

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 9TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

## REST (HEBREWS 4:1-11) THEREFORE

Whenever we see "therefore," we need to ask, "What is it there for?" This is to **equip us with context**, so we don't accidentally distort Scripture (and we can identify when someone else does).

- When we approach the Bible, we need to **be humble** and **let it tell us what it is saying**.

## PROMISE

The writer just got done talking about Israel's wandering for 40 years before they entered into the promised land, how **their hearts were hardened**, and how **they didn't listen to God**.

- Usually it's not massive events that make disbelief, but a **slow drift** without the anchor of **prayer** and **Scripture**.

## FALLEN SHORT

The writer wants these people to know that **they have not fallen short**, they are saved, and **they are Christians**.

- **We all need encouragement**. We all have moments of doubt and we need to quench them with truth. We need to be reminded that **God calls us by our name; the enemy call us by our sin**.

## I SWORE

This is Psalm 95, written several decades after Israel, led by Joshua, fought and was given the promised land. Yet they are still warned that **they can harden their hearts**. This shows God's rest is not given **by earthly blood**. The rest God gives is not a physical gift **but a spiritual gift**.

## MAKE EVERY EFFORT

Knowing this, the readers are told about a Sabbath offered now, not at the end of our lives or at the end of the week. **It is offered to everyone by the gospel**.

- So is this works based gospel? Nope. No one **earns** grace, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). Yet there still **needs to be an effort of surrender**.

## SHARPER (HEBREWS 4:12-13)

### LIVING

The Word of God is one of the **greatest miracles God has ever done**: 66 books, over 1,500-2,000 years, by over 40 authors, which are completely interwoven and without error or contradiction.

- He did this for us so we can get to know and gain a deeper understanding of what **the Spirit is telling us to do**.

### EFFECTIVE

The Bible is not a book of morals and how to live a better life. **It's a book with a purpose**: not how to be Holy, but **how to live once someone has become Holy through the blood of Jesus**.

- **Holiness is not moralism**. It is when we have been set apart for God and now **our very being is for God**.

## DOUBLE EDGED SWORD

Some like to use this to say that **the Bible is given to Christians to be a weapon** for their personal agenda, which is not the case.

- It is more like a **surgery tool** that never dulls. **We use it to inspect ourselves for error and sin, and expose it** now so we won't be exposed later.

## HIGH PRIEST (HEBREWS 4:14-16)

### PRIESTS

They would be the ones who would perform the sacrifices, and the High Priest would enter into the Place of Meeting in the temple to receive any revelation and **represent Israel before God on their behalf**.

- **Now Jesus is on the throne representing us**.

### GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Knowing everything that is done will be judged by God can be terrifying, especially when **someone properly examines themselves**. This is why the writer wants us to know that **the one judging us knows us**.

- **We do not serve a distant God**; He lives in us, and works through us.

### TEMPTED

In humility, God the Son took on flesh and was tempted. God experienced temptation, not for **bragging rights**, or to **lord it over us**, or to **gain anything, except for us**.

- By Him experiencing temptation we have someone **who understands what it is like to go through life**.

### APPROACH

God's temptation creates a boldness in Believers to approach Him because it is much more comfortable **to go to someone with a problem who knows what it's like**.

- **God is wanting us to draw near Him, desiring to give us rest**, and He will go as deep as we want.

### EFFORT

- When we become Christians we need to **hold on to Jesus knowing that He will always give us rest**.
- Salvation is a completely free gift, but **it is not cheap**.
- When we follow Jesus **we never know where it will take us**, but **we know the reward**.

### HOLY

- When we become a Believer, **we gain a purpose** greater than any job, position, family, or dream could give.
- We become **a child of God**, more than **an overcomer**, and **co-heir with Jesus**.
- We become a holy people who have **died to their sin** and **are alive in Christ**.
- **The Bible tells us how to be that**.

### THRONE

- Jesus set the example and showed that **we don't have to give in to our sin**.
- **He is interceding for us**, and knocking on the door of our hearts.
- **Are we doing the same** for our family, friends, and community?
- If any of us are searching for the truth, **we will find it**.