

**JESUS AND THE  
REST OF THE STORY  
(HEBREWS 4:1-10)  
Pastor Charles R. Biggs**

**Sermon Title:** “*Jesus and the REST of the Story*” - The Book of Hebrews - Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Scripture Lesson:** Genesis 1:30-2:3; Exodus 20:8-11; 31:14-17; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

**Scripture Text:** Hebrews 4:1-13

**Theme of Worship Service:** God’s Sabbath-rest is still promised to all believers in Christ. God’s Sabbath-rest that has been typified and shadowed since the beginning, on the seventh day at creation, and revealed throughout redemptive-history, is fully realized and consummated in the completed work of Jesus Christ. As God’s wilderness people, let us strive to enter God’s rest.

**Scripture Lesson**

“Since God never makes an end of speaking, it is not enough to embrace His teaching with a ready mind, unless we show that we are obedient to Him with the same teachableness tomorrow, and every day” (John Calvin, commenting on “***Today***, if you hear His voice...” in Heb. 3-4).

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - <sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 11:28-30**

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" - <sup>ESV</sup> **Revelation 14:13**

“So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.” - <sup>ESV</sup> **Genesis 2:3**

“[Commenting on Genesis 2:3] The statement that God sanctified the seventh day must be understood as God’s appointing the day as a sacred ordinance for man to observe and thus to secure the blessing residing in it...In carrying out the duty of the Sabbath observance, man was culturally structuring time. For man to observe the Sabbath in obedient imitation of the paradigm of work and rest established by his Creator was an acknowledgement that he was the Creator’s servant-son, a confession of God as his Father and Lord...[Sabbath keeping] was a confessional sign [from creation] of man’s consecration to God. From man God-ward, the Sabbath was a sign of consecration; from God man-ward, it was a sign of consummation.” – Meredith Kline

“The weekly Sabbath was a continual reminder to Adam that history is not a ceaseless repetition of days. Rather, at the beginning of each week, he could look forward to the rest of the Seventh

Day. That weekly cycle, impressed on him that he, together with the created order as a whole, was moving toward a goal, nothing less than eschatological consummation.” – Richard Gaffin

“The Sabbath is not in the first place a means of advancing religion. It has its main significance apart from that, in pointing forward to the eternal issues of life and history...Sabbath is to remind us all that history is moving toward salvation or judgment....The Epistle to the Hebrews has given us a philosophy of the Sabbath on the largest of scales.” – Geerhardus Vos

“God originally, out of His infinite goodness, when suitably thereunto, by His own eternal wisdom and power, He had made all things good, gave unto man a day of rest, as to express unto them His own rest, satisfaction, and complacency in the works of his hands, so to be a day of rest and composure to themselves, and a means of their entrance into and enjoyment of that rest with Himself, here and forever, which He had ordained for them...” – John Owen

Every Lord’s Day is an anticipation of this Rest that we have already entered into spiritually in Jesus Christ, and yet the full rest has yet to come to us when we see Him face to face and are made like Him.

There is a rest still open to believers? What kind of rest? At creation in the garden, Adam was created to work analogically/typologically like God throughout His life with rest to be entered upon perfect obedience to His will. Adam never entered his rest (nor did we in Adam!), but God made that rest available through a Promised Mediator (Gen. 3:15); He did enter into that rest, and all who He represents will too!

Eden was God’s dwelling place with man before the fall; this was a spatial sign of God’s plan of consummation; Sabbath was God’s rest for man that was a sign of man’s time being consecrated to God (Exodus 31:16-17). Both space and time have been consecrated by God to be set apart to point forward to a consummate, cosmic rest for all of God’s creation.

### **1. Creation- God’s Rest**

- a. Consummation- Cosmic in scope and extension to the end of the ages
- b. Consecration of Time and Space
- c. Man copies God as servant-son

### **2. Canaan- People’s Rest**

- a. Sabbath sign is part of moral law (4<sup>th</sup> commandment)
- b. Rooted in creation and redemption (Exodus 20; Deut. 5)
- c. Eternal sign (Exodus 31:16-17)
  - i. Signifying God’s presence and peace and security (shalom)
  - ii. Pointing as Anti-type to consummation in Christ.

### **3. Consummation- Christ Jesus Our Rest**

- a. Christ has entered rest

- b. Christ promised rest through faith
- c. Sign of Sabbath continues, although the day changes with the fullness of the times and completion of Christ's work
- d. Glorious, delight, feasting and satisfaction- Eternal Sabbath keeping with the LORD Jesus!

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 116:7** Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

**Hymns:**

1. **#235- All Glory, Laud, and Honor**
2. **#392 – O Day of Rest and Gladness**
3. **#304 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

In Christ's love,

Pastor Biggs