

Hebrews Chapter 4 God's King/Son/Priest 4:1-16

The Second Warning – 3:12-4:16

Therefore, let us fear...

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge... Proverbs 1:7

Acts 5:1-11 is an example of what can happen when God is not feared!

A characteristic of the ungodly is lack of fear. Romans 3:18

Let us – This phrase occurs 13 times in Hebrews and 4 times in this chapter:

-Let us fear... 4:1

-Let us be diligent... 4:11

-Let us hold fast... 4:14

-Let us draw near... 4:16

Lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.

-Rest is not equal to the promised land.

-Rest is not equal to going to heaven.

Rest is obtaining all the inheritance that God wants to give to believers.

“Throughout this epistle the writer used the terms “rest” and “inheritance” as the Old Testament used them when speaking of what the Israelites in the wilderness anticipated. These terms refer to blessings that God’s people could anticipate in the next stage of their lives if they followed Him faithfully in the present stage of their lives.” Thomas Constable

Verse 2

Good news – Not the gospel of grace for eternal salvation, but the concept of rest in Christ and the good news of their inheritance and the possibility of entering that rest when their work was done.

The word they heard did not profit them- Why? Because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

Verses 3-5

A better translation is, “*We who believe.*” The writer is looking at present faith that will result in entering into rest. There is a contrast emphasized in these verses between those who do enjoy God’s rest and those who do not enjoy God’s rest.

Psalms 95:11 is quoted to remind the readers that the wilderness generation did not enter the promised rest.

Genesis 2:2 is quoted to illustrate the rest of God. God did not rest because He was tired but because His work was complete. The point is that *rest follows work!*

Verses 6-7

It remains for some to enter it – Because the wilderness generation did not enter God’s promised rest does not mean it is no longer available. David, writing some 450 years after the Exodus, spoke of it as being present (*Today*). The same challenge is spoken to us!

Verse 8

“The prospect of rest for the Israelites, specifically the possession of the

Promised Land and life in it, did not end when Joshua defeated the Canaanites. Each succeeding generation had to continue to trust and obey God to assure its own rest in the land.” Thomas Constable

Verses 9-10

There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God – This seems to be referring to the eternal rest for all believers, of which the Millennium is just the beginning.

Rested – The Hebrew word in Genesis literally means “ceased.”

Verse 11

Let us – This is the first of three final concluding admonitions.

-Let us, therefore, be diligent...

-Let us, therefore, hold fast our confession...

-Let us, therefore, draw near with confidence...

Let us therefore, be diligent...

We must trust and obey and carry out the work that God has given us to do.

Lest anyone fall – The alternative to receiving our rest is to *fall*. The wilderness generation is our example of how not to act.

Verses 12-13

Lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience –

Two reasons are given:

1. The character of God’s Word (12)

“God’s Word can reach to the innermost recesses of our being. We must not think that we can bluff our way out of anything, for there are no secrets hidden from God. We cannot keep our thoughts to ourselves.” Leon Morris

2. The character of God (13)

1 - God sees all

2 - God sees all clearly of truly

3 - God is the One to Whom we are responsible

Verses 14-15

Let us hold fast our confession...

Why?

Because of our great High Priest!

-He has passed through the heavens

-He is Jesus, the Son of God

-He understands our weakness

Verses 16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace- The place of undeserved help!

So that in time of need we may receive...

Mercy – Not getting what we deserve

Grace – Getting what we do not deserve