

Tonight, we continue through the book of Hebrews... Last week we saw that Jesus was greater than angels... **he is the final message from God for his people!**

Don't forget who this letter is written to... to Jewish Christians who are considering turning away from Jesus... Following Jesus has just gotten way too much... it has gotten harder than they thought it would... Persecution... confusion... has them wanting to turn back to the old way of doing things... *let me just go back to "doing" stuff... it was easier...* Do a few law things were good... ha... as if it worked that way....

Problem is... this isn't an option... remember, **Jesus was the final word**... Jesus is it... He is the way, the only way... We'll see that to give up would be to prove that you're not in Christ and there is no hope for you in giving up! But here is the good news... **to continue in Christ proves that you are in Christ and therefore there is hope... rest...**

Tonight, this theme of Jesus being greater continues... here we see that Jesus is greater than Moses and it is in Jesus that we find rest!

The author of Hebrews is doing two things – **warning them of falling away and encouraging them to find rest in Jesus!**

There is rest for those who are in Christ... but those that are not in Christ are won't have rest... So, tonight... maybe life has been crazy for you lately... maybe you have been trying to figure out if Jesus is really worth following... ready to bounce... My hope for us tonight is that we would leave here tonight more convinced that Jesus is greater than anything in the world and truly rest in that...

MAIN: JESUS IS GREATER AND HE PROVIDES REST FOR HIS PEOPLE.

1. JESUS IS GREATER THAN MOSES (1-6)

The first thing the author of Hebrews drives his readers to do is to *consider Jesus*...

This is the point we miss... we focus on **ourselves**... our **situations**... our **suffering**... **others**... the **world**... This is what the Hebrews were facing daily...

But what does the author of Hebrews call his readers to do? → **CONSIDER JESUS.**

To take their focus off of what they can see and *consider Jesus, the apostle* (the messenger) *and high priest* (the one who deals with our sin) *of our confession*... this is the one who we profess to know... *who is faithful to him who appointed him*...

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE SAYING? In our brokenness, we can turn to Jesus! To make his point, he brings up Moses... who he knows!

He is saying Jesus is greater than Moses... Moses was an important guy in the OT... I mean he wrote the first 5 books of the OT... that's a big deal ha...

He led the people of God out of Egypt to the wilderness... a big deal...

He received the Law from God on Mount Sinai... again a big deal...

We find all these things in the book of Exodus... (*shout out HS guys*)

The author of Hebrews is painting a picture in (2) saying look Moses was a big deal...

God appointed Moses to lead the people of Israel... Moses was a big deal because he was a *servant of God*, a faithful one!

Moses was a big deal... **BUT...**

Jesus is greater because he is the son of God... Moses – a servant of God... Jesus – the Son of God...

He then uses this house illustration... (4-6)

Moses had been set over the house of God to lead the people of God... but even more than that, Christ is faithful over the house of God... ***Who does it say is God's house? (6b)

We are his house, if indeed we HOLD FAST OUR CONFIDENCE and our BOASTING IN OUR HOPE...

Meaning... if we keep the faith, we prove that we are the people of God and Jesus is faithful to the people of God...

This is good news! There is nothing greater to put our faith in...

So... CONSIDER JESUS...

2. JESUS GIVES REST

The next really large section is focused on this idea of **REST**... This rest that God is talking about isn't just going to bed... or even the beloved Sunday nap...

This is **ULTIMATE REST**... this is one day being fully united with God, after this life is over... the is ultimate rest...

But that's not it... its rest for today... it's the ability to breath... to drop everything weighing you down at the foot of the cross...

Here we see the author to the Hebrews give a **warning** and **encourage** them to find rest in Jesus...

(7) *as the Holy Spirit says* – this is a big deal... shows us Scripture was inspired by God & God actually saying it...

A WARNING...

The author is using Psalm 95 to plead with his audience to not harden their hearts to the message of God as they did in the **rebellion**... This is looking back to Exodus when God's people rejected him in the wilderness... generation... Look at what it says... (3:9-10)

What did God swear to his people because of this? (11) *They shall not enter my rest.*

What was the problem of the people...? They went astray in heart... they didn't know God's ways... (his Word...) His judgement on them was that they wouldn't make it to rest, the promise land... ultimately to him...

The author of Hebrews uses this illustration that they would have known, and we know too and says... (12-15) *Take care... be careful... watch out* for yourselves... don't let something drive you away from Christ!

And do this together! **Encourage** each other daily too keep each other from having hard hearts... huh? To keep each other from stumbling... falling... growing away from Christ... getting off the line...

Here is a chance to say... look we need each other in our lives... you need each other... we need each other... we can't do this on our own...

That's one of our hopes here in the Rock... that you would grow these tight-knit relationships with one another

But get this crazy thing... who is it that rebelled? It was the same people who **left Egypt led by Moses**... It was the people who God saved from slavery! He set them free and they turned their back on him... It says, these people **heard and yet rebelled**...

God's promise that they wouldn't enter his rest was proven to be true... they died in the wilderness...

(18) – who didn't enter his rest? The disobedient... Why? (19) because of their disbelief...

So, in one major sense... the author of Hebrews is saying – watch yourself... so that you don't fall away from Christ...

There is a warning here... don't fall away because there is no rest...

Regardless of what you think can provide you with happiness... hope... life... good feelings... whatever... it's a lie... there is nothing that satisfies like Jesus...

Now, if you are in Christ you can never **truly fall away**... but you can get off the path... we all know what that's like...

You feel like you just aren't "there" with God... but that is a slippery slope... dangerous...

So... to the Hebrews and us... be warned... don't walk away from God...

ENCOURAGEMENT

The good news of all that the author is talking about... **rest is still available for us**... (4:1-10)

4:1 – *rest still stands*...

4:6 – *since therefore it remains for some to enter it*...

4:3 – *for we who have believed enter that rest*....

4:9-10 – *there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from works as God did from his*...

He is also talking about a daily rest... *whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from works as God did from his*...

Gen... God rested... stopped all of his works...

Here is what this means... *you can stop... you can stop trying so hard to be perfect... you can stop trying to earn your way to heaven... you can stop trying and failing*...

You are covered by Jesus... and what does that mean... it means you can find rest... hope and peace...

This was what the believers in Exodus were looking for... rest...

This was what the believers in the church of the Hebrews were looking for... rest...

And if we are really honest... this is what you and I are looking for... rest... a place to find peace and comfort in...

A place where we are safe... loved... forgiven... a place where we don't have to worry... a place of hope...

This place of rest is in Jesus... and if you are in Christ you can find refuge here...

This is where this passage ends... for a strive to enter that rest... (11-13) ... perseverance...

Those in Exodus didn't... they were disobedient... for us we are to strive!

The word helps us in that... listen to what the Word is...

There is a bit of honesty here too... God sees all... he knows heart...

TAKEAWAY:

- **Find rest in Jesus...** The truth we see here is that you and I can still find rest in God...
The try hard can find rest... the people please can find rest... the broken can find rest... the “you think you have it all together...” you can find rest...
- **See Jesus as greater...**
- **Don't turn away from Jesus...**

Q'S?: *What stood out? • What does it mean to find rest in Jesus? • What stopped God's people in Exodus from rest? • How can we help hold each other accountable?*

- **Pray for these things right now!**