

Consider Jesus: Our Better Rest Hebrews 4:1 - 16

A rather famous Israeli statesman named Abba Eban once said, "I've met a lot of people who never lost the chance to miss an opportunity!" Hebrews 4 begins with the same thought, "Don't lose this chance! Don't miss this opportunity! You don't want to do what the children of Israel did!" What was he getting at? They failed to enter into and experience the promised rest of God due to their unbelief - "don't be like them!"

God's rest is His own awareness of and ability to count on His personal adequacy for any situation. "Be diligent", the author says in 4:11, "to enter into THAT rest." For the people of God in the Old Testament "that rest" was seen as a place - Canaan - of supply and sufficiency. For the people of God in the New Testament "that rest" is a person - Jesus Christ - our supply and sufficiency (see II Pet 1:3,4). This rest - when entered into and experienced by faith - yields a freedom and a vitality to actively, effectively live as God intends us to live. The Old Testament types - Sabbath rest (4:9) and Canaan rest (4:5) - were fulfilled in the New Testament substance of Christ.

The experience of this rest depends upon two things: 1) God's activity - His divine initiative and divine continuance of grace. 2) Man's receptivity - our response of faith. Rest is the witness of God upon our receptivity of God's activity... when we walk by grace through faith. Some of the components of entering into and abiding in God's rest include: (note the "diligence" called for in 4:11)

- ...A "diligent" **R**eliance upon the finished work of Christ - 4:14 (the self-righteous life is never at rest).
- ...A "diligent" **E**mbracing of the word and will of God - 4:12 (the self-determining life is never at rest).
- ...A "diligent" **S**ettling down into the perfect love of Christ - 4:13 (the fearful self is never at rest - I Jo 4:18).
- ...A "diligent" **T**reasuring of Christ's awareness of our humanity - 4:15,16 (the self-sufficient are never at rest).

Do you see the **R E S T** ? Why such a human longing for rest? We were made in the image of God who is at rest (4:4) and saved by Rest Himself! Who can enter into God's rest? Each and every one of God's heirs. When can we enter in and begin to experience this rest? "TODAY!" (4:7) No need to wait until we die and get to heaven. With a declaration of our need (we can't manufacture it) and a confession of His supply in Christ (we receive rest freely or do without it) we begin the journey of living by grace through faith in the liberating awareness of his sufficiency and supply for every contingency... today!

✂-----

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*
by mailing your gifts to the address above
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -
www.stevepettitmessages.com
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -
can be arranged by calling Steve at
386-418-0913 or 352-672-1275
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** -
email your request to OICnewsletter@gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



Please inform us of any changes to your address



Greetings

One of the "perks" of my job is to experience the variety in the Body of Christ. Our Father's "house" on earth does, indeed, have many rooms of all kinds, shapes and sizes! Organizational, doctrinal, regional, and preferential differences abound. Our God really is into diversity!

I appreciate and even enjoy the unique "flavors" that people can "taste and see that God is good." Some groups are like chocolate cakes, some, more like cheesecakes. Some are pineapple upside down cakes and many are just plain old fruitcakes! But each group, each assembly, each meeting or retreat has a meaningful and valuable contribution to God's kingdom on earth.

A big part of the ministry of One In Christ is to remind one and all of the foundational and apostolic truth of our oneness with God in Christ and our oneness with all others who share in His life. Whether the topic is marriage and family, mission or ministry, servanthood or leadership, devotions or discipleship... no matter the subject, we will always begin and end with Christ the Center.

We'd love to come and visit you! Whether for the 1st time or the 30th time, give us a call. Think and plan ahead - we have events scheduled into September 2019! As always, there are no costs or charges. We say "Yes" to God's invite and trust Him to be our supply. Hope to see you face to face in the days to come.

CALENDAR

JUNE

3,10,24 CCF
12 Alachua Study
15-17 Lancaster, PA (717-684-5913)
26 Ocala Study

JULY

13-15 Calais, ME


AUGUST


4 Jesup, GA (912-530-9423)


SEPTEMBER


16-21 Durango, CO

Praise & Prayer

 The Beauty of Diversity

 Opportunities to freely worship

 To experientially enter into God's rest

 To consider Christ as our Source for all godliness

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
ALACHUA, FL
PERMIT NO. 11

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, FL 32615