

Hebrews 3-4 – 5 May 2024

“The Best Test To Find Rest”

Introduction

*Intent of the letter is clearly to show how Christ Jesus is superior to every part of Judaism

*Chap 1&2 spoke of Jesus as greater than angels & yet He descended to be the lowest among men

*So if chapters 1-2 focused on God Himself becoming a man and the Savior of mankind...

*Then chapters 3-4 focus on the rest we should have once we come to His cross and find salvation

*Said another way:

*Chap 1-2 showed our superior God using His power to save lowly man

*Chap 3-4 shows Jesus as superior to the Law yet He uses it to bring us into rest and peace

So today, we'll answer 3 questions that will enable us to find the victorious Christian life

#1 – Who’s the best? Jesus’s Word is greater than the Mosaic Law (Chap 3:1-6)

Read Vs 1

1. “Wherefore” Christians–In light of chap 1-2...
 - a. We’ve discussed how our God Redeemer Jesus has saved & sanctified us (holy brethren)
 - b. We’re a part now of the calling to bring ‘many sons to glory’ thru knowing Jesus
2. “Consider Jesus” – Consider deeply how this ‘greater than angels yet became a man’ man applies to true religion
 - a. He’s the ultimate ambassador sent from God to express clearly what God’s heart is
 - b. He’s ultimate mediator for us back to God
3. But isn’t that what the Law of Moses was for?
 - a. God’s heart to us & our way back to God
 - b. Yes, but Jesus is better in that He’s capable

Read Vs 2

1. Jesus faithfully fulfilled His mission just as Moses did the same
2. “In all His house” – Referring to God’s house

Read Vs 3-4

1. “The house” of God’s presence was expressed to us thru Moses in the Law, but Jesus is the One who built it and knows all about it
 - a. It’s difference of having realtor show you a house for sale verses builder/owner showing it
2. When Jesus spoke...it was different
 - a. Read Matt 7:28.29 – As One w/ authority
 - b. “It’s like you’re at the house, the realtor says he has to go back to office to get key & the builder says, never mind, I’ve got another here under the bushes

Read Vs 5-6

1. Moses is a servant, like a realtor, Jesus is the Son, like the builder/owner
2. Moses showed us complete house of God thru the Law, Jesus gave the money & ability to move in
3. Notice (vs 5), what Moses did foreshadowed something to come

4. This spiritual house that's being built ultimately is each redeemed soul (Read I Pet 2:4-5)
 - a. Notice, as we endure to the end, that is evidence that we are His workmanship
 - b. Believing we ourselves are the temple of the living God affects the way we use of body

#2 – What's the test? Believing God's Word has always been the ask (Chap 3:7-19)

Read Vs 7-11

1. This quotation from Psm 95 shows that our problem has always been unbelief
2. Israel was never intended to wander 40 years, but to enter the Promised Land – the place of rest
 - a. There're still giants to fight, but they're conquered by resting in God's strength, not us
 - b. What has always kept man apart from God is man's rebellion - demonstrates his unbelief
 - c. Abraham believed God & it was accounted unto him as righteousness
3. Just as Psalmist encouraged Israel to believe all God says, that's still the call in the New Covenant

4. Christian life is always meant to be one of rest
 - a. Believing God brings rest thru the conquest

Read Vs 12-14

1. How could we fall into unbelief as Israel?
 - a. Not believing God's provision is enough
 - b. Not believing God's strength is enough
2. "Exhort" is same word used of the Holy Spirit
3. We should encourage others daily to believe
 - a. This isn't just a pastor's job (but also his)
 - b. Isn't just Holy Spirit's job (but also His)
 - c. This is each person's job to help each other
4. Notice this is a daily activity of the Christian
5. Sin will lie to you and we need to remind each other not to fall for the lie
6. Again vs 14, exhortation to persevere to the end

Read Vs 15-19

1. So now the emphasis that there was a divide between the believers and unbelievers.
 - a. Those that entered like Joshua & Caleb
 - b. Those that died not entering the land

#3 – How to find rest? Stop living in a works-based system (Chap 4:1-10)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Gospel of salvation has always been the same
 - a. Believe God must be the Savior & Provider
2. Should instill fear of the Lord in us knowing we CAN miss living the victorious Christian life

Read Vs 3-5

1. Entering the Promised Land was a physical picture of a spiritual reality
 - a. God was creator of the spiritual reality of resting after completed work, (i.e. Creation)
 - b. God wants our life to be picture of Himself when He ceased from His work of Creation
 - i. It's His rest

Read Vs 6-9

1. If entering the Promised Land was the real substance of the promise of rest all along, then God wouldn't have had David in Psm 95 bring up the fact that there is yet a rest to experience

2. Joshua brought them into the physical picture of rest in the Promised Land, but there is a real spiritual rest for us to yet experience

Read Vs 10

1. God role-modeled ceasing from self-effort in Creation, they had Israel act it out
2. All for us to know we can enter into same kind of rest that God entered as we believe that God is offering us the chance to rest from our efforts

Finally – The last few verses are a challenge to diligently respond (Chap 4:11-16)

Read Vs 11

1. It means let us *hurry up* to enter into rest
2. Be diligent to function from the place of rest
 - a. The moment you find yourself doing anything religious b/c “you have to” ...just stop, set your heart right & try again
 - b. We do good works not to earn God’s favor but b/c we have God’s favor

Read Vs 12-13

1. God's Word is alive & capable of showing us the deep truths of ourself, and who we really are
2. Jesus came to expose the depths of our heart
 - a. Read Matt 10:34 – Not peace but a sword
 - b. It's not, *what are you doing* but *what do you truly believe?*
 - c. Jesus said it's not just adultery but even lust, it's not just the action but the motive
 - d. God's Word is designed to expose the heart
3. Respond to what He's laying on our heart

Read Vs 14-15

1. Jesus was tempted of the devil in body, mind and spirit – this represents 'in every way'
2. Jesus was tested on whether He would believe God just as we are
3. Jesus, our High Priest showed how to trust God
4. Just as Jesus held fast to trusting God, we too should learn from His example and do it

Read Vs 16

1. Notice Jesus sympathizes w/ our weakness not w/ our sin
 - a. He cannot look upon sin, but He'll give us the strength to believe His Word and defeat sin
 - b. He'll give us grace to pick up & continue serving Him & come back to place of rest
2. We have access, b/c of Jesus leading us in, to the very throne room of God Himself

Conclusion

So this is the best test to know if you're living at rest

1. **Who's the best? Jesus's Word is greater than the Mosaic Law (3:1-6)**
2. **What is the test? Believing God's Word has always been the ask (3:7-19)**
3. **How to find rest? Stop living in a works-based system (4:1-10)**

4. Be diligent to respond (4:11-16)

- a. Press into His rest (11)
- b. Believe all of His Word (12-13)
- c. Know Jesus (14-16)

Are you anchored in Christ and not some person?

Are you seeking daily to believe more of His Word?

Are you off the roller-coaster of emotions that is works-based religious effort?