

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of Our Inheritance

#33 Obedience To "Lettuce" Brings God's Rest

Recall: Hebrews was written to "second generation believers" who were won to Christ by those who had known Jesus during His earthly ministry.

Five warnings are given: "Take Heed" and pay attention to God's Word.

It points out the resulting, sad spiritual consequences if we do not heed God's Word.

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| 1. Drifting From The Word | = | Neglect | Heb. 2:1-4 |
| 2. Doubting The Word | = | Hard Heart | Heb. 3:7-4:13 |
| 3. Dullness Toward The Word | = | Sluggishness | Heb. 5:11-6:20 |
| 4. Despising The Word | = | Willfulness | Heb. 10:26-39 |
| 5. Defying The Word | = | Refusing To Hear | Heb. 12:14-29 |

It was God's desire the Israelites enter their glorious inheritance in the land of Canaan. Canaan represents our spiritual inheritance in Christ. [Eph. 1:3, 11, 15-23]

The wilderness wanderings represent the experiences of believers who will not claim their spiritual inheritance in Christ, who doubt God's Word and live in restless unbelief.

They are out of Egypt, but not yet in Canaan.

Israel's sin was "departing from the living God." Depart = Apostasy

1. They departed from the Living God by REFUSING God's will for their lives and stubbornly wanting to go their own way.

We are admonished to take heed and recognize the spiritual dangers that exist.

REST is found in Heb. 3:11, 18; 4:1, 3-5, 8-11

Background: There are 2 different "rests" found in the Old Testament.

1. God's Sabbath Rest - when He ceased from His creation activities. [Gen. 2:2; Heb. 4:4]

2. Israel's rest in Canaan [Joshua 21:43-45; Heb. 3:11]

Deut. 12:9 For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God gives you.

These "rests" illustrate the spiritual experiences of believers today.

1. Sabbath rest is a picture of our rest in Christ through salvation.

a. Our justification & Peace With God [Heb. 4:3]

2. The Canaan rest is a picture of our present rest as we claim our inheritance in Christ.

a. This is the rest of submission. Peace Of God

3. A Future Rest believers will enjoy with God.

Heb. 4:9 There remains, therefore, a rest to the people of God.

a. The word for rest in the Greek = sabbatismos = a keeping of the Sabbath

Note: Only place used in the New Testament

Rev. 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

God's Rest Is Built On A Bed Of "Lettuce"

Hebrews has more "Let Us" passages than any other book.

A. Heb. 4:1-2 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, **LET US FEAR**, lest any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Therefore: 2 Warnings Have Been Given: Drifting From The Word & Doubting The Word

Heb. 3:7-4:1 He has explained the danger of doubting and disbelieving the Word because of the hardness of our hearts.

1. When Israel arrived to go in, they delayed because they DOUBTED the promise of God.
2. Israel went backward in their belief instead of forward by faith.
3. All God did for them did not benefit them spiritually because it was not mixed with faith.
Result = Missed their inheritance and died in the wilderness

Key Point #1 It is only as God's Word is mixed with faith that it can accomplish its purposes.

Key Point #2 It is by believing that you enter into rest. [abundant life]

Key Point #3 It is obeying by faith and surrendering to His will that His rest enters into you.

Phil. 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with Fear And Trembling.

¹³ For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Consider: We must watch out [fear] for unbelief or faithlessness. If 99.9% of people who saw the greatest evidence of God EVER fell away through unbelief, how easy is it for us?

B. Heb. 4:11 Let Us Labor [strive, be diligent, eager] therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Note: Entering is Conditional - We Can Fail To Enter God's Rest - Our Inheritance

1. Give diligence = opposite of drifting
2. Focus on the REST - no room for mental laziness - so you do not fall by disobedience

Be In The Word Of God

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1. The Power Of God's Word can penetrate and expose the sin and unbelief in our hearts.
2. The Word of God is **LIVING** because it has life in it.
3. It is Powerful = energetic, active, productive, effective

Isa. 55:11 So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

4. Sharper = can cut through anything! It is a sin slayer.

a. 2 edged = Deeply cuts that we might die; cuts us again that we might live!

5. Piercing = not sheathed = extreme power of penetration to the very core of man's being

a. Illustration of Thorpe of the Hell-fire Club - 1700's

6. Discerner = not ignorant = critic

His Word sifts through the hearts and attitudes with unerring discrimination.

a. Do you ever feel the speaker is talking right to you?

7. Naked & open = not hidden nor veiled = nothing to hide in or behind

C. Heb. 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, Let Us Hold Fast Our Profession.

1. Cling to; hold tightly; get a grip on

2. Since Jesus Christ is both God and Man, He can bring people to God and bring to people ALL that God has for them!

3. Illus. of John Rogers - 1st martyr in Queen Mary's time

Consider: God must give special grace at such a time. We will not do well in persecution if we grumble and walk away from God when we face lesser trials.

Rom. 5:3-4 but we Glory In Tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

D. Heb. 4:16 Let Us Therefore Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1. I have a sinless perfect Great High Priest who has paid the full penalty and has the receipt stamped in His wrists, feet and side.

2. There is no need to give up our profession because we are going through testing and trial.

3. There is no need to depart from The Faith.

Good News: We can come boldly into the presence of God and receive ALL the help we need. No trial is too great, no temptation is too strong, but Jesus Christ can give us the mercy and grace we need when we need it.

Truth: If we fail to hold fast our confession, we are not proving that Jesus Christ has failed. We are showing that WE FAILED to draw on His grace and mercy when it was freely available.

Heb. 5:11-14 Emphasizes the marks of spiritual immaturity and the call to maturity

Warning #3 Given: Dullness Toward The Word; Sluggish & lazy listener - Heb. 5:11-6:20

E. Heb. 6:1 THEREFORE leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, Let Us Go On Unto Perfection; [maturity; completion]

1. Let Us Be Carried Forward - It is God who enables us to progress as we yield to Him, receive His Word and act on it.

Open Invitation To Enter & Dwell In The Presence Of God

Tozer: We cannot enter into presence of God while we are rebelling against God!

F. Heb.10:22 Let Us Draw Near To God with a true heart in full assurance of FAITH having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

The new and living way into the Holy of Holies is not through a curtain of material but through the torn body of Jesus, our sacrificial lamb. We can be completely assured that God will accept us because of our High Priest and His sacrifice. I can confidently enter His Presence.

G. Heb.10:23 - Let Us Hold Fast The Profession Of Our HOPE Without Wavering;

(for he is faithful that promised;)

1. The writer did NOT exhort them to hold on to their salvation because their security was in Christ and not in themselves. [Heb. 7:25]

2. He exhorted them to hold fast "the profession of HOPE." [There is no manuscript evidence for the word faith in this verse. The Greek word is HOPE.]

Note: Hebrews has an emphasis on the glorious hope of the believer.

Heb. 2:10 God is bringing many sons unto glory.

Heb. 3:1 Believers are "partakers of the heavenly calling" and therefore can rejoice in HOPE.

[Heb. 3:6]

Heb. 6:11-12; 18-20 Hope is one of the main themes.

Heb. 9:28 We are looking for Christ to return.

Heb. 13:14 We are seeking the city that is yet to come.

TRUTH: When you have your hope fixed on Christ and rely on the faithfulness of God, you will not waver. You will look AHEAD to the coming of the Lord.

H. Heb. 10:24-25 Let Us Consider one another to provoke unto LOVE and to good works Let Us Not Forsake The Assembling Of Ourselves Together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Note: The emphasis is NOT on what you get from the assembly of believers, but rather on what you can CONTRIBUTE to the assembly of believers.

Key Point Faithfulness in church [body of Christ] encourages others and provokes them to love and good works.

The prophecies predict a falling away at the very end of time. We will need to encourage one another so we will not be a part of that falling away.

Note: The 3 great Christian virtues are evidenced in verses 22-25:

Faith Heb. 10:22 Hope 10:23 Love 10:24-25

They are the fruit of our fellowship with God in His heavenly sanctuary.

Warning #4: Despising The Word - Willful Sinning - Heb. 10:26-39

I. Heb.12:1a - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, Let Us Lay Aside Every Weight

1. Chapter 11 has introduced the heroes of the faith. Their overcoming victories are a great witness and testimony to us that the Christian race can be run successfully. They bear witness to us that God can see us through.

Running the race with trust in man's wisdom, or the security of material wealth, or some compromise with sin will slow you down and trip you up. Hezekiah tried to finish his race carrying the pride of possessions. King David tried to run for a while carrying the load of lust and lies. Jacob tried running with a trust in his own scheming ability.

Those things tripped them up and entangled them.

"God's rest celebrates His finished work. Whoever enters into God's rest immediately abandons His own efforts to complement what God has already perfected."

Note: Key Words are not struggle, try and try harder!

Key words are: Surrender to, yield to, rest in, and believe in.

Consider: When I Strive, God Waits! When I Rest, God Works!

J. Heb. 12:1b - Let Us Run With Endurance [Patience] The Race that is set before us.

It is by God's grace we will finish the race well. If we quit before we get there we will never know all that God had in store for us. Consistency is the key. Keep walking in the Spirit.

Keep in the Word. Don't allow bitterness to creep in.

Paul describes the way he was running the race.

I Cor. 9:24-27 ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize?

Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others,

I myself Will Not Be Disqualified For The Prize.

Heb. 12:2-3 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds

Warning #5: Refusing To Hear God's Word - Heb. 12:14-28

K. Heb. 12:28-29 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, Let Us Have Grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

L. Heb.13:13 - Let Us Go Forth To Him, Outside The Camp Bearing His Reproach.

When the Levites performed the sin offering, they took the body of the bull and burned it outside the camp. Jesus was taken outside of the city where His body was crucified. He wasn't considered good enough, clean enough, for inside the city. They took Him out like garbage.

Let's go to Him and be identified with Him. Fame and acceptance on earth is fleeting at best.

Gabriel the Archangel told Daniel the prophet he was highly esteemed.

Where do you want esteem, on earth or in heaven?

M. Heb.13:15 - Let Us Continually Offer The Sacrifice that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.

Praise is a sign of spiritual health. Murmuring is a sign of spiritual sickness.

Consider: When I enter His presence with PRAISE, He enters my circumstance with POWER.

II Tim. 4:7-8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.