

INTRODUCTION

We are rejoicing together these days about receiving several new members into the congregation.

- We were happy when they first came to us, and they were happy to come.
- We were glad to hear they were willing to be considered members.
- We rejoiced in the Lord when they told us of His grace toward them in their conversion.
- We are very happy to have such additions to the congregation.

Now we need to have a good word from the Lord about how to go on from here as a congregation. And we need to get back to our study of The Ten Commandments, where we were in the fourth commandment about remembering the sabbath day.

So we are working in Hebrews 3 and 4, where we find just what we need.

- exaltation of Christ Jesus our Lord as
 - the great apostle
 - the high priest
 - the one we have professed
 - the one worthy of more honor even than Moses
- description of our blessed state
 - those who are holy
 - the brethren
 - partakers of the heavenly calling
 - those who profess Christ
 - the very house or household of Christ
- exhortation to hold fast to Christ
 - we have started well
 - we now are to hold fast our hope in Christ all the way to the end

Today we go on in Hebrews 3 and 4, and find the things just mentioned related to the subject of rest.

Hear the good news that God has a rest for us to enter

- we enter it not as a reward for good works we have done; instead
- we enter God's rest by faith.

TEXT

Hebrews 3:7-4:3a

BODY

I. God Has a Rest

- A. Hebrews 3:11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.
- B. G2663 *katapausis*
 1. from G3973 *pauo* noun form: *pausis* our English word “pause”
 2. see Ex 20:11
 - a) in Hebrew original verb “rested” not related to “sabbath”
 - b) in LXX verb is our word G2664 *katapauo*
 3. Deu 12:9 ...to the rest...
 - a) LXX our word G2663 *katapausis*
- C. For Israel, life in Canaan, the promised land, temporally
 1. after slavery in Egypt
 2. after walking through the desert, getting thirsty and hungry
 3. after fighting strong enemies
 4. flowing with milk and honey
 5. with God in their midst
- D. For us, life in heaven and in the new heavens and the new earth, eternally (4:1a)
 1. after slavery to sin
 2. after walking through griefs and hardships in this life
 3. after fighting against the world, the flesh, and the devil
 4. with unspeakable blessings
 5. in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- E. Rest belonging to God
 1. v. 11 my rest
 2. v. 18 his rest
 3. all things are His, so of course this rest is His
 4. He rested from His works of creation
 5. (more later about Christ resting from His works of redemption)
 - 6.

II. Not Entering God's Rest Is By Unbelief

- A. There are those not allowed to enter God's rest
 - 1. 3:11b They shall not enter into my rest
 - 2. 3:18 ...they should not enter into his rest...
 - 3. 3:19 ...they could not enter
- B. "Un-faith" or "non-trust"
- C. Not entering God's rest is because of unbelief
 - 1. 3:13
 - 2. 3:18
 - 3. 3:19
- D. Unbelief described
 - 1. 3:8 harden not your heart
 - 2. 3:10 They do err in heart
 - 3. 3:12 evil heart
- E. Unbelief demonstrated
 - 1. 3:10 not known my ways
 - 2. 3:12 departing from God
 - 3. 3:16 provoking God
 - 4. 3:13, 17 sin

III. Entering God's Rest Is By Faith

- A. God allows men to enter His rest - 4:1 ...a promise being left us of entering into his rest
- B. Men enter God's rest by faith/belief/trust - Hebrews 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest...
- C. faith in what?
 - 1. 4:2 the gospel, the word preached
 - 2. 3:7, 15-16 his voice
 - 3. 3:9 his works

CONCLUSION

What are we to do, then, that we may enter God's rest?

3:12 take heed; beware; take care

There are things you are careful about

-you know how good the benefits are, and you don't want to miss them

-you know how bad the consequences are, and you don't want to suffer them

This matter is of the greatest importance

-with the most wonderful benefits

-with the most deadly consequences

But it is not something you can perceive with your senses, so you will not take the necessary care if you do not do so intentionally.

As a congregation: 3:13 exhort one another

As an individual: 3:8 harden not your heart

Look to this blessed rest in Jesus Christ.

JRY - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 95

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Numbers 14:1-32

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 19 "O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord" - Andrew lead

Journey - Trinity 700 "Trust and Obey" - Alex lead

Haven - Trinity 690 "Jesus Paid It All" - Alvin lead

Hebrews 3:7-19 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) 12 Take heed, 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 To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

G2663 *katapausis*

from G3973 *pauo* noun form: *pausis* our English word “pause”