

HEBREWS

COMMENTARY

Chapter 4:

vs. 1-13

Paul states that since God's offer of a place of rest for His people still stands we need to be sure that we are faithful so that we also can enjoy it. He then compares the Hebrew Christians to the Hebrews of the wilderness. Both had heard God's message. Those of the wilderness rejected and failed to receive the promise. Those Christians believed and would receive the rest (if they remained faithful) just as surely as the others would not enter that rest.

vs. 3
(Psalm 95:11)

vs. 4
(Genesis 2:2)

vs. 5
(Psalm 95:11)

vs. 7
(Psalm 95:7,8)

What is God's rest? God's rest began on the 7th day and continues. We too can enjoy that rest in heaven if we remain in Christ. The rest that God offered the wilderness Hebrews was not the promised land (that was incomplete) but His eternal rest. This is made evident in verse 8. When the Bible then speaks of the wilderness Hebrews not entering God's rest, it means they lost much more than land; they lost their salvation. This rest will come and can be had through obedience.

Paul states that any disobedience will surely be found out because God's Word will cut to the heart of the matter and will show sin for what it is--- disobedience.

vs. 14-16

We all realize that we have sinned. This is why Paul reminds us of our great High priest, to whom we must cling because there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). Not only can His blood cover our sins, but He is able to sympathize with what all we are going through when we are being tempted and can give us the encouragement and strength we need to overcome. Since Jesus gives forgiveness of sins and power to overcome temptation we can enter God's presence realizing that in Christ we have been made holy (Heb. 2:11) and will find God's mercy (forgiveness for sins) and grace (undeserved blessings) to help us when we are being tried & tested.

COMMENTARY

Hebrews Chapter 5:

- vs. 1-10 Paul continues on with the thought that Jesus is our high priest. He reminds the Hebrew Christians that the high priest was to intercede to God on mens behalf. If there were gifts to give or sacrifices to offer they were to be given through the high priest. The high priest, as God's spokesman, would then relate to the people how to live. Notice, Paul tells them how the priest was to be sympathetic and loving to the sinners.
- vs. 5 (Psalm 2:7)
- vs. 6 (Psalm 110:4)
- The high priests were chosen, determined primarily by blood line. Paul shows that Jesus also was chosen, only He was selected by God.
- Paul then directs the readers attention to the training and preparation that Jesus went through to become our high priest. Jesus learned obedience through the suffering that He endured. When He was made complete (perfect) through His suffering then He was able to offer salvation and eternal life to all who would serve Him faithfully.
- The order of Melchizedek, means simply after the pattern of Melchizedek (see Hebrews 7 & Genesis 14:17-20) who was a priest.
- vs. 11-14 Paul now centers in on the thought that these Hebrew Christians were not maturing at the rate that he felt they should. He states that they should be at a point in their Christian walk where they are teaching others and bringing them to a greater knowledge of Christ. He then says that they are the ones who need to be eaught.
- Paul shows the difference, and will expand on it, between mature and immature believers. The major difference is in their ability to determine what is right and proper and what is not acceptable in the sight of God.

COMMENTARY

Hebrews Chapter 6:

vs. 1-12 Paul continues briefly concerning the mature and those basic items that all should know. Repentance, faith, baptism, laying on of hands (set apart for the work of God), the resurrection and judgement are items that every believer should know about and be able to teach others. Paul says that he desires to go on to more mature and deeper items of discussion.

Paul enters in to making a case that those who have accepted Jesus Christ, can fall away and lose their salvation. Those who have accepted the Lord and have experienced God's Holy Spirit working in their lives and have matured in Christ are the ones who are in danger of reaching a point of no return. The reason is; they have experienced the best that Jesus has to offer and they in full knowledge and willingness decide to give it up and go back to a world of preasure. Paul says, if they knew what they were giving up then it will not have any appeal later and Christ will not accept them back. To emphasize his point, Paul mentions that good land that enjoys the blessings and produces is farmed. Land that enjoys the blessings and does not produce will be destroyed and this is the way it is with those who have enjoyed God's blessings and then reject them.

Paul goes on to say that he does not anticipate these Hebrew Christians to make that mistake. He tells them that God will remember their faithful service and will reward them. He challenges them to remain as active and diligent in their service and not to let up down the road. If they remain faithful and diligent then God will reward them.

vs. 13-20 Paul wants to convince them that God will keep His promise. He does this by first citing an example of God keeping a promise. He shows how God promised to Abraham that He would blessed and swore by Himself and Abraham later received what God had said He would give. Secondly, Paul shows that God swore by Himself because that was the greatest thing there is to swear by; making the oath a certainty. Paul speaks of God doing this by two unchangeable things, that which was sworn by (God) will not change and the other-- God will not lie to anyone.

vs. 14
(Genesis
22:17)

Because of the certainty of the promise we receive hope and that will encourage us and keep us firmly in place following Jesus Christ our Lord. Our hope is eternal life through Jesus and He has entered into God's own presence, becoming a priest for us.

STUDY GUIDE

Hebrews 4:

1. What promise still stands and what must we be careful about in regards to it?
2. Why was the message preached to the Israelites, of no value?
3. Why did those who formerly have the gospel preached to them, not go into God's rest?
4. What happens to those who enter God's rest?
5. Why should we make every effort to enter God's rest?
6. How is the Word of God described, and what does it judge?
7. What is hidden from God's eyes?
8. Why should we hold firmly to the faith we profess?
9. Why can Jesus sympathize with our weaknesses?
10. What will we find and when, if we approach the throne of grace with confidence?

BONUS:

1. Prove from this chapter that the following is NOT true: "God will let everyone go to heaven. They might be punished for a little while, but they'll get there".
2. How can Christians make EVERY effort to enter God's rest?
3. What does it mean to you, knowing that Jesus has already faced the same kind of temptations that you have? Does this help you or make you feel more guilty?
4. What does it mean to receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need?

STUDY GUIDE

Hebrews 5:

1. What is the high priest supposed to do?
2. how is the hight priest to deal with the sinner and why?
3. Who called Jesus to be a high priest? & give evidence.
4. How did Jesus learn obedience?
5. After Jesus was proved to be perfectr, what did He become?
6. Why were these hard things for the Hebrews to learn?
7. What should they have been ready to be?
8. What is the one who is on milk, not acquainted with?
9. What does Paul say about the one who eats solid food?

BONUS:

1. Why was it important for Paul to prove that Jesus was called to be a high priest, by God?
2. What does it personally mean to you, that Jesus is our high priest?
3. What distinguishes a mature Christian from a young and immature Christian?

STUDY GUIDE

Hebrews 6:

1. What does Paul imply, are the elementary teachings?
2. What is impossible?
3. Why can't those who fall away be brought back?
4. What will God not forget?
5. What did Paul not want the Hebrews to become?
6. Why did God swear by Himself?
7. What is an anchor for the soul?
8. Tell what you can, about Jesus becoming a high priest according to verse 20.

BONUS:

1. Why are the items mentioned in verses 1 & 2, considered to be elementary teachings?
2. Explain how you feel about the following: A person comes to church and then stops coming. Later, they return and become active.
3. According to this chapter, what do you think that God feels about the attitude that, "I've been doing things for so many years, let someone else do it and I'll retire".
4. Why would it be important for Jesus to be a high priest forever?