

A REST FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Text: Hebrews 4:9

INTRO: We sometimes hear Sunday referred to as "the Christian Sabbath." Sunday is not the Sabbath, & the Sabbath is not Christian. But there does remain a rest for the people of God.

I. GOD HAS PROVIDED A REST. Matt. 11:28-30.

A. The good news of rest was offered to the Israelites as they left enslavement in Egypt, but they failed to embrace the promise. READ HEBREWS 3:17 through 4:8.

B. To us, the good news is the reality of heaven--a place of eternal rest for those who learn to properly value the things of God. READ HEBREWS 4:2, 9-11.

C. The failure of Moses' generation to enter the promised rest is attributed to 3 factors:

1. Unbelief, or lack of faithfulness, vs. 2.

2. Disobedience, vs. 6

NOTE: Some translators use the word unbelief but the Greek word suggests an unwillingness to believe because of the action that faith would require. Disobedience is the main idea suggested in the word.

3. Lost sight of the goal, vs. 11. Not diligent.

II. GOD HAS PROVIDED A GUIDE, vs. 2, 12-13.

A. His word is sufficient to guide us, 2 Tim 3:16-17

B. It is the standard by which we will be judged, JN 12:48

C. Not just the red words, Gal 1:11-12; Heb 12:25

III. GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS vs 14-16 Acts 2:36-38.

A. Jesus, our forerunner has gone to heaven to make our reservation, JN 14:1-3; Heb 6:20; MT 25:34

B. Our High Priest--who offered Himself up for us, Heb 7-9

C. Our Advocate--pleads our case, mediates.

Floyd Platt funeral, Downingtown, PA, 1986

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 16, 1997

La Porte, TX, April 1, 1997 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 20, 2002