

Hebrews 4.3-5

God Has Not Failed

There is a theological perspective which declares that God has plans that fail, that He has intentions that do not come to pass, That He sits in the heavens wringing His impotent hands because He wants something that He just can't make happen. And then there is the scriptural, Biblical truth. There is the truth of all creation, God has not failed. He does not fail, ever. In this passage we see that the question in mind is why did they fail to enter? Is it that God failed in His intention? Or can He still be trusted?

I. GOD HAS NOT FAILED

- a. The rest is not absent for them because God failed in His work to provide it.
- b. God finished His working and blessed the seventh day for His creation to dwell in His presence

- c. Those who believe enter into His presence in joy, peace and love for all eternity
- d. Those who do not believe, enter into His presence in suffering, sorrow and wrath for all eternity.
- e. The intention of the whole of creation is worship. To endlessly give unto God the glory that is His due, and to be fulfilled in our souls as we do so. And everyone will ultimately fulfill that purpose. Either in the display of His love, or in the display of His wrath.

Romans 9.22-24

II. GOD IS THE PURPOSE OF HIS CREATION.

(Soli Deo Gloria)

- a. We, who have entered into this covenant of grace, have peace with God

Romans 5.1-5

- b. Our sins have been laid on the scapegoat, the lamb of God, Jesus Christ (Sola Christos)

Romans 5.6-11

c. We have been born again

d. We have been made new

e. We have been made accepted in the beloved

f. This work is NOT OURS!! We have NOTHING to do with it, it is God from start to finish and He does this work with no thought or consideration of anything that we have done or WILL EVER do. It is the very definition of grace (Sola Gratia)

g. We have full satisfaction with God

Psalm 63:1-8

i. We want nothing more

- ii. He is all that we need and with Him we also possess all things
- iii. If we had nothing else, we would still be satisfied with God

- h. We are in full agreement with God

- i. What He says we know is truth itself
(Sola Scriptura)

- j. We have access to God –

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- k. We have agreement with God in all things

- l. Since God is the purpose and the focus of all things, those who do not have a relationship with God do not have these things

III. THE GOSPEL IS DOUBLE EDGED

- a. The gospel contains both promise and threat, and is NEVER safely ignored. Part of the promise of covenant that Israel used was a reminder of this fact –

Deuteronomy 30.11-20

- b. For every word that God has ever spoken will be absolutely accomplished.

Isaiah 46.8-13

- i. Every single intention of God will absolutely come to pass

Psalm 115:3 (NKJV) ³ But our God *is* in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

- ii. Every single plan will absolutely be fulfilled
- iii. Every single scrap and fragment of the farthest workings of His eternal purpose will

come to full fruition in the fullness of time
and not one piece will be lost.

- c. Both promise and threat are absolutely true for they come from the same God
- d. Our refusal to believe the promise will NOT deliver us from the power of the threat.
- e. They are both parts of the same covenant - a covenant delivered to us, but a covenant that exists outside of us. It is a covenant between God, Jesus and the Spirit. Formed in the reaches of eternity past, before there was anything, there was the covenant of grace.

Ephesians 1:3-14

- i. When God determined in Himself to choose a people,
- ii. Jesus agreed to die for the sins of that people and to have His own righteousness be applied by God to that people,

- iii. the Spirit agreed to draw that people to God unfailingly, to impart faith, and to seal them safely against the day of redemption.

IV. FAITH IS

- a. Believing that God has not, will not, cannot fail!! It is casting yourself upon that promise, it is swinging into eternity upon a scarlet thread, it is the full and complete confidence that if God is false, there is no hope in anything else. That He is worth the risk of anything and everything, that He can absolutely be trusted. And faith is the only means of access to this promise!!!
- b. It is one of the five pillars of the reformation
 - i. Sola Scriptura
 - ii. Sola Fide
 - iii. Sola Christos
 - iv. Sola Gratia
 - v. Soli Deo Gloria!!

c. Faith is believing God –

Heb 11.1 it is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.

- i. Everything He says
- ii. Everything He asserts
- iii. Everything He promises
- iv. Everything He will do
- v. Everything He is

d. Apart from this faith there is no hope

- i. Of entering our rest
- ii. Of entering into peace
- iii. Of entering into heaven
- iv. Of living a life of purpose and dignity

This is why they did not enter into His rest. They did not believe. They did not trust. They did not rest upon Him, they did not rest with Him. This is the same urgent need today, we must believe God. We must cast ourselves upon His promise with all we are and all we have.