

THE DEFINITION & MEANS OF ENTERING THE FAITH-REST LIFE (Hebrews 4:1-2)

C. The EXHORTATION for You to ENTER & ENJOY the FAITH-REST LIFE TODAY. (4)

- 1. The *subject* of this chapter revolves around the FAITH-REST LIFE. {3:11,18, 4:1,3 [2x], 5, 8, 9, 10, 11}**
- 2. The *meaning* of “rest” involves ... CESSATION of work or labor; freedom from worries or anxieties; sense of confidence, peace, and inner stability involving DEPENDENCE upon someone or something.**
- 3. The *provider* of this “rest” is GOD. (4:1; 3:11, 18, 4:3, 5, 10)**
- 4. The *available promise* of entering God’s rest REMAINS for every believer. (4:1b)**
- 5. The *warning* is for us to FEAR (be deeply concerned - about what?) a failure to COME SHORT of daily ENTERING into God’s rest. (4:1c, 3, 5, 10)**
- 6. The *definition* of the “rest” clarified:**
 - a) It is not _____. {Due to context; they were already believers in Christ.}
 - b) It is not _____. {Due to context, and a correct understanding of Canaan land.}
 - c) It is not the _____ or the reward of millennial inheritance. {Due to context & that entrance into this “rest” is being offered ‘today’, not in the future.}
 - d) It is not spiritual _____. {This cannot be entered into “today” as it is a process over time for the growing believer.}
 - e) It is the _____. {Due to context – already believers; its parallels to the Exodus generation; its availability and entrance can be enjoyed “today”.}

The faith-rest life is fully provided by God’s grace for every believer and is still available for you today regardless of past failures in your Christian life. It is a spiritual condition of perfect peace and inner stability that is entered and enjoyed through a daily walk of dependence and fellowship with Jesus Christ based upon the principles, promises, and power of God. It is designed by God to be the normal Christian life, but like the Exodus generation of Hebrews 3, it doesn’t appear to be the average Christian’s life though it is available to all believers, moment by moment and day by day. Hebrews 4:1 urges believers to be of deep concern that they and others not fail to enter the faith-rest life, especially when facing trials and pressure to compromise their stand & faithfulness to the Lord. What is the implication of verse 1 regarding believers in Christ? It is _____ that a believer in Christ who has entered into salvation rest through faith alone in Christ alone [peace with God] may _____ to enter into sanctification/submission rest in their daily walk [the peace of God], and thus, not be _____ to the Lord. In fact, this possibility was _____ for these Hebrew Christians in light of their present pressure and persecution.

- 7. The *good news* of the faith-rest life is a _____ principle and offer which was preached in the present to 1st century believers as well as was preached to the past Exodus generation that failed to enter the promised land due to unbelief. (4:2a)**

- What is a trans-dispensational or permanent principle and what are some examples of them?
- Why is it important to distinguish trans-dispensational principles vs temporary principles?
- What ‘gospel’ must you discern and “rightly divide” when it comes to each context?

a) **There is the gospel (good news) of the _____ . (Matt. 3:1; 4:17, 9:35)** This was an exclusive message originally preached historically only to the Jews of Jesus’ day (Matthew 10: 5-7) pertaining to God’s offer of setting up His long promised _____ (Daniel 7:14, 18, 27) requiring a sinner to be _____ by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (John 3) and possess _____ (Matt. 5:20) to eventually enter it. This Kingdom offer was originally *prayed* for by Christ’s disciples (Matt. 6:9-10) and *declared* to be _____ (Matt. 3:2, 4:17, 10:7, 12:28) until *after* the blaspheming of the Holy Spirit event and the rejection of Jesus as the Messiah by the national leaders of Israel (Matt. 12:22-22). While we as church-age believers living during the dispensation of grace still teach about the future Kingdom program of God (Acts 8:12, 19:8, 20:25, 28:31, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Gal. 5:21, Ephesus 5:5, Col. 1:13, 2 Tim. 4:1, Heb. 12:28, James 2:5, 2 Peter 1:11, Rev. 11:15), we do *not* preach “the _____ of the Kingdom” during the Church Age, though this message will be preached again in the coming Tribulation with the expectation of Jesus Christ’s 2nd coming to Earth to finally set up His long-promised Kingdom (Matt. 24:14).

b) **There is the gospel (good news) of the _____ (Acts 20:24) which also is called the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16)** which proclaims that _____ (eternal deity who became sinless humanity) _____ and _____ (1 Cor. 15:1-4) to provide eternal salvation as a free gift (Rom. 3:24) by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone apart from works, law, and ritual (Romans 3:28, 4:1-12; Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 1:8-10). This is the message that believers are to proclaim today (Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16) and when believed by the lost, places them by the Holy Spirit into union with Jesus Christ (John 14:16-20, 15:2, 17:20-24; Gal. 3:26-28) and the Body of Christ - the Church (1 Cor. 12:13; Ephesians 1:3, 2:8-22, 3:1-10).

c) **There is the gospel of God’s _____ for believers (Heb. 4)** which God has provided for all believers regarding their daily walk which is entered and enjoyed by _____ in resting upon God’s person, provisions, principles, and promises.

8. The *means* of entering God’s rest involves more than HEARING / KNOWING God’s Word [as important as that is], but also learning to daily TRUST in God’s PERSON, PROMISES, PRINCIPLES and POWER. (4:2b; Galatians 2:20) God’s promises to faith-rest regarding ...

- Eternal life (Jn 3:16), salvation (Acts 16:31) and the forgiveness of all our sins (Acts 10:43)
- Death of a Believer (Psalm 31:15; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 1 Thess. 4:16-18)
- God’s eternal security of the believer (John 10:28-30)
- God’s unconditional love for the believer (Romans 8:38-39)
- God’s constant care for you and your burdens (1 Peter 5:7)
- God’s daily faithfulness and compassions for you (Lam. 3:22-24; 2 Cor. 1:3-4)
- God’s promise of victory over sin (Romans 6 & 8; Gal. 5:16)
- When faced with trials (1 Peter 1:6-9) & when you feel alone (Heb. 13:5-6)
- When you need divine direction (Prov. 3:5-6; James 1:2-5)
- When you are afraid (Isaiah 41:11,13) or anxious (Phil. 4:6-7) or discouraged (Ps. 27:13-14)
- When you have sinned (1 John 1:9)
- When you sense your inadequacy (2 Cor. 3:5-6)