

“THE RELEASE OF REST”

Hebrews 4:9-16

Message 1597

Rest is a wonderful word, an inviting word. The word rest is for all of us. Rest is a welcome word, a word for those who are weary in spirit and soul. A word for those who are restless in mind and heart. Rest is a word for those searching for truth.

My friend, rest is for you. God knew that as creatures of time and space, and creatures of reasoning powers, we must find rest. We cannot be happy until we have found the place to rest our faith!

THE RELEASE OF REST is assured to us from Hebrews 4:9-16.

9. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his works, as God did from his.

11. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

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.

13. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

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.

15. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

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.

Oh, how gracious the Lord is to set forth the **DETAILS** by which we may enjoy the rest He has for us!

REST IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD. This is a statement of fact: “There remains, therefore, a rest to the people of God.” God always makes true statements. He is not given to deceiving people. The Word of God is true.

Now, contrast that with what God has to say about the wicked. The Prophet Isaiah in chapter 57, verses 20 and 21, states it like this: “But the wicked are like the troubled sea... whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.” What a contrast that is: there is a rest for the people of God; there is no rest for the wicked.

The last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, in chapter 14 and verse 11 describes for us another awful scene about the wicked, “And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night.” You see, God has made a statement for us, the people of God. If you are one of the people of God then you can claim this great statement of fact: there is a rest for the people of God. Praise the Lord!

God has set an example. The writer of our text says that God rested on the seventh day. He ceased from His work of creation. The record is given to us in the opening chapters of Genesis. After God had created all things, and man on the sixth day, then we are informed that He rested on the seventh day from all His labor. The example of God tells us that we too can rest. It is important to be among the people of God if this statement is to have any meaning for you.

There is rest for the people of God. Are you one of those people? Can you look forward to rest in the Lord?

REST IS THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD. The writer of our text describes the Word of God as living and powerful. Its activities are threefold. It has the ability to divide the soul and spirit, the joints and marrow, the thoughts and intents of the heart. Now that is especially for those people who are restless in mind and spirit. My friend, if you are one of those, then let me help you to see that the Word of God can bring you rest in your mind and in your spirit, because that Word of God is able, being sharper than a two-edged sword, to cut away all those things that trouble you. You can have rest in your soul and spirit. You can have rest in the thoughts and intents of your heart because rest is through the Word of God. It is important, therefore, that you read the Word of God and you understand what the Word of God says.

As the writer further instructs us, there is an all-pervading God, and before Him all things are opened and naked. The Creator knows everything. As creatures we cannot hide from the Creator. That is impossible.

That brings rest, too. Because we now see that there is no use trying to hide from God. We might as well relax and be in the presence God because He understands all about us anyway. There is no creature that is not manifest in his sight. Everything is naked and opened before Him with whom we have to do. So, rest comes to us through the Word of God. And our rest is assured by the Almighty, all-pervading God. That brings a real rest to my spirit right now, because the Word of God instructs me.

REST IS IN THE SON OF GOD. We have a high priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. On the basis of this fact, we can hold fast. Sometimes, it appears that you have come to the end; you can't hold fast any longer. But just remember that rest comes. Relax and remember that we have a high priest, the Son of God, who has passed into the heavens.

This, we understand, to have reference to the ascension when Jesus went to glory and is now seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high as we are instructed in chapter 1 in the book of Hebrews.

And, furthermore, we have a high priest who understands. He is touched with a feeling of our weaknesses. He was tempted in all points like we are, therefore, He understands. There is nothing that you may be going through right now that He does not understand. Doesn't that give you rest in your heart and in your spirit? It does me. Isn't it wonderful that God gives us release of rest?

Then there is that throne of mercy. There is that place to which we can come. We can come boldly—not fearfully—but we can come boldly to the throne of grace. We can obtain help. We can find grace to help in time of need.

I remember in the Gospels that Jesus said, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Praise the Lord! Rest is in the Son of God. Our rest is found in Jesus Christ.

My friend, do you need rest? Here are the details that God has set forth so that you may enjoy rest: rest is for the people of God, rest is through the Word of God, and rest is in the Son of God. But these must be received by faith in the God who has promised. That is where your exercise of faith comes in, my friend.