

Hebrews 4: 1-6

After the warning of Hebrews 3:7-19 the writer of Hebrews exhorts those who profess Jesus as Messiah (but don't possess Him, as they are not true believers) to come to the true rest that God provides. The text in front of us clearly delineates between "us" (possessing believers) and "them" (professing believers). As discussed in the previous section the "rest" is, ultimately, being in the kingdom of God. In this portion of Scripture, "rest" is conditioned upon the "gospel" and "believing" it. The difference between the two groups is one believed in the Lord with their "head and their heart" and the other with only their "head." As previously the writer commanded them "not to harden their hearts," now the command is "to believe."

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

The writer's concern is that there are some who may miss out on God's salvation. He does not want anyone to come short of the rest that is offered. "*Come short*" is because works would be added to faith.

Oftentimes, the author's of the Bible expressed their heartfelt concern for people who don't know the Lord. Consider Romans 9:1-3.

- 1 *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,*
- 2 *That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.*
- 3 *For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Notice the contrast between **us** and **them**.

The gospel preached: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- 1 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;*
- 2 *By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*
- 3 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died **for our sins** according to the scriptures;*
- 4 *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
(Bold added)

Romans 3:20,23

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 10:8-13

- 8 *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*
- 9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*
- 10 *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- 11 *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*
- 12 *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*
- 13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

See Deuteronomy 30:10-20

the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

Must be believed:

Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Romans 4:5

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

This message is the same message taught in the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 15:6

"And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

Isaiah 45:22-25

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory."

Habakkuk 2:4

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

3-5 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

Spiritual rest starts with salvation.

Creation is used as an illustration for the need to stop trying to get to heaven your way and to rest (put your faith in Messiah who has done all the work for you).

See verse Hebrew 4:10.

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

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

There are some people that still need to be saved.

The gospel was, and is, to the Jew first.

"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:47

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

"But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile."

Romans 2:8-9