

Hebrews 3:13-19 Hebrews 4:1-11

Topic: This is one of the most neglected books of the bible. We don't know who the author is, but we do know it was written for the instruction of the temple before 70 A.D. It is to the Jews what the book of Romans is to the Gentiles. Hebrews tells of sacrifices and rituals and exalts the sovereignty of Christ. It tells his relation to Moses and Abraham and all those people. This is why the Book of Hebrews is so great. The message of Hebrews is this: to go on to spiritual maturity. Don't sit back on your laurels; get up and do something for the Lord, spread the word, help someone who doesn't ask but you see they need it. This lesson this morning is to believers, not unbelievers. If any nonbelievers are listening, though, don't turn it off. Anyone who is not a Christian, listen to what you're going to miss if you don't accept Lord Jesus Christ into your heart as your savior.

Vs13: "exhort" means 'to call along side of one another to help, strengthen, and encourage each other, daily.'" Help make each other's burdens easier. Today, while the door of opportunity is still open, help each other before the door closes, unless any of us are hardened to the deceitfulness of sin. Sin hardens your heart.

Vs14: "partakers" means "companions" of Christ **if...** notice these conditions: If we stay faithful until the end. This is not talking about our salvation; this is talking about how close you are to Christ, walking with Him. There are three kinds of rest mentioned in scripture: 1) Rest based in salvation, 2) an eternal rest based on His finished work and has nothing to do with us whatsoever. It just has to do with us accepting His finished work and 3) rest based on works, by completely surrendering your life to Christ and letting Him work His will through your life. We have to work at this rest; we have to work at being a good Christian.

Vs15: He's warning these Hebrew Christians to not be like their ancestors and harden their hearts through sin and not partake of the promises of God.

Vs16: the Hebrews that came out of Egypt came out with a hard heart. It was an 11-day journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, but it took them 40 years because they were unfaithful. So when they got up to go into the land of Canaan, they listened to men instead of God, and God let them wander around until everyone over 20 years old died, due to their unfaithfulness. You can have victory by staying faithful through the hard times and the good times, or you can live a life of a defeated Christian.

Vs17-18: God made a promise; He got so mad at these people, that He swore they were not going to get the rest that God had told them about before, due to their unfaithfulness. People today, and then, say "Lord, do with me what you will" but then they listen to men and live a defeated life.

Vs19: this word "unbelief" means "the condition of being un-persuaded". What its saying is these Israelites died out there in the desert because they were not persuaded by God to believe what God was telling them.

Hebrews 4:1-

Vs1: don't fear the world. Fear God, because He's the one that can make a difference with blessings or curses.

Vs2: the Israelites heard the word of God while in the desert, didn't believe it, and died. Most Christians today also hear the Word of God, don't believe it, and die, living a life of defeat.

Vs3: God says I have prepared you from the foundation of the ages. Go on and take it. The only to take it is through faith, and there is no other way. No one else can do it for you. We call it "Whole surrender." You surrender your life to the Lord, and you will be happy, truly.

Vs4-5: here's another rest that God has promised us. We are to rest one day out of seven. Men have tried to change it, but they always get into health troubles when they do.

Vs6: Again, people died hearing the word of God and not believing it.

Vs7: there is a limited time to hear the word of God, of course this being the time you are alive here on earth, because you can't hear the word of God when you're dead and buried.

Vs8-10: God wasn't tired when He rested on the 7th day. It is a principle that we need to rest one day out of every seven.

Vs11: let's go ahead and labor. This 2nd rest is a rest of labor to be a good Christian. It's not easy.

1 Cor 10:1-11: this is written to the Gentiles. The Israelites coming out of Egypt all partook of the same thing, the same words, and the same teachings. Jesus Christ was leading the Israelites out of the desert. These Israelites perished in the wilderness. The types that perished were partiers, fornicators, tempted Christ, gossips, all those over twenty who doubted and murmured about Christ and God and His way. So live and learn from the Israelite's experience and pay attention because they are an example to us to learn what mistakes to avoid.