

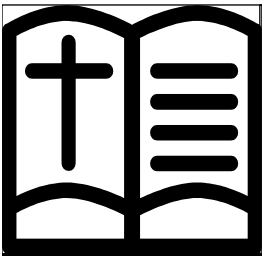
“REST” part 4
HEBREWS 3:7-4:11

I. GOD HAS ALWAYS INTENDED A REST FOR HIS PEOPLE

- A. *Rest is the teamwork of God and His Images to fill the earth with His glory*
- B. *Humans were not creators but lords of the planet; they are not the essence of God but bearers of the attributes of God, His image*
- C. *Schooling for lords; e.g. Jesus and the disciples*
- D. *Hacking school; losing student status*
- E. *Distrust=sin=separation=hard work without God’s aid on land that fights against us; a reminder of the cost of distrust and the need to repent; stubbornness, pride and hardened heart keeps us from repenting*
- F. *Cursed with the knowledge of good and evil without the benefit of holiness and godliness to give it meaning; humility, repentance, faith, and restoration*
- G. *Faith is the operating principle of the cosmos of this age; it is the tool through which the rest is established; without faith there is no rest; without faith there is no relationship to God and He is the necessity of rest*
- H. *Rest is the final state of the faithful*

II. THE DOOR TO REST IS NOT ALWAYS OPEN

- A. *The Hebrews were facing a harsh reality*
- B. *Israel provoked God with unbelief*
- C. *He swore they would not enter His rest: door closed*



- D. Various terms are used to describe the unbelief that results in the closed door to rest:*
- E. They never entered the rest of the promised land but died in the wilderness having done nothing with their lives but surviving; fruitless waste of life*
- F. Joshua did bring the believers to the promised land. Like the Sabbath, it was a picture to them of God's ultimate rest if they but believed Him*

III. LET US BE DILIGENT TO ENTER THAT REST

- A. Trust there is an ultimate rest for God's people*
- B. Accept that we who have believed the gospel have entered that rest; in training now; school of lords*
- C. Be diligent to continue in what has started*
 - 1. Surround your waking hours with*
 - a. Thanksgiving and praise*
 - b. The word of God - applying it as you learn*
 - c. Continuous prayer - use Bible prayers*
 - d. Praise*
 - e. Acts of love and mercy*
 - f. Rehearsing your position and believing what God says about you; think purpose*
 - 2. Use symbols, reminders as needed*
 - 3. Read good books; listen to good books*
 - 4. Listen to good messages*
 - 5. Build good, godly relationships*
 - 6. Practice faith - extend yourself; do hard things*
 - 7. See yourself in the will and hands of God*
 - 8. Get a good Christian friend to grow with*
 - 9. Start looking forward to Christ's coming*