



Entering His REST

Sunday, 10/21 – 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 10/22 – 7 PM
22nd Sunday after Pentecost / 21st Sunday after Trinity – 2018

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: According to God's Holy Word, *some will enter into heaven but many will not* 😊!

Last week, in Hebrews chapter 3, we learned about the *deceitfulness of sin* leading people from belief to unbelief.

Today we will hear good news about heaven, as well as some very important things for us to **know** and **do** as believers!

1. **Heaven Is Still Open:** **¹ Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest [thus, into heaven] still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. //**

So what should be said to those who are still alive, *for those who are not yet in heaven*? For **the faithful** – *continue*; **the wavering** – *get in the Word*; **the busy** – *stop ignoring*; and **the hard-hearted** – *repent!*

- a. **Heard, but did not believe:** **² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened [who heard**

and believed]. // Regarding those who were led by Moses, they ✦witnessed many miracles and ✦heard God’s Word through Aaron; nevertheless, *most did not believe*. Even though the law showed them their sin, *they still rejected the promised Messiah!*

b. Heard, and believe: ³ **For we ~~who have believed~~ [believing ones] enter that rest** [that is, heaven, one by one as we die in Christ], as [God] has said, **“As I swore in my wrath, ‘They [The unbelievers] shall not enter my rest,’”** although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. // God ✦made all, ✦sent Jesus to save all, and ✦desires heaven for all! Now – by God’s power – all who continue to believe shall enter. However, *the many who keep continuing in unbelief will not enter!*

2. **God’s Intent, From the Beginning**: ⁴ **For he [the psalmist] has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.”** // In six days God created the heavens and the earth; then He rested. Therefore, *from the beginning*, His rest has been available to all *by grace through faith!*

3. **It’s Not Too Late for You**: Take two fingers and hold them up; now, *place them on your neck*. Do you have a pulse? If yes, *then it’s not too late for you!*

a. For some, heaven is closed: ⁵ **And again in this passage [God] said, “They [The unbelievers] shall not enter my rest.”** // As you need a certain key to open a certain door, *so we need Jesus to open heaven*. Therefore, *all who reject Jesus are without the key and shall not enter!*

- b. For others, heaven is still open: ⁶ **Since therefore it remains for some to enter it** [God's rest, that is, heaven], **and those who formerly received the good news** [thus, those led by Moses] **failed to enter because of disobedience,** ⁷ **again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."** // For all who died without with Jesus, *they failed to enter and heaven is closed.* However, as in David's day heaven was open, *so in our day heaven is open!* Therefore, God is calling all people to **know** their great need, **listen** to His Word, **be** sorry for their sins, and **receive** Jesus as their Savior!

4. **Rest Defined:**

- a. The Promised Land: ⁸ **For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.** // Think about this progression: **From** slavery in Egypt **> to** wandering in the wilderness **> to** entering, settling in, and resting in the Promised Land! That rest was wonderful, but that was a preliminary rest, *not the ultimate rest!*
- b. Heaven: ⁹ **So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,** ¹⁰ **for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.** // As God created, *then rested from His work,* so we are called to work – as we have been gifted – *until God takes us to heaven.* We work to thank and glorify God, *and we do so gladly* because we have His gift of eternal life thru Jesus!

5. **Living as Believers:**

- a. Let us strive to do our part: ¹¹ **Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.** // Dr. Kretzmann wrote that “Christians... should strive with all the power of their regenerated heart to enter into that rest” (451). Jesus gave this warning, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to” (Lk. 13:24 NIV).
- b. Let us let the Word do its work in us: ¹² **For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** // As God is the living God, so *His Word is living as the Spirit works through that Word* – all the way to the depths of our very being. He is working to ✦expose sin, ✦point to Jesus, and ✦instruct our lives in Christ!
- c. Let us remember that God knows everything: ¹³ **And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.** // As our clothes hide our bodies, *so we may think that we can hide things from God* – like our deeds, words, thoughts, and desires, *BUT God knows all things!*

Let Us Pray: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we all desire to go to heaven, so move us to ✦see our sins, ✦confess our sins, ✦trust in Jesus, and ✦be certain that the way is open for us!

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