



Real Rest for Christians

Hebrews 4:1-13

2/24/19

Hebrews 4:1-13 (NIV); 4 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. 2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. 3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. 4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "On the seventh day God rested from all his works." 5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

6 Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, 7 God again set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. 9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

True rest is only found in a right relationship with God. Jesus is the ultimate and only source of true rest. Please, never lose focus of Christ. Using our scripture as a guide today, we could define faith as: to believe God's Word and respond in obedience by entering His rest.

Christ-Centered Exposition of Hebrews summary of Hebrews 3:14-19: The land of promise was more than just a piece of territory. The land was indicative of God's promise to Abraham and signified God's plan to restore creation after the fall corrupted it. Entering the promised land meant enjoying and entering God's plan of salvation and inhabiting the very place where God set His dwelling.

The Word of God had no value to the Israelites so they disobeyed. They fell short of entering God's rest. We've had the Good News preached us just as the Hebrews did in our scripture today. How will we respond? What is the "good news?"

Faith comes from hearing the message and believing. Believing is an action step of acceptance or obedience. Therefore, we must accept the "good news," obey and enter God's rest by His grace, not by our own strength.

The promise of spiritual rest which God gives is finished work and is still available to all who will believe. Our role is to tell people to about God's spiritual rest through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:12-14 is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible. God's divine revelation accomplishes everything He wills. It comforts and nourishes those who believe and like a sword is a tool of judgement and execution for those who have not committed themselves to Jesus Christ.

How do we respond to verses 12-14? In our nakedness, either we will respond in obedience or be left vulnerable to destruction.

Warren Wiersbe, American pastor, Bible teacher, speaker and writer... he wrote this summary about Hebrews 4: 1-13: *God's Sabbath rest is a type of our present rest of salvation, following the finished work of Christ on the cross. It is also a picture of the "eternal sabbath" of glory. Israel's Canaan rest is similar to the life of victory and blessing we gain as we walk by faith and claim our inheritance in Christ.* (Wiersbe's Expository Outlines of the New Testament; p.684)

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