

## HEBREWS 4

### COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE

The third chapter ended with a stern warning. It sounded like this:

**CH 3:12** Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS IN THE REBELLION."

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was *it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses?

17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was *it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 **So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.**

**Hebrews 4:1** Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. **(IE, Heaven)**

- The Apostle Paul made the argument in CH 3 that Jesus was more worthy of praise than their religion, OR their religious heroes, like Moses.
  - But some of them continued to trust in their religion, rather than in a relationship.
    - How many more times will I make this point? A few...

### EQUAL ACCESS

2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

- **NLT - For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God.**
  - SO... Without faith, can someone be saved? **Listen...**

3 For we who have believed (**by faith**) do enter that rest, as He has said: "SO I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,'" **PSALM 95** although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

- So... From before time began God had a promise of rest for the Children of Israel, BUT... They sinned a sin that kept them from the Promised Land... Let's do a little Lab Study...
  - What was the sin that kept the COI out of the Promised Land... Ponder that... And then let's each ask ourselves:
  - Where is THAT sin present in my life?
    - Was it fear that kept them from God's blessing?
    - Unbelief? Skepticism? Cynicism? Control?
- **Was it Ignorance & Apathy? I don't know, and I don't care!**
- It would be worth the time to search our hearts for unbelief.

### DIFFERENT KIND OF REST

4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS"; **GENESIS 2 5** and again in this place: "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST." **PSALM 95**

- Chuck Smith says that this was the rest of completion... In Genesis 2, God was completed with creation... It is finished!
  - On the Cross, Jesus finished our salvation... "It is finished." We should REST in that and stop trying to impress God with our works.

### TRUST & OBEY

6 Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, 7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "TODAY," after such a long time, as it has been said: "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS." **PSALM 95**

- The Apostle again, makes this plea to his Jewish friends... I MAKE it to any who have yet to believe... Do it today!

8 For if Joshua **had** given them rest, (**Complete rest**) then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

- We are reading the book of Joshua right now in our “through the Bible in a year,” and Joshua is getting ready to die and asking the tribes, “How long are you going to wait to claim your Promised Land? What are you waiting for?”
  - And the COI confess to him, “We are afraid.” Our enemies have iron chariots and arrows.
    - Joshua will say, “But YOU have the Lord! Attack them!”
      - Beloved, our battle is already won too...

## REST STOP AHEAD

9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his (**own**) works as God *did* from His. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

- **COURSON** - The rest spoken of is the rest that occurs when you give up trying to earn salvation or blessing—when you realize it's not through your works, by your energy, because of your righteousness, or due to your prayer life. True rest occurs when you realize your salvation is not dependent upon anything you do but rather upon who Jesus is, and what He's done.

## THE SCALPEL OF SCRIPTURE

12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account. **CEV - What God has said isn't only alive and active! It is sharper than any double-edged sword. His word can cut through our spirits and souls and through our joints and marrow, until it discovers the desires and thoughts of our hearts. 13 Nothing is hidden from God! He sees through**

**everything, and we will have to tell him the truth.**

- Commentators are divided about whether the “Word of God” **V12** is speaking of the scriptures or the Son of God.
  - And so... My advice is to keep generous amounts of both in your daily life! Take in the Lord's Words and take in the Lord's presence.
    - They both will help to separate you from the world.

## **JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST**

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

- Jesus has ascended into heaven and is now representing you to His Father... He is telling the Father that you have accepted Him and that you are in HIS righteousness.

## **THE SYMPATHETIC SAVIOR**

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we *are*, yet without sin.

- Think of it... Jesus was tempted by Satan himself, after fasting for forty days... And yet, chose to remain perfect... In order to save us!
  - God knows our weaknesses and so He provides His word and His Holy Spirit to help us.
    - So... pray boldly...

## **PRAY WITH BOLDNESS**

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Casting Crowns Sings:**

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth  
Would care to know my name, would care to feel my hurt?

Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star  
Would choose to light the way for my ever-wandering heart?  
Not because of who I am, but because of what You've done  
Not because of what I've done, but because of who You are.  
I am a flower quickly fading, here today and gone tomorrow  
A wave tossed in the ocean (ocean), a vapor in the wind  
Still, You hear me when I'm calling,  
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling  
And You've told me who I am  
I am Yours, I am Yours