

v1 Therefore since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. v2 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. v3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' " And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. v4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work." v5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest." v6 It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience. v7 Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." v8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. v9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; v10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. v11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. v12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. v13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:1-13

Have you ever asked yourself why you are a Christian and not a Moslem or Jewish or a follower of Hinduism or Buddhism or Sikhism or Confucius?

I imagine many would simply say, "I was born into a Christian home, so I must be Christian!" It certainly is true for the majority of those who call themselves Catholic. Many a Catholic will say that because they were baptised as a child into the Catholic church, and raised a Catholic, they must be on their way to heaven because the Catholic church has told them that "once a Catholic, always a Catholic."

One of the things that attracted and attracts me to Jesus and his teaching is that JESUS NEVER PULLED HIS PUNCHES WHEN IT CAME TO TRUTH.

On one occasion Jesus said the Jewish religious leaders, "You whitewashed tombs!" He also called them a "Brood of vipers!" and said to them, "Your father is Satan."

On another occasion Jesus said in **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. v22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' v23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

HAVE YOU EVER ASKED YOURSELF?

WHAT IF JESUS WAS TALKING ABOUT ME?

The passage today deals with this vital question

Why Jesus said 'Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven'

JESUS MADE THE STATEMENT BECAUSE:

1. HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE.

In this passage, the writer of the book of Hebrews makes this point in 3 ways:

1.1. Heaven is REAL because The PROMISE of heaven still hold true.

In the opening verse of the chapter, we read: *v1 Therefore since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.*

Chapter 4 really belongs with chapter 3. The argument from the previous chapter is continued here. Last week we looked at the subject of “Why some are going to heaven and why some are going to hell”. As he continues the teaching in this chapter, the writer of the book of Hebrews is saying, BY THE WAY, “*the promise of entering his rest still stands*”.

Almost every religion, except Buddhism, has a concept of an afterlife. For the Hindu it is Nirvana or reincarnation, For the Moslem it is Jannah, or paradise. For the Jew, it is “Abraham’s Bosom.”

The writer to the Hebrews calls it “ENTERING HIS REST”

1.2. Heaven is REAL because GOD HIMSELF is pictured as being there.

v4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work."

Sometimes when you want to make a point in a discussion,

YOU STATE THE OBVIOUS!!

The point the writer of the book of Hebrews is making is this, WE ALL KNOW GOD DID NOT GET TIRED WHEN HE CREATED THE WORLD, **SO**, WHEN IS SAYS “GOD RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK,” ALL HE IS SAYING IS,

“THERE IS GREAT REWARD AT THE END OF CREATION AND GOD IS THERE!!”

1.3. Heaven is REAL because THE ULTIMATE REWARD is FAR BETTER THAN THE CURRENT ONE.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews reminds them that their current experience of rest is not so restful after all. He says in v8: “*For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.*”

The point the writer of the book of Hebrews is making is that, while the nation of Israel entered the land promised to them, they were not at rest!!!

JESUS MADE THE STATEMENT BECAUSE: HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE.

JESUS MADE THE STATEMENT BECAUSE:

2. THERE ARE SOME WHOSE FAITH IS FAULTY.

I want to make this very clear. I am not judging what you believe, I am simply stating what I find in this passage. Only God will be the JUDGE of those who will enter into heaven. None of us know who is going to Heaven or NOT. You cannot even be sure if I am going to heaven, although, there should be some good indicators based on what I teach, and how I live.

2.1. Some FAITH is FAULTY because IT IS INCOMPLETE.

*v1 Therefore since the promise of entering his rest still stands, **let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.***

The Greek word translated fallen short is “**hustereo**” and means - to come late or too tardily - to be left behind in the race and so fail to reach the goal, to fall short of the end - metaphorically fail to become a partaker, fall back from

If we were trying to say the same thing today, we would say, “**SORRY, YOU MISSED THE BUS.**”

There are many who start the Christian walk very well. They are the leaders of our Youth Groups. They have much to say about Jesus while at school. THEN THEY GO TO COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

Some even go well through college or university, but then they get court up in the hustle and bustle of life, or the appeal of money takes hold, and they begin to fade in their faith.

IF CHRIST IS NOT LORD OF ALL, HE IS NOT LORD AT ALL!!

2.2. Some FAITH is FAULTY because SOME HAVE NO FAITH.

*We read in v2 “For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, **because those who heard did not combine it with faith.**”*

The point the writer of the book of Hebrews is making is this, THERE ARE SOME WHO KNOW ALL THE FACTS ABOUT JESUS, BUT DON'T KNOW JESUS PERSONALLY

*On May 24, 1738, in **Aldersgate** Street, London, during a meeting composed largely of Moravians under the auspices of the Church of England, **Wesley's** intellectual conviction was transformed into a personal experience while Luther's preface to the commentary to the Letter of Paul to the Romans was being read. He was already and ordained minister when this happened to him.*

James 2:14-20 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? v17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. v18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me

your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. v19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder. v20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

2.3. Some FAITH is FAULTY because OF DISOBEDIENCE.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews reminds them that their current *v3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' " v5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."* *v6 It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, **because of their disobedience.** v11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.*

THE PEOPLE WHO CAME OUT OF EGYPT NEVER ENTERED INTO THE PROMISED LAND BECAUSE OF DISOBEDIENCE, AND THAT INCLUDED MOSES, BECAUSE OF HIS DISOBEDIENCE.

Of course, that is not to say that they did not enter into eternity, for we do have the example of Moses, who appeared on the mount of Transfiguration.

THE POINT IS SIMPLY THAT THE VAST MAJORITY MISSED OUT OF WHAT GOD WANTED FOR THEM BECAUSE THEY DISOBEYED.

JESUS MADE THE STATEMENT BECAUSE:

HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE.

THERE ARE SOME WHOSE FAITH IS FAULTY.

JESUS MADE THE STATEMENT BECAUSE:

3. HE DOES NOT WANT US TO MISS OUT.

3.1. He does not want us to miss out SO HE ENCOURAGES US TO HAVE FAITH.

v3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "

The Greek word translated ENTER THAT REST is in the ***Present Middle Indicative 1st Person Plural*** tense, which means it is something that is guaranteed to happen, personally to each person that believes.

The cherry on top of the cake is, **"JUST AS GOD HAS SAID."**

Billy Graham had a famous saying which said.

**GOD SAID IT
I BELIEVE IT
THAT SETTLES IT**

3.2. He does not want us to miss out SO REMINDS US OF THE URGENCY.

v7 Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

The bible is full of messages about the urgency of trusting in GOD.

*Luke 19:8-9 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." v9 Jesus said to him, "**Today salvation has come to this house**, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.*

James 4:13-14 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." v14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Matthew 25:10-13 Parable of Ten Virgins "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. v11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' v12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' v13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

3.3. He does not want us to miss out SO WARNS US TO SURRENDER TO GOD'S WORD.

v12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. v13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Let the BIBLE be your guide on whether you are save or not!

Why Jesus said 'Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven'

JESUS MADE THE STATEMENT BECAUSE:

HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE.

THERE ARE SOME WHOSE FAITH IS FAULTY.

HE DOES NOT WANT US TO MISS OUT.