

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“How to Find the Rest You Really Crave”

“Jesus is Greater” - Pt. 10

Hebrews 4:1-11 & Selected

If I am to Find True Rest...

I. I will apply both belief and trust in God’s good news!

“Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news (the Gospel) came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.” Vs. 1

See Numbers 13:17-14:12

The Promised Land Represented:

- **God’s beautiful land of plenty!**
- **God’s amazing hand of provision!**
- **God’s clear promise of protection!**
- **God’s plan for His people’s rest!**

True faith is the combination of both belief in God and trust in His Word!

II. I will understand the rest God has available for me!

See Vs. 3-10

God's Rest Fulfilled:

- 1) Cosmic Rest**
- 2) Canaan Rest**
- 3) Calvary Rest**

"For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from His." Vs. 8-10

"It is finished,' and He (Jesus) bowed His head and gave up His spirit." John 19:30

III. I will strive daily for the rest God has available for me!

"Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience." Vs. 11

The Apostle Paul, *"...for a wide door for effectual work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." 1 Corinthians 16:9*

Jesus said, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30*

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.'" Revelation 14:13

The PL always looks beautiful from the outside looking in... It's a land of milk and honey, a land filled with the richest produce of the land. But once inside the PL, you realize that the blessing of living in the richest of lands comes with a price – you must fight the giants in the land to have the blessing of God!

In this verse, Paul is explaining the door God has opened for him in Ephesus. He says several things: The word “wide” is *megale* in the Greek and it means *gigantic!* The word “effectual” is *energes* and it means *something powerful and ready to be released, to be set in motion.* The word “door” is *thura*, it usually means just *a door*, but in this context, it means *a rare opportunity.* The words “has opened” is *anoigo*, which describes something *standing wide open.* The door for ministry Paul is talking about has been thrown open and could not be more open because it is a wide-open opportunity for incredible service to the Kingdom.

“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.” Vs. 12

I am in Danger of an Unbelieving Heart when...

1) My heart is hardened to the voice of God.

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’” Vs. 7-8a

2) My faith fails when I’m being tested.

“...on the day of testing in the wilderness.” Vs. 8b

3) My unbelief remains after seeing God at work.

“...where your father put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.” Vs. 9

4) My contempt grows the harder my heart becomes.

“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?’” Numbers 14:11

5) My grumbling and complaining about God increases.

“Therefore the people quarreled with Moses ... and the people grumbled against Moses.” Exodus 17:2, 3

6) My willingness to persevere diminishes.

“For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.” Vs. 14

7) My failure to live my spiritual destiny is obvious.

See Vs. 15-19