

## Hebrews 4:1-2

### Rest in This Life

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15.19 that "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." And that is absolutely true, but it is also true that if we have no hope in Christ in this life that we are also pitiable... there are 2 sides of this problem that need to be addressed. The first is that hope in this life is not about more stuff, more money, more fame, more health, wealth or influence. Don't worry, I haven't lost my mind and become a prosperity preacher! But the other side of this coin is that there clearly IS hope to be had in this life, we just often don't see it. This is because we have been hoodwinked into thinking about the other side of the coin, the stuff that is not promised by God but IS promised by sly, slick smiling false prophets who attach a thus saith the Lord to things that God has not promised. And so knowing that these things are false, we refuse to look for hope in this life at all, because we have not properly understood that there is also a present hope. Rejecting the lies we also reject the truth... and to make matters worse, we think that any thought of

hope and rest in this life is somehow denying Christ, but we then see how the "other side" lives and we become resentful, hurt, sullen, bitter... we become "those Christians" who look for all time and eternity like we have been sucking on sour lemons and green persimmons all of our lives, because we think that somehow holiness equates to dour faces, hard lives and unhappy days. We seem to have almost adopted a Catholic doctrine of penance... and are set on showing the world that we are somehow purchasing our future happiness with our present misery. This is NOT the message of the Gospel. There is hope, rest and promise IN THIS LIFE!! And that promise indeed has its anchor, its roots in eternity but it shapes the fruit and flavor of this present sojourn...

## **I. REST OF PEACE WITH GOD –**

a. Justified by the blood of Christ –

**Romans 5.1**

**Ephesians 1.7**

**Acts 13.32-33, 38-39.**

- i. We are justified from our sin, which is something that the Law of Moses could never accomplish.
- ii. The Law always leaves us with a renewed sense of sin.

### Hebrews 10.4

- b. God has revealed to us our need for Him, - the veil has been removed –

### 2 Corinthians 3.13-18

- c. we know our true lack and ruin, but in that knowing we also are made aware of the wonder of being set at peace with our God. We are free of the fear and condemnation that plagued our days
- d. We are set free from condemnation –

### Romans 8.1-11

e. Given freedom from the death of sin

f. Made alive in Christ with the sense of peace that comes with it...

## II. REST IN WORSHIP

There is no longer a spirit of bondage in worship, it is free, restful and wonderful.

Romans 8.15 – 16

Galatians 4.1-3

a. Rest from the outward law in Worship

Acts 15.10

Ephesians 2.15

Colossians 2.10

b. Rest in our Christ centered worship

i. Freedom in obedience

Romans 7.6

ii. Strength and assistance from God FOR  
worship –

iii. A supply of the Spirit

Philippians 1.19

iv. Sufficient provision

Ephesians 4.15-16

v. The worship itself becomes restful

c. Rest for our souls

Matthew 11.28-30

### **III. REST WITH GOD**

a. He rests from all His labor - all His work is done

b. He rests in Christ –

i. His Soul delights in Him –

Isaiah 42.1

ii. He is well pleased

Matthew 17.5

#### **IV. COLLECTIVELY REST IN HIS LOVE**

Zephaniah 3.16-20

a. The church suffers scorn in this age

- i. Hypocrisy
- ii. Falsehood
- iii. Playing at being the world

- b. But God will restore us and cause the church to be esteemed by the world for the goodness that HE does in our midst.
  
- c. We are under His judgement and even when the world cannot rightly discern the cause, they surely see the effect.
  
- d. But when God restores us, He will display the effect and the cause and it will be glorious. It becomes even more important then, that we get this concept right. That we understand what we are to be in this life, for the testimony of Christ suffers reproach for our sin's sake. Let us consider deeply all that God does for us IN THIS LIFE and walk in the balanced hope of this life and the next so that all we are is praise to His fame!