

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 10, 2014

Christ is Superior to Moses
Hebrews 4:3-5

The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the prophets (Hebrews 1:1-4). The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the angels (Hebrews 1:5-2:18). The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-4:13). Christ, as an example of faithfulness, is superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-6). Christ's superior example of faithfulness led the author to warn his readers against the sin of unbelief (Hebrews 3:7-4:13).

The first part of the author's warning against the sin of unbelief focused on Israel's past failure in the wilderness and subsequent judgment after they left Egypt (Hebrews 3:7-19).

The second part of the author's warning against the sin of unbelief focused on the promise of rest "today" (Hebrews 4:1-13).

The author in Hebrews 4:1-2 provided a transitional statement linking what he had said about Israel's past failure to enter the rest that God had promised them and the ongoing promise of rest today.

The author in Hebrews 4:3-5 expanded on the nature of the rest that is available "today" through faith in the gospel of Christ.

Entering God's rest is so very special, not only because it can provide us in the here and now a peace that the world cannot possibly understand, but it also provides us a foretaste of what is yet to come (Romans 8:28; cf. Hebrews 12:22-24; 13:14).

The author, after having stated the fact that those who exercise faith in Christ enter into God's rest, then quoted Psalm 95:11 to make the point that Israel had not entered His rest (Hebrews 4:3).

So, if Israel had not entered God's rest, did their inability to enter God's rest nullify God's rest? This is the question that the author then sought to answer by providing two facts.

God's rest has been available ever since His finished work of creation (Hebrews 4:3).

The word "although" introduces a clause which prevents the false conclusion that God refused His rest to Israel because the rest no longer existed.

After God completed His work of creation, there has been no further resumption of this work that would terminate His rest (Hebrews 4:4; cf. Genesis 2:2).

The rest that was referred to in Genesis 2:2 and that was quoted in Hebrews 4:4, was not referring to a cessation of all activity, for that would contradict the teaching of Christ in John 5:17.

The rest that was referred to in Genesis 2:2 and that was referenced in Hebrews 4:4, is a rest that flows from completion when everything that needs to be done has been done and has been done well.

May we by God's grace, having exercised genuine saving faith, continually experience the blessedness of God's rest until that day when we finally enter its full glory.