

Hebrews Lesson 19

9 December 2024

4:1 “Let us (holy brethren, 3:1) therefore fear lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.”

- **John 14:27** Jesus said, “*My peace I give unto you.*”
 - The Lord’s peace is available even when you’re going through troubles and trials.
- **Philippians 4:7** “*The peace of God*” will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus when you pray.
 - The Lord can promise you peace because He sees the end from the beginning and knows where your life is headed.
 - But if you occupy your thoughts with your troubles instead of bringing them to the Lord, you will not “**enter into his rest**” (vs 1) and enjoy “**His peace**” which is “**the peace of God.**” You will “**come short of it.**”
 - Trust the Lord with your life and one day you will see that the trials you faced were for your good. (Rom. 8:28)
 - We lose our rest when we lose our trust in the Lord.
- **Mark 4:35-41** Jesus told His disciples to go with him in a ship to the other side of the sea.
 - They believed Jesus would make it to the other side, so they joined Him.
 - A storm caused them to lose their faith in Jesus and therefore lose their peace.
 - Jesus didn’t take their peace, the storm (bad circumstances) took it.
 - Jesus had peace. He knew they would make it to the other side, which they did (5:1).
 - The disciples lost faith, lost rest, but still made it safely to the other side.
 - Faith would have made their journey much more enjoyable even though they faced a terrible storm.
 - Jesus is going to take us to heaven. That is our “other side.”
 - We will face trials, troubles, and heartaches along the way.
 - If we hold fast to our faith, we can have peace while we’re on earth until we get to heaven even through our storms of life.
 - Whether or not you maintain your faith, you will reach heaven.
 - What kind of journey do you want to have?

4:2 The gospel is to be preached to believers and to unbelievers: “**us**” and “**them.**” It only benefits those who believe.

- The word of God is powerful. It can save anybody who uses the faith God gave them (Rom 12:3) and places it in the word.

- If a person rejects the word, the problem is with them (not the word, not God, not the preacher). The ground is bad (parable of the sower, Lk. 8:5).

4:3 “For we which have believed do enter into rest...”

- This is not only a promise that we (believers) are going to get to heaven, but that we can enter that rest today (on the journey home) if we don’t lose our faith.
 - Jesus wants you to enjoy today the peace that you’re going to enjoy in heaven.
 - This is part of the “earnest of the Spirit” (2 Cor. 1:22).

“...as he said, (Psalm 95:11)...the works were finished from the foundation of the world.”

- God’s work was finished before time.
- Man benefits IN time from God’s finished work.
 - God didn’t decide before time who would enter His rest and who wouldn’t.
 - **“We which have believed (in time) do enter rest.”**
 - The Calvinist tries to force it to say that we enter rest before the foundation of the world. That means that God decided who goes to heaven.
 - Why is God angry if the unbelievers had no choice?

4:4 “⁴ For he spake in a certain place (Genesis 2:2) of the seventh *day* on this wise, And GOD did rest the seventh day from all his works.”

4:5 “⁵ And in this *place* again, (Psalm 95:11) If they shall enter into my rest.”

- Note that God’s rest doesn’t mean that God doesn’t do anything anymore. God is still actively at work in this world and in our lives.
- Passive (lazy) people want to use God’s rest as an excuse to not do anything (witness, pray, study the bible, etc.).
 - God wants us to be ready to witness in season and out of season (2 Tim 4:2) and to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).
- This passage shows that it is possible to rest and work at the same time.
 - When you love what you’re doing, you can do it in peace. That’s rest.
 - “Rest” means that you are doing plenty without it being a burden.
 - When you do things for people you love, you are able to enjoy whatever you are doing for them.