

Hebrews 4 & 5

God's Rest & Jesus as a High Priest

What kind of rest is this? Physical rest - sleep, mental rest - peace of mind, spiritual rest – assurance and confidence. The journey is not over. God knows your condition and a message is given for the tired and weary!

4:1-11 God's Promise of Rest

There are some who have heard the gospel but not believed it. In this passage there is a difference between those who are Jews by heritage and those who are people of faith in Christ.

(:1-2) The rest of assurance is that we have an eternal security and an eternal home, does not come till it is combined with faith. **Gospel + Faith = Salvation**

(:3-5) Grace = Rest. God's work for salvation is finished and we are his workmanship, our assurance of salvation is real, and we can rest by grace. Cf. Ephesians 2:8-10. Our works now are acts that show our faith. **Rest in Grace. Work in Faith.**

God's rest of assurance that comes by faith allows us to sing: #334 *Blessed assurance Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, Purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, and washed in his blood. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

(:6) Message received but message not believed. To believe is to obey. Cf. Jn. 15:10 to love Jesus is to keep his commands.

(:7-10) The Promise Remains You have not lost God's Promise. So, do not let the circumstances "harden your heart." A future Sabbath Rest awaits the faithful. When works are finished, you get to experience a wonderful home in glory. There was an earthly promised land for the Hebrews and there is a heavenly promised land for Christians.

(:11) The final rest is still promised, but until that day let us continue to "work till Jesus comes. Sing: #608 *"O land of rest, for thee I sigh! When will the moment come when I shall lay my armor by, and dwell in peace at home? We'll work till Jesus comes, We'll work till Jesus comes, and then we'll be gathered home. Gal. 6:9 Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.*

4:12-13 God's Word Reveals

Nothing is hidden from God. His Word is powerful to expose our sin and draw to faith. The truth of the Word cuts through our defenses and goes right to the core of our being, body and soul. God's word of truth is discerning and we can't deceive Him. Some are confronted by their sin by the light of God's word and choose darkness, John 3: 17-19. God's Word brings awareness of sin (judges) and the purpose is to draw us to Jesus for salvation. Some hear and believe, and some do not. Still God's word is powerful. Cf. Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:15-16; John 16:8-9 One day all will come face to face with Jesus as our Judge or as our Savior.

4:14 – 5:14 Christ as our Helper & High Priest (Ch. 7-10)

(4:14) Jesus is as a High Priest who helps with our sin. In the Old Covenant the High Priest would offer up sacrifices for sin. In the New Covenant Jesus as the High Priest is the Sacrifice. Cf. Ephesians 2:1-7

(4:15) He knows our weakness, and He will help you! Cf. Summary in 13:6 "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

[1 John 1:5-2:2 is a summary of this long teaching. You are struggling with sin. Repent and turn to God and he will forgive. Jesus is your advocate. And because of His forgiveness and love you need not fear punishment 1 John 4:16-18]

(4:16) Don't turn from the Lord with hard hearts. Because of His grace we can approach His throne boldly and receive mercy and grace to help in our need. Cf. Paul did exactly that, setting an example in prayer. Ephesians 3:14-21

5:1-10 Aaronic & Melchizedek Priesthood

(5:1-4) Aaronic Priests are appointed to an honorary position for the people. Compassionate and gentle priests are called to deal with the matters of God. It is one sinner ministering to another sinner, offering sacrifices for them and himself. Priests take the people to God and bring God to the people.

[God choosing his elders, prophets, evangelists, and pastor/teachers, is still in place to build up the church Ephesians 4:11-13. Jesus said to His apostles in John 15:16 *You did not choose me. I chose you to bear fruit...*]

5:5-10 Melchizedek Priesthood

(:5) Exalted by the Father "Sent" John 10:17 life not taken, but given

(:6) Priest Forever as the Son

(:7-8) Priest of Prayer and Obedience Luke 22:42*

John 6:38 sent to do God's will; 8:29 pleases God; 8:49 Honors the Father 17:4 glorified God

(:9) Author/Source of Salvation - Perfected by Suffering – He showed God's heart. His witness was the greatest on the cross. John 12:32 *"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*

5:11-14 Immature Faith / Weak Faith

Immaturity and ignorance undermine strong faith. Immaturity can become maturity. Ignorance can become knowledge. John 17:3 *Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 1 Peter 2:1-2 ... *grow up into your salvation.* The Word makes complete 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Their problem is not identified as a loss of salvation, but a need for edification. Humble yourself in prayer and the study of God's Word to grow in discernment and faith. It was not who they knew, but their struggles were amplified by what they did not know. **May the church be edified that God may be glorified.**