

Hebrews Part One

Lesson #16, Chapter 4:6-11

Read Hebrews Chapter 4 before beginning this lesson.

1. What main points is the author making in vss. 1-5? You may want to review last week's lesson.
2. Read vs. 6 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What are *some* supposed to do?
 - b. What are they supposed to enter? See vs. 5.
 - c. The second group of people mentioned in this verse had something done for them. What was it?
 - d. What didn't this group do? Why?
3. What is the author's purpose in using the example of the former group to motivate the current generation?
4. When should we enter into God's rest according to vs. 7?

5. What does that tell you about God's message?

6. What plea is the author of Hebrews making to his readers in vs. 7? What message did his readers hear from God that made this warning necessary (see Heb. 1:2; 2:9-10, 14-15)?

7. There were some among the Hebrews who were in grave danger. They were listening to the heretical teaching that Jesus Christ's once for all sacrifice on their behalf was not enough for them to inherit eternal life. They were being told they needed to return to Judaism if they were to please God.

In an attempt to keep them from hardening their hearts in unbelief against the truth of God, the writer of Hebrews presents arguments for the excellence and glory of Jesus Christ (Ch. 1); the incredible wisdom of God in giving them a High Priest who is just like them, who understands suffering and the temptation of sin (Ch. 2); the example of the Israelites not entering God's rest because of unbelief (Ch. 3); and in 4:1-5 he argues that just as God rested from His works of creation so they should rest from salvation by works.

These arguments and warnings are for us as well. God's message is still for today and we need to pay special attention to it. It is not to be ignored or put off. What is God's message *for you* today from vs. 7?

- a. Can you think of any area in your life where you are hardening your heart against the Word of God? Have you been resisting something that Holy Spirit has been revealing to you through the Word? If so, what are the steps you need to take to move to a responsive heart toward God?

8. The author of Hebrews continues with his discussion on rest in vs. 8. Who is Joshua and what kind of rest was he to give the children of Israel? See Josh. 1:1-2; 21:43-45; 22:4.

9. What was the problem with Joshua's rest according to vss. 8-9?

10. Verse 10 explains what the author means about a Sabbath rest. What do you learn in vs. 10? See also 4:4.

11. Define *rest* [Strong's #2663]. Now look up Matt. 11:28-29; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:4; 1 Jn. 5:11 to complete your explanation of the term.

12. Not only do we enter into the future rest of God but we also experience rest for our souls now, which only comes from Jesus Christ. Unbelief bars our way into that sweet rest of God. What are some areas of unbelief that keep you from experiencing His rest?
 - a. Write out a step-by-step process for one of the areas you listed above of how you can move out of unbelief to belief, trust, and obedience in the Word of God.

13. The word for *works* is used 176 times in the New Testament and is generally used to describe any kind of work, labor, undertaking, act or deed, or accomplishment. What kind of works are we to cease to do according to vs. 10? See also Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 4:2; 9:13-14.

14. What are we urged to do according to vs. 11?

15. Define *diligent* [Strong's #4704 (KJV *labor*; NIV *make every effort*)].

16. Now read Heb. 6:11; 2 Pet. 1:5-8, 10 and 3:14 where the same Greek word is used (Heb. 6:11 uses a variation of the word). What do you learn about the word *diligent* as used in those passages?

17. Though the same word is not used in the following passages, the idea of continuing to seek after the kingdom of God is seen in Luke 8:15; Rom. 2:7; 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:12. What added insight do you gain about seeking God's kingdom from those verses?

18. This concept of seeking earnestly for God's kingdom is not a new one. What do you learn from the following verses about the way we are to strive for the kingdom of God? See Luke 9:23-25; 13:24; 21:34-36; Acts 14:22; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 1 Tim. 6:12.

19. What does the writer of Hebrews fear will happen to his readers if they are not diligent to enter the rest of God (vs. 11)?

20. According to 3:16-19; 4:2, 6, and 11 what is the reason that someone does not enter that rest?

21. The writer of Hebrews tells us that we need to be diligent in following Christ so that we will not fall into the sin of unbelief and disobedience. Why is that a necessary caution for every believer? See 1 Cor. 10:12 and 2 Pet. 3:17-18.

- a. Why is that a dire warning for every unbeliever? See Jn. 12:48; Heb. 3:19; 1 Pet. 4:17-18.
22. We must make sure our hope is in the Lord and Him only. We can get ourselves into so much trouble by not keeping our eyes set on Jesus who leads us in the good and right way. Take some time right now to examine your heart and life to see if your hope is indeed in Jesus Christ only. Now write out a prayer to Him of all that is in your heart.

There Is A Blessèd Home
By Henry W. Baker

There is a blessèd home,
Beyond this land of woe,
Where trials never come,
Nor tears of sorrow flow;
Where faith is lost in sight,
And patient hope is crowned,
And everlasting light
Its glory throws around.

There is a land of peace,
Good angels know it well;
Glad songs that never cease
Within its portals swell;
Around its glorious throne
Ten thousand saints adore
Christ, with the Father One,
And Spirit, evermore.

O joy all joys beyond,
To see the Lamb Who died,
And count each sacred wound
In hands, and feet, and side;
To give to Him the praise
Of every triumph won,
And sing through endless days
The great things He hath done.

Look up, ye saints of God,
Nor fear to tread below
The path your Savior trod
Of daily toil and woe;
Wait but a little while
In uncomplaining love
His own most gracious smile
Shall welcome you above.