

Review:

1) We are to have a certain type of fear!!! **V.1**

V.1 Therefore, *let us fear* lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.

1) "let us fear...while a promise remains of entering His rest...any...of you should...come short"

a) **It is entirely possible** to **miss** what God has for us in this life

b) **How easy is it** to miss what God has for us?

i) You **simply ignore** the Word of God & you've done it! **V.2**

V.2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; **but** the word they heard did not profit them, **because** it was not united by faith in those who heard.

*You must **incorporate the Word** of God in your own **life** – for it to have value

*You may be afraid to be obedient – do it anyway

V.7 He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."

V.8 For *if Joshua had given them rest*, He would **not** have spoken of another day after that.

1) "if Joshua had given them rest, He would **not have spoken** of another day"

a) **Literally** – "He would not **be speaking** of another day"

b) David wrote of a rest that is available today – hundreds of years after Joshua

c) **Jesus is better** than **Joshua** – His rest is better than Josh's rest

i) Jesus offers a rest that Joshua could**n't** offer

ii) Canaan rest is only a picture – of the real rest in Christ

d) Even the Sabbath rest – was **only a picture** of the real thing **V.9**

V.9 There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

1) "a **Sabbath rest** for the people of God"

a) The word – "**rest**" is **different word** here than all other "rest" mentioned in this passage

b) The word is – "**σαββατισμός**" – we get our word **sabbatical** from it

c) There is a Sabbath's rest for believers today – it is a sabbatical

d) We are to **rest in Him** – **all** the time

e) **Our Sabbath day is Saturday** – also **Sunday, Monday, Tuesday...**

f) Spiritually speaking – every day is a holiday in Christ **V.10**

V.10 For *the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works*, as God did from His.

- 1) "the one who has entered His rest has himself...rested from his works"
 - a) This **simply states** that anyone who enters the rest God gives **ceases from his own labor**
 - b) When Christ says in **Mt.11** "...my yoke is easy & my burden light." **HE meant it!**
 - Mt.11:28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ^(I will rest you)
 - 29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.
 - 30 "For My yoke is easy ^(kindly – virtuous – serviceable), and My load is light."

V.11 Let us therefore **be diligent** ^(work hard – to hurry) to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through *following* the same example of disobedience.

V.12 For the *word of God is* **#1. living** and **#2. active** and **#3. sharper than any two-edged sword**, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **#4. able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

1) "For"

- a) This takes us back to what we just studied
 - i) He wants us **to know** the **character** of **the word they ignored**
 - ii) They did **n't mix** the Word w/ faith – so of **no** value to them
 - iii) But he **wants us to know** that **the Word is powerful**
- 2) "word of God is living"
 - a) The Word of God is **different** than any other **printed, written, spoken thought / idea**
 - b) It is alive – it has literal life in it
 - i) When Christ spoke in a parable **about** the Word of God – **He used a seed**

Lk.8:11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.
 - ii) A **seed has life** in it
 - c) The word "living" is – "ζωv" – we get the word zoo from it (place of living creatures)
 - d) Listen to what the word says about itself **Jn.6:63 (NP)**

Jn.6:63 " It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

1 Pet.1:23 for you have been born again **not** of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

e) There is a **vast difference** between **men's words** and **God's words**
i) It is important that you distinguish that difference

ii) **Men** say things & it means **nothing** – they threaten – they promise & maybe it will be so & maybe not

iii) **Don't** accidentally put God in that category

iv) Paul commended the Thessalonians for being able to see the difference

1 Thes.2:13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted *it not as the word of men*, but *for what it really is*, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

f) God's word **cleanses** us from the inside

Jn.17:17 " Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.
Eph.5:26^(speaking of Christ cleansing the Church) that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

h) The Word takes an average man & **gives him great wisdom**

Ps.119:99 I have more insight than all my teachers, For Thy testimonies are my meditation.

V.100 I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Thy precepts.

V.101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Thy word.

V.102 I have not turned aside from Thine ordinances, For Thou Thyself hast taught me.

V.103 How sweet are Thy words to my taste! *Yes, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

V.104 From Thy precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

V.130 The unfolding of Thy words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

- i) It gives people direction in life
Ps.119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
- j) The Word of God is **hated** by the world
Jer.23:29 29 "Is not **My word** like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"
- k) People have / will **die** for their belief in the Word
Rev.20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and **because of the word of God**, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

V.12 x For the word of God is #1. living and #2. active and #3. sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and #4. able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

3) "the Word of God is living and #2. active"

- a) The word "active" is – "ἐνεργής"
 - i) We get our word energy from it
- b) Because it is alive there is an energy that is inherent to it
Rom.1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- c) That is the reason I use so much Bible
 - i) There is a **work** that the Word does – on its own
 - ii) We are to read the Word publicly
1 Tim.4:13 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.

V.12 x For the word of God is #1. living and #2. active and #3. sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and #4. able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

4) "sharper than any two-edged sword"

- a) Nothing compares to the cutting ability of the Word of God
- b) It can separate the soul from the spirit

V.12 "...piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit..."

- c) This means – only the Word of God can tell you when you are living in your flesh & when living in your spirit
 - i) Believers are made of body, soul, spirit
 - ii) Your spirit is made to function under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
 - iii) Your **spirit** only **functions** properly in conjunction w/ Holy Spirit
- d) Your **soul** is the part of you that makes your **personality**
- e) Your **soul** works **will take directions** from the **world**, your **flesh**, the **devil** & if you are a believer your **spirit** –
- f) We believers are complicated beings – our **inner lives** are a **mixture of emotions & truth**
 - i) There are times when **our motives** could be **good** or **bad**
 - ii) You can give money away b/c you want to help – Or b/c you hope God will give you more money
 - iii) You can share your testimony b/c you care – or b/c it makes you look good (sometimes it is hard to know why you're doing it)
- g) So how can you possibly know which is working at a given moment?
 - i) Look at **V.12** again

V.12 x For the word of God is #1. living and #2. active and #3. sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and #4. *able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

5) “#4. able to **judge** the thoughts and intentions of the heart”

- a) The word so sharp that **it can discern your thoughts & intentions**
 - i) But we must have the Word in our lives for it to help
Ps.119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
 - ii) It is **impossible** to **live** for God **w/out** His word in your heart
 - iii) There has been much said about **being filled w/ the Spirit** of God
 - iv) And rightly so – you **can't live right** w/out the Spirit's guidance
Eph.5:18

Eph.5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

V.19 speaking to one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

V.20 (NP)

V.20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

V.21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Compare this to **Col.3:16**

Col.3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with Psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

V.17 And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

I don't see how anyone can be **filled w/ Holy Spirit & not be filled w/ His Word**
They go hand in hand

Do you know what I would do if I were Satan? – I would **minimize** The **Word of God** – in the Church – in believer's lives

IF it is **impossible** to **live** the Christian life **w/out** knowing the Word **why is it:**

- 1) Why do we act like knowing His Word is **optional**?
- 2) Why is it, we think going to church is good **enough** – **doesn't** matter much what is taught?
- 3) Why do **good people** let their children **decide** where they go to church
- 4) Why do so many parents let their children go to church where Bible **isn't taught**?
 - a) Because they believe **any church** is better than **no church**
- 5) AS goes Europe so goes America
 - a) **Europe** is full of **big, beautiful, empty cathedrals** – Christianity was alive there at one time – but **they began to ignore the Word**
 - b) What percentage of individuals believe religion has no value in life
 - c) Sweden – 83% – Denmark 80% – Norway 78% – France 73% – United Kingdom 71%

6) This all started when the Word of God began to be marginalized by the church itself

- 7) **In your hand**, you hold **something** that is **magnificent** – something that can **guide you** & your **family** & your **nation**
- 8) It holds the **answers** to **life's deepest questions**
- 9) You hold the **knowledge** of our **future**
- 10) **If your world falls apart** – in your hand is the **one tangible** thing that is **immutable** – THE WORD OF GOD

V.13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but *all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him* with *whom we have to do*.

- 1) "all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him"
 - a) The understanding that God always knows the real reason behind your actions will cause you to become honest w/ yourself quicker than anything else
 - b) If God knows the real reason – I might as well look at it too
- 2) "with whom we have to do"
 - a) Nothing will encourage you to live upright more than remembering that someday we will give an account of our actions
 - b) We must do business w/ God – we have no choice
 - c) Your life is an open book before Him

Someday Christ is going to come back & He will judge this world by His standards. His standards are His Word – "The Word of God"

Rev.19:11 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it *is* called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

12 And His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and upon His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *upon Him* which no one knows except Himself.

13 And *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.

15 And from His mouth comes **a sharp sword**, so that **with it** He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.