

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 31, 2014

Christ is Superior to Moses
Hebrews 4:6-11

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.

The author in Hebrews 4:6-11 presented further argument in support of his belief that God's rest was still available through faith in Christ.

Hebrews 4:6 is the author's summation of his earlier argument in Hebrews 4:3-5 that the promise of God's rest is still available.

The author in Hebrews 4:7 expanded his earlier argument by introducing Psalm 95:7-8.

The author in Hebrews 4:8 then addressed a possible objection to his argument.

The author in Hebrews 4:9, based on all that he had said in Hebrews 4:1-8, concluded that, "There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God."

The word translated "Sabbath rest" (SABBATISMOS) occurs only once in the New Testament and is a different word for "rest" (KATAPAUSIN) than is used elsewhere in this discussion.

The change to “Sabbath rest” was doubtlessly made because the author wanted his readers to think in terms of God’s own rest, which he had just explained earlier in Hebrews 4:4 in connection with creation.

The author in Hebrews 4:10 was attempting to show his readers that once an individual had entered God’s rest through faith in Christ, it would be inconsistent for them to continue to work in order to secure what they had already secured through faith in Christ.

May God give us the grace to understand that when we exercise faith in Christ we enter into God’s rest, a rest that flows from knowing that everything that needs to be done has been done and done very well.