

Hebrews 4:1-13

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Introduction: What was God doing in the wilderness? Saving them! What is God doing here this morning? Saving us!

1. Entering God's Rest

- a. The way to enter: faith.
 - i. Every age of the church has heard the gospel. It's always been all about entering God's rest, God's joy, God's blessedness through Christ.
 - ii. Recipe #1: hearing the gospel by itself. Result: failing to enter rest.
 - iii. Recipe #2: hearing the gospel with faith. Result: entering His rest.
- b. What rest? God's Next-world Life of Blessedness
 - i. What Adam looked forward to but didn't achieve. v4-5 teach us that Ps 95:11 explains Gen 2:2. But we get more than Adam lost. We come from far lower (sin and misery) than he began to far higher than he would have achieved (union with Christ).
 - ii. What Moses' generation lost by their rebellion (not the land). v6 teaches us that God's promise is not empty, so there are at least "some" who must enter.
 - iii. Not Joshua's rest. v8 makes it plain that this rest is literally out of this world. Joshua gave them earthly property, power, prosperity.
 - iv. and What was still in the future at the time of David
- c. Enjoyed *in prospect* via weekly Sabbaths (v9) until we leave this life (v10). This is the "Today" of Psalm 95—a special day, for a special event, in which the Holy Spirit does a special work

2. By Hearing God's Word

- a. Be diligent to enter God's rest (v11)! While Jesus works on us by His Word, we are not to be passive, but active and vigorous. The Lord's Day is a Work Day. A sermon Work Day. A Spiritual Work Day. Not the Pharisees' "Day of Don't" but Jesus' "Day of Do." He is the Lord of the Sabbath!
- b. Sermons are not just promise but preparation (v12). We are already laid bare before Him. But His Word (and especially His Word preached) lays us bare before ourselves, so that by it we might be made more like Him... *all the way to the motivations of our hearts*. When we stand before Him, His work in us will have been completed! And a large part of it will have been done by means of Lord's Day sermons.

Conclusion: By faith, let us cling to Christ who has secured for us that eternal blessedness with God. By faith, let us cling to Christ as He addresses us in His Word, holding before us the promise of that eternal happiness with God. By faith, let us cling to Christ as He powerfully works upon us by His Word, preparing us for that eternal happiness with God!