

Teaching - Hebrews 4: 1-13

Sermon – Sabbath Rest!

Date – August 15, 2021

The Good News has come throughout the history of Salvation in the Hebrew Scriptures (Our Old Testament) and the New Testament. Sabbath Rest is an Open Invitation to all of God's People. The Preacher of Hebrews highlights that for us in today's Scripture reading.

The Preacher first quotes Genesis 2:2 in Hebrews 4:4 (on the 7th day, God rested)

- We were created on the 6th day of creation.
- So, our first full day on this earth was a day of rest.
- So Sabbath rest has been in order since the beginning of creation.

The issue for the Israelites was their disobedience in the journey of faithfulness to God from Egypt to the Promise Land. Because of their disobedience, God said that they would not enter the rest (the promised land). So, did this mean that the promise of rest was forever closed?

Is the offer of rest (eternal and daily/weekly) still available or was it only given to the Israelites? In Hebrews 4:3 he uses Psalm 95:11 once again to highlight that King David refers to this concept of rest. The preacher of Hebrews seems to be saying that if King David refers to the rest that God offers, then that offer must still be open, for David lived 250 years after the wilderness experience.

So, the Sabbath rest is a gift given to you and me. It is God's action and work. We are the recipients of it. The Preacher then asks his hearers to not take their gift/promise of Sabbath Rest for granted. It is open, but don't you want to do your best in entering that Sabbath Rest?

- How do you spend your Sundays? Working/Resting/Worshipping?

This all comes alive for us because of the Word of God which is powerful – and sharper than a two-edged sword. This is a sword that is not just to cut my opponent to the quick; it is also to cut me to the quick. God sees and knows everything about us.

Questions:

1. Do you rest? Do you rest from your labors/work or do you Work from your rest?
2. How might you model this for others in your household?
3. Has the Word of God ever cut/convicted you?