

Hebrews: The Complete Work of Christ  
The Gospel Promises Rest  
Hebrews 4:1-13

We find in life a natural desire for rest. We pursue with a passion the means by which we can retire. Often our overall attitude towards work is conditioned upon our view of and drive towards retirement. Has it ever crossed our minds to pursue the rest that God offers with as much diligence as we pursue the rest that we believe we deserve?

1. The promise of rest is relevant today.
  
2. The promise of rest is revealed in creation.
  
3. The promise of rest is realized with Scripture.

In his commentary on Hebrews, George Guthrie wrote, “We tend to think of great faith in terms of following God in the accomplishing of great deeds in the world or of overcoming great obstacles. Yet, true faith must begin with a face-to-face experience with God, by which we journey to the inner recesses of our own hearts.” God intended our work in the kingdom to be grounded in our rest in Him. If we ignore the gospel promise of rest, we ignore the gospel.

For further consideration:

Many unbelieving Israelites entered the physical land of Canaan but failed to enter into God’s rest. What does that tell us about the heart of these Israelites? What does it suggest about the importance of the heart with regard to salvation? Why is it so difficult for us to rest from our attempt to merit our own righteousness? Why is resting such a constant struggle for Christians? How is our union with Christ and His righteousness supposed to help us in this matter? How does Scripture help us strive to enter God’s rest? What weighs heavily on your heart concerning your own actions or attitudes when confronted with the idea that there is nothing hidden from God’s sight?