**Greater Than All - wk 4 - Restless Heart**

**Should I stay or should I go? The Clash. Question of Hebrews.**

**Should I stay or should I go now? If I go there will be trouble**

**And if I stay it will be double - So come on and let me know**

**- Written to Hebrews followers of Jesus thinking about leaving Jesus**

**- Quotes OT more than rest of NT - an encouragement and warning**

**Chap 1 - Divinity of Jesus – Jesus is Lord God of all creation**

**Chap 2 - Humanity of Jesus – Jesus fully God became fully human**

**Chap 3 - Perseverance in Jesus – Those who are truly His, endure**

**Hebrews 4:1** **Therefore, (Because of this) while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.**

1. **Exciting news - Rest can be found**

**4:1 - “…the promise of entering his rest still stands…”**

**Rest = peace in this life and hope for the next – given by faith in Jesus. The recurring theme in this section – REST in Christ.**

**How many of you are just… tired?**

**Any of you need rest right now? Things don’t look good on the outside, but we can rest. The offer from God still stands…**

**Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer (talking to God) and supplication (confession of need) with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

**The kind of peace that does not make sense… when your sick, when the ones you love hurt, when things are falling apart… rest for those in Christ. Better than Prozac and Zoloft – rest.**

**4:1 - “…let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.” (rest)**

**Appears to have fallen, fails to reach - one of many athletic references. Starts but seem to not finish. (Appears - because were never partakers)**

**This is very concerning – serious (terrified at the thought) that someone we love would not finish – and not know rest.**

**Let this urgency lead us to pray for those. I want my family to know the rest of God more than anything in the whole world…**

**2 For good news (the gospel) came to us just as to them, (them = those who hear it but reject it – those who fail to finish – like those in the wilderness) but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. (They heard it, understood it, tasted that it was good, but did not fully partake if by faith.)**

1. **Sad news - Not everyone in church is in Christ (saved)**

**(“United by faith” = mixed w/ faith) Maybe some of you right now, you hear it, understand it, know it is good… but it is not mixed with faith.**

**Without faith this is just information and aspirations. Faith is the glue - the eggs to the cookie and cake mix – holds it together - without it – it falls apart. You’re here but will struggle to find rest…**

**Heb 4:3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, “As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’” although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” 5 And again in this passage he said, “They shall not enter my rest.” (Let’s unpack)**

**4:3 For we who have believed enter that rest, (rest of God – the kingdom is for those who have believed – rest begins now - with Jesus.)**

1. **Great news – You can have rest by faith in Jesus**

**Believe – (pisteuo) – to wholly trust in (chair illus.)**

**Omnitemporal verb – active – continual faith. (Chap 3 – mark of a true follower – one who does not quit faith)**

**…as he has said, “As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’” (Psalm 95 – used a lot in Ch 3)**

**Still comparing: Know Jesus Know Rest - No Jesus No Rest**

**Clear comparison - believe in Jesus = know the rest of God. Do not believe in Jesus = know the wrath of God**

**…although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

**Sovereignty of God at work since before creation of the world**

**1 Peter 1:20 / Rev 13:8 - Jesus himself was slain before the foundation of the world... this was always the plan. (it’s not a sad story it’s the plan of God unfolding for our benefit and His glory)**

**(Our rest w/ God was the plan from beginning – see it at creation) 4 For He (God) has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: (quotes Gen 2:2 – they did not have it divided by chap and verse) “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” (For God is not a time of recoup from a busy week. Word in Gen 2 lit means to pause, to stop, cease. 7 represent perfection and completion) 5 And again in this passage he said, “They shall not enter my rest.” (Psalm 95)**

**There is clear alarming comparison and separation**

**4:6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, (rest) and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, (referring to ch3, of those in the wilderness who rejected the truth and died in the desert)**

1. **Alarming news - Not everyone will enter the rest of God (heaven)**

**“…it remains for some to enter it…” – for some – not everyone.**

**(Jesus says) Matthew 7:13 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (This is why Heb. says take this seriously lest any fail to finish - Jesus follows this with a warning of false prophets – wolves disguised as sheep!)**

**Writer repeats again what he says in ch3 - if you will hear God’s voice today this will not be your fate. There is almost a pleading.**

**Heb 4:7 …again He appoints a certain day, “Today,” (Though planned before creation – it is ours today to believe) saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, (David wrote Ps 95 used 5X in 2 chaps) “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. (Remember the readers are Hebrews. Two OT characters, more to come. They knew and grew up reading)**

**If you don’t know the OT – no need to be confused.**

**David - the greatest Hebrew King – Psalm writer of PS 95**

**Joshua- followed Moses) (Moses was superman Joshua is Batman)**

**\*\* Joshua led the Hebrews into the promised land, but that was not the end game otherwise God would not have told them about a greater rest with the Messiah.**

**It is not about a city, a nation, a temple – it’s a person**

**The 2nd Joshua – brings true rest and promise.**

**9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, (the kingdom of heaven for the people of God) 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (no more working for peace)**

**Talking to Hebrew followers, the sabbath is important!**

**Jesus fulfills the sabbath - and points to a better sabbath.**

**Comparing the sabbath rest to the kingdom of God.**

**The eternal sabbath of God with God – through Jesus. Much like a crying baby who can’t rest – until mommy comes. The rest is found in the arms of mommy.**

1. **Encouraging news - The Kingdom of Heaven awaits those in Christ**

**It is a real place! Last 2 chap of Hebrews tell us judgment is a real too.**

**11 Let us therefore (Therefore- used a lot in Hebrews. A truth is presented and proven and then an application is given…) strive (run persevere, (diligent) to enter that rest, (the kingdom) so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ch 3 led astray by deceitfulness of sin - like in the wilderness)**

**An amazing eternal rest is given to those who trust and believe in Jesus - therefore in light of this… DON’T QUIT!! Trust in God’s word and truth – don’t be led astray on this!**

**Strive run against resistance! When you’re tired, strive!**

**Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

**\*\*Are you lacking rest? Know Jesus. How? Thru the Word of God**

**\*\*Are you lacking understanding of this rest? Know the Word of God.**

**The Bible, the Word of God, is the final word.**

**12 For the word of God… (prophets (OT) and Apostles (NT) are God’s voice)**

**Not our feelings, experiences, emotions, of opinions.**

**Hebrews refers to God’s word as - the Holy Spirit speaking – the writers as speaking for God himself… total authority of scripture.**

**It can be trusted – it has been proven reliable.**

**The Bible is reliable to reveal to the truth of God.**

**The Bible, Word of God, is alive**

**is living and active (active – gk. energés – full of power = the word energy.)**

**It does not grow old with new concepts, ideas, trends and culture shifts. It stands active – it’s not dead – it’s not an ancient notion, it’s not a collection of myths and antique antidotes.**

**It’s not Harry Potter, Art of War, Pride & Prejudice, Great Gatsby, Tom Sawyer, Si-Fi’s, Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Loui L’Amour western.**

**The Bible is not a good read, it is the living active word of God!**

**It breaths and works in us as much today as 2000-5000 yrs ago.**

**It is still God’s truth and actively working in those who believe! We don’t make it alive – it gives life!**

**The Bible, Word of God, is revealing**

 **sharper than any two-edged sword,**

**Cuts both ways – offensive / defensive – It’s not a club or blunt force trauma instrument – but like a doctor’s scalpel used with great precision and accuracy – cutting through.**

**piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow…**

**Soul and spirit are often used interchangeably in the Bible –Both refer to the inner man – the mind and spirit. It’s poetic.**

**Point - The word of God is able to pierce and separate the inseparable. It can go through anything. Even the toughest of hearts.**

**How is it that a sermon can be so relevant to a person’s life when it is preached… because the word of God is revealing. It’s not the preacher – it the Word of God.**

**The Bible, Word of God, is discerning – of the truth**

**and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

**Because it is alive – it convicts - it reveals motives and intentions of ourselves and others. \*\* Convicts us!**

**It has been said - we don’t read the Bible, the Bible reads us!**

**13 And no creature is hidden from His (God’s) sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

1. **Fake news – God will never find out.**

**I can live a double life – no one will know. God is not really there.**

**No hiding. God is omniscient. Knows our thoughts and secrets. Knows and shows when we are fake.**

**We will all stand before God (even you) we will all give account to God and His word. You will. I will. Your children will. Your friends will.**

**Are you lacking rest? Know Jesus.**

**Are you lacking understanding of this rest? Know the Word of God.**