



# Hebrews 3-4 – Part 4

## *Entering His Rest* Sun, Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 2007

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### I wonder if anyone here today, got an “I O U” for Christmas....

- Opened the present...but the present itself was not there
- Perhaps it is on the way (shipping), perhaps something yet to come...
- I O U – is a promise of something...but not the reality
- Question – when you get an I O U – do you think you will get the promise?
  - Kind of a tricky question – all depends on who made the promise...

### Guys...today, in our text – Is an I O U from God

- Want you to know – He is one you can depend on
- **4:1** – is a promise of entering His rest.

### This is actually Part 4 of our study in Hebrews 3-4

- **Entire time, seeking to get our heads around what this rest is**
  - Wonder, honestly, if confusing you – I hope not
  - But honestly – above and beyond me – gazing at – foggily
  - Think of quote “a mist in the pulpit, is a fog in the pew”
- **Part 1 – There is a Rest – sought to define, show is a rest**
  - Is it salvation? Power and peace here? Or is it heaven?
  - Yes – applies to all – yet, main emphasis – power now
  - Picture of the children of Israel – not entering rest, best
- **Part 2 – Faith thru the Word – key of entering His rest – faith**
  - Key of faith – is hearing, believing God’s word
- **Part 3 – Don’t Harden Your Heart – danger, warning**
  - Summary of Heb 3:7-19 – how not to harden our hearts
- **Part 4 – Entering His Rest – today. Summary of Heb 4:1-10**

# I. His Rest

## 1. His – as it belongs to Him - of Him

- a. What He has for us – is of Him and from Him – His for us
- b. Tells us much of the quality of what is before us – like a name brand

## 2. His...as He is resting in – v.4

- a. What does it mean that God rested?
- b. Large question – deep roots and thoughts

## 3. Pause again – and be honest

- a. Hope my teaching of this does not come across arrogant – I am in the know
- b. Honestly – struggling – delighting in it...but wonderful mystery
- c. This section, passages – have been among the most challenging
- d. Not sure I understand it fully...but hopefully closer

## 4. There are two key things for us to understand about God's rest here

- a. One is **When** and the other is **What**
- b. Let us talk about the **When** and come back to the **what** in a moment
- c. So if your mind gets stuck on the **what**...don't – focus with me on the **when**

## II. WHEN of God's Rest

### **1. Begins at the Beginning - Gen 1 and 2 – creation account**

#### **a. Six days...each one has beginning and ending. Not so the seventh**

- i) Rabbis loved to note that there is no end to the 7<sup>th</sup> day – rest continues
- ii) The rest God has for us...is where He is now...resting....

#### **b. Point for us here – rest has been God's intention from the beginning**

- i) What did God rest from? What mean to us...more in a moment
- ii) Point - This is no new thought or new thing – God always wanted it for us
- iii) God's longing, intention for mankind – has always been this rest

### **2. God invited Israel towards...into His rest – Promised land**

#### **a. v.2-5 - They heard but did not believe, they disobeyed**

- i) Takes us back again to Exodus – nation that refused to enter good land
- ii) Tech Note - Good news here – not speaking of the gospel of Jesus
  - A. Good news used other ways in bible - Paul of Timothy's coming, etc

#### **b. Again – main point – they did not believe, not mixed with faith**

#### **c. v.3,5 – God said they would not enter His rest**

- i) God sealed their rejection of His rest...His best

#### **d. Scary thought here...more another time – can miss it, God seal it**

### **3. v.6-7 – Yet still calls His people to His rest**

#### **a. He has not changed His mind of what He wants**

#### **b. Their failure did not change His intentions, just their enjoyment**

### **4. v.8 – Joshua did not fulfill the rest**

#### **a. In David – 500 years later – still calling for His people to enter rest**

#### **b. The rest God has – is more than this, that was a picture...reality still**

### **5. Point v.9 – there remains a rest for the people of God**

#### **a. God has more – a rest...for today. v.7 – today**

#### **b. Point that He wants you to hear – more today...is a rest**

# III. WHAT is Entering His Rest

## 1. Ceasing from works – like God did

- a. Now this is a key...and big question – how did God cease?
- b. Is He now inactive? Is this a call to laziness – lounging? – No
- c. God is still working – has been for last 6000 years. Jesus affirmed it – **Jn 5**
- d. What did God cease from? Creating. Now maintaining, providing...growing

## 2. The Picture of entering His rest is not laziness

- a. Look at the picture of entering the promised land
- b. God gave them a foothold – but then there's to maintain, defend & drive out
- c. Would still be wars – enemies and pressing ahead – growing
- d. But not conquering...in the sense – not another land to take
- e. Part of why those who view rest as heaven have trouble

## 3. Key description – “Ceasing from our works”

- a. **Not perfect contrast – but helpful: Striving vs Abiding**
  - i) If not a Christian – called to strive to enter narrow
  - ii) But if a Christian – goal now – is abiding. **Striving according to His power**
- b. **Joining God in His rest...with God – Him living, working in us**
  - i) Showed you these 1<sup>st</sup> week - **Gal 2:20; Col 1:29; 1 Cor 15:10**

## 4. Jesus invites us to this rest – **Matt 11:25-30**

- a. Notice – speaking to believers – those who w/childlike faith- believe
- b. Notice description of those speaking to – labor - weary, heavy laden
- c. **Come to Him – receive His rest**
  - i) Sure – is a call to salvation
  - ii) But I believe more – call to this full life – exchanged life
- d. **Take His yoke – join Him – so that it is Him working**
  - i) Not take my Lazyboy chair...but my yoke – for working...w/Him
  - ii) No longer I but Christ

## 5. Jesus examples this rest – **John 5**

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## Conclusion

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### Point – v.1 – Let us fear missing it

- Interesting verse...tricky wording. Can mean two different things. To me, interesting – because both are true and what this whole passage is about

### Be afraid of not thinking this is for you

- This is how the Amplified Bible translates this verse.
- Satanic trap to cause us not to move forward, seek more

### Be afraid of missing God's rest

- This is how it reads in most other translations
- Need to fear missing it – be aware that we can

#### More

- Fear might even cause us to be afraid of **seeming** to miss it
- Idea is that we might not miss it – but fear we have
- Rather you doubt it and have it...than not have it and think you do
  - True of salvation
  - Bible calls us to test our salvation – can create doubts
  - Rather be saved w/doubts – than unsaved and think fine