

GOD'S REST

LET US DRAW NEAR WITH A SINCERE HEART ...

(HEBREWS 10:22A LSB)



AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."

(HEBREWS 3:11 ESV)

I. AN URGENT OBLIGATION: As brothers in Christ we are to be vigilant in warning all those who profess Christ of the impending danger of an evil, unbelieving heart, 3:12.

- (Hebrews 3:12 LSB) See to it brothers, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

HOW DO WE SEE TO IT? WE CAN'T MAKE THE DECISION FOR THE PERSON. SO, AGAIN, **HOW** DO WE SEE TO IT?

A. WARNING: We see to it by warning people of the grave danger of not believing God.

- As much as is possible, we see to it that no one in our fellowship has an evil, unbelieving heart.
 - (Romans 12:18 LSB) If possible, **so far as it depends on you**, being at peace with all men.
- An evil, unbelieving heart is a very real threat and a significant danger within the professing body of believers.
- An evil, unbelieving heart leads a person to the most tragic of consequences—falling away from the living God.

AN EVIL, UNBELIEVING HEART -> FALL AWAY FROM GOD
VERSUS
A SINCERE HEART -> ENTER THE HOLY PLACES OF GOD

CONTRAST

B. EXHORTING: We see to it by exhorting and encouraging people to believe God and draw near to him.

NOTE THE CONTRAST ...

- We encourage people away from an **evil, unbelieving heart** that causes a person to **fall away from the living God**.
- We encourage people toward a **sincere heart** by which a person **enters the holy places of God**.
 - (Hebrews 4:16 LSB) Therefore **let us draw near with confidence** to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - (Hebrews 7:25 LSB) Therefore He is able also to save forever **those who draw**

near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- (Hebrews 10:19–22a LSB) Therefore, brothers, **since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus**, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 **let us draw near with a sincere heart** in full assurance of faith.

iii. The antidote to an evil, unbelieving heart is believing and obeying God.

iv. The person who believes God and walks in obedience has a sincere heart and enters the holy places of God, i.e. he walks in holiness.

C. TRAINING: We see to it by encouraging people to be led by the Spirit and train in the fundamentals of believing God through an obedient, disciplined approach to God through Scripture.

i. Pay closer attention to what God says.

- (Hebrews 2:1 LSB) For this reason **we must pay much closer attention** to what we have heard, lest we drift away.

ii. Do what God says.

- (Joshua 1:7 LSB) Only be strong and very courageous **to be careful to do according to all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn aside from it to the right or to the left, so that you may be prosperous wherever you go.

- (James 1:22 LSB) **But become doers of the word**, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

- (James 1:26 LSB) If anyone thinks himself to be religious **while not bridling his tongue but deceiving his own heart**, this man's religion is worthless.

iii. Immerse ourselves in what God says so that it dominates our thoughts and actions.

- (Joshua 1:8 LSB) This book of the law **shall not depart from your mouth**, but you **shall meditate on it day and night**, so that **you may be careful to do** according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way successful, and then you will be prosperous.

iv. Intentionally, decisively and consistently refuse the counsel of the world and instead delight in what God says—the counsel of God.

- (Romans 12:2 LSB) **And do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **so that you may approve what the will of God is**, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.
- (Psalm 1:1–2 LSB) How blessed is the man who **does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the way of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!** 2 **But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, And in His law he meditates day and night.**
- (2 Corinthians 6:14–15 LSB) **Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers**; for **what partnership** have righteousness and lawlessness, or **what fellowship** has light with darkness? 15 Or **what harmony** has Christ with Belial, or **what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?**

v. Love what God says and come to love the benefits of God directing our lives.

- (Psalm 119:105 LSB) Your word is **a lamp to my feet** And **a light to my path**.
- (Psalm 119:133 LSB) **Establish my steps in Your word**, And do not let any wickedness overpower me.
- (Psalm 119:172 LSB) **Let my tongue answer with Your word**, For all Your commandments are righteous.
- (Psalm 119:97–99 LSB) Oh how I love Your law! **It is my meditation all the day.** 98 Your commandments make me **wiser** than my enemies, For they are mine forever. 99 I have **more insight** than all my teachers, For **Your testimonies are my meditation**.
- (Proverbs 30:5 LSB) **Every word of God is tested**; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

II. AN ENDURING OBLIGATION: Today and every day as brothers in Christ we are to warn all those who profess Christ of the danger of being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, 3:13-15.

- (Hebrews 3:13–15 LSB) But encourage one another **day after day**, as long as it is still

called "TODAY," **so that** none of you will be **hardened by the deceitfulness of sin**. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, **if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end**, 15 while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."

A. If it is "today," then it is a day to exhort and encourage one another to believe God and avoid becoming hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

- i. Hardened by the deceitfulness of sin the sinner does not believe himself to be a sinner.
- ii. He has been deceived to such a degree that he is incapable of even acknowledging his sin.
- iii. He is not thinking as God thinks and wrongly perceives himself to be a good person.

- (Romans 3:23 LSB) **For all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.
- (Romans 3:10–12 ESV) As it is written: "**None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.**"

iv. Apart from a work of the Holy Spirit he will never change his mind (*repent*) or say the same thing as God (*confess*) regarding his sin.

B. If we are in Christ, then we will say the same thing as God and hold firm in Christ until the end.

Confidence – substance – an assurance of mind or firm belief in the truth and reality of a fact; especially its underlying integrity, stability, or veracity.

i. Holding fast to the end is evidence of our assurance of and firm belief in the truth of God and the reality that the lens of Scripture reveals to us.

- (Hebrews 3:6 LSB) But Christ was faithful as a Son over His house— whose house we are, **if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope**.

ii. We will not hold fast to the end if we walk in willful ignorance that is a result of a hard heart.

- (Ephesians 4:17–18 LSB) Therefore this I say, and testify in the Lord, that you walk **no longer just as the Gentiles also walk**, in the **futility** of their mind, 18 being **darkened** in their mind, **alienated**

from the life of God because of **the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.**

iii. **The contrast between the saved and the unsaved:**
The unsaved person is alienated from the life of God because of the hardness of his heart ... the saved person enters the holy places of God with a sincere heart.

C. We must understand the importance of “today” as we evaluate our lives in view of holding fast to the end.

- i. Today means everyday—in this moment, always.
- ii. When a person chooses when and what to obey, he unwittingly hardens his heart and provokes God.

III. AN OMINOUS OBLIGATION: As brothers in Christ we are to specifically warn those in our churches of a near and present danger—that God will deny them access to his rest because of their disobedience and unbelief, 3:16-19.

- (Hebrews 3:16–19 LSB) For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear **that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?** 19 **So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.**

A. The disobedient will not enter God's rest.

B. Their unbelief keeps them out.

C. Most of those who came out of Egypt were vehemently (*forcefully, passionately, intensely*) denied access to God's rest.

- (Hebrews 3:11 LSB) **AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."**
- (1 Corinthians 10:5–6 LSB) Nevertheless, **with most of them** God was not well-pleased. For **THEY WERE STRUCK DOWN IN THE WILDERNESS.** 6 **Now these things happened as examples for us,** so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

- (1 Corinthians 10:10–12 LSB) **Nor grumble, as some of them did,** and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 **Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction,** upon whom the ends of the ages have arrived. 12 **Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.**