

Living out of Rest

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Hebrews 3:1-4:13.

B. Many are simply concerned whether the Christian faith does anything for a person immediately.

C. One of the reasons that Jesus came is so that He could be a faithful high priest.

D. He is the answer to all the nervous tension that we face today.

II. A building is never properly considered the house of God—the people of God are intended to be the dwelling place of God. (I Corinthians 6)

III. The church is the house of God only if the people hold firm to the end.

A. Some declare that this means that one can lose his salvation, but this contradicts other Scriptures. (John 10)

B. Others say that there could have been a large number in the church that may have not been part of the church—they never officially entered into God's grace.

1. The writer is not talking about hypocrisy.

2. He is talking about those who have enjoyed the protection and guidance of God and who have even been fed by God, but those who never had any real faith like the Israelites in the desert. They were merely acting to escape their circumstances.

3. The writer warns of the problem of hardness—holding truth in the head but never letting it get into the heart. Only truth acted upon sets us free.

IV. The Israelites believed but they had no faith.

A. The Israelites did not act on their belief making it faith.

B. We have the same good news of receiving rest.

C. God's Word knows nothing of "easy believism."

D. When God enters the heart, there is a radical change of constitution.

V. The rest.

A. It is pictured by the Sabbath.

B. It was available since the foundation of the world.

C. The one entering God’s rest ceases from his labors—this is a principle we must live by.

1. Man believes generally that he has what it takes to be what he wants to be.
2. The new principle is to stop our own efforts.
3. We are to rest upon Christ in order to accomplish what we need.
4. This is God’s design for activity today.
5. This is not inactivity but freedom from strain.

VI. How.

- A. The instrument by which we enter God’s rest is the Word of God.
- B. In order to enter into the new principle, the old principle must be repudiated.
- C. The Word of God helps us stripping off what is false and unveiling what is true.

VII. Rest allows us to be what we really are before man as we are before God.

Application questions:

1. What is the difference between faith and belief? Explain.

2. Would the author of Hebrews define rest as not having to do any more work? Defend your answer.

3. What futile labors could you use God’s rest in? Reflect upon how the present “rest” God gives us helps us to get through challenges and difficulties in our everyday lives.
