVENTH DAY..."

The writer is not improperly quoting scripture here. We must remember that our Bible looked very different back then.

- **God rested on the seventh day** (Genesis 2:2-3). This is something we must model as well. **Hard work and rest are equally important.** Although, **rest becomes selfish if hard work does not precede it.**

## EXPOSED (HEBREWS 4:5-13) HIS REST REMAINS FOR SOME

Psalms 95 is quoted a third time since Chapter 3. **It is necessary for us to understand His love for us, and to learn from the example of those before us.**

- If the Israelites did not experience His rest, and we have the opportunity to partake in His rest today, why would we choose the alternative? **Disobedience only becomes a disqualifier for enjoying His rest because of selfishness and pride!**

## TODAY IS THE DAY!

A Believer's response of repentance and correction needs to be swift. When the Word, or other individuals, hold us accountable, it should not harden our hearts, but it should soften our hearts to the point of reexamination resulting in healing.

- To address sin in our lives and get right with God, there is no time like the present.

## JESUS IS GREATER THAN JOSHUA

Joshua was held in high regard by the Jewish population. The author continues placing some of the Hebrew spiritual giants next to Jesus for a sense of comparison.

- Joshua 21:44 and 23:1 say the Lord had given Israel rest from their enemies. **Through Joshua, Israel found temporary political security, but through Jesus, we find eternal security.**

## SABBATH REST

If God rested, we should rest. The Sabbath was created as a day of rest. "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

- When we enter His rest, we no longer need to work. This is not to say that we no longer do good works, but we do not work for our own righteousness and instead rest in His. Jesus' work on the cross is final.

## ACTIVE FAITH VS. PASSIVE FAITH

God is living (Hebrews 3:12) and so is His word (Hebrews 4:12). This means that God is active in what He is doing, and if we are reading His word, we should be active in what we are doing. His word calls us to action.

- **We do not exercise, work, or fight in a passive manner, so why do we expect to live out our faith without action?**

## THE WORD IS DIVISIVE

"Take...the sword of the Spirit – which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). God's word is an offensive and defensive weapon like a sword, and with its sharpness, it will penetrate deep.

- While reading through our Bibles, we will come across things that are hard to hear. When darkness in us is revealed, we must be willing to accept correction and desire healing.

## NOTHING IS HIDDEN FROM HIM

When the Word penetrates and separates, our true thoughts and intentions are exposed. Therefore, nothing is hidden from God, and we are completely vulnerable to judgment. As a result, we must give an account (vs. 12-13).

- Having everything exposed can be uncomfortable. Even so, for healing to occur, confession is necessary.

## HIGH PRIEST: JESUS (HEBREWS 4:14-16) OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

- There was no other High Priest who was "great."
- There was no other High Priest who had "passed through the heavens."
- There was no other High Priest who was the "Son of God."
- The author of Hebrews had to make this distinction to show the intended audience the importance of who Jesus is.

## CONFESSION TO ONE WHO CAN SYMPATHIZE

Verse 14 should comfort us when coming to Jesus with the trials of this life. Jesus is perfect in his deity while also completely human during His time on Earth.

- We do not confess to Jesus only to receive condemnation. Here, to sympathize is to *suffer along with*. **While Jesus is sinless, He is also complete in his compassion toward His people.**

## "ONE WHO HAS BEEN TEMPTED IN EVERY WAY"

The term used in verse 15 (weaknesses) is a comprehensive way to know that no struggle is absent in Christ's sympathetic nature. Whatever we are going through, Jesus understands and is near to us in times of struggle.

- **Prayer is vital in this way.** Humans can only relate to one another so well, but we have a Savior who relates perfectly.

## "...YET WITHOUT SIN."

Jesus was tempted to give in to His hunger with His prestige and the prospect of power (Matthew 4:1-11). Yes, Jesus can sympathize with the weaknesses and temptations we may face, but Jesus cannot sympathize with our sins.

- "If the Christ of God could have sinned, He would have lost the perfection of His sympathetic nature" (Spurgeon).

## OUR RESPONSE

Once we understand the desperate need for a Savior, the gift of salvation, and recognize Jesus' role as the great High Priest in our lives, we have an outline for our response in v. 16:

- **Come to God in reverence.**
- **Approach with boldness; in humility, not pride.**
- **Receive mercy (not getting what we deserve).**
- **Receive grace (getting what we do not deserve).**

## HIS REST IS...

- Only experienced through obedience.
- Eternal.
- True, pure peace.
- Real freedom from the burdens of this life.
- Freedom from the Mosaic law.
- **Authentic, renewing, refreshing rest that He also enjoyed.**

## TEMPORARY REST AND ETERNAL REST

- Once we trust Jesus and the work He has done, we are able to receive eternal rest.
- Do we find comfort in our salvation?
- During times of busyness and work, why do we tend to look anywhere other than Jesus for solace and peace?
- What are we doing with the good news?
- **Rest ≠ Laziness**