

Divine Rest

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

A. **Children at Risk today:** plan conference in Feb & prayer time for victims.

II. **Intro:**

A. **Slide#2** St. Augustine said in his Confessions, “Thou movest us to delight in praising Thee; for thou hast formed us for Thyself, & our hearts are **restless** till they find **rest** in Thee.”

1. **Slide#3** It is like getting into a warm cabin after having the cold wind blowing against your face all day. [Haleakala summit/warming hut]

2. It's like a ship finally pulling into a safe harbor after many days battling a storm tossed sea.

a) **Our theme continues with rest.** [Rest in Heb = Noah]

B. **Slide#4 5 rests in Scripture:** [1] God's Sabbath rest [2] Canaan rest after wandering for 40 yrs. [3] the Believer's rest present at salvation [4] the Overcomers present rest of victory [5] The future Eternal rest in heaven.

1. God's **Sabbath rest** is **like** our **Salvation rest** (following the finished work of Christ on the cross).

2. **Canaan rest** is **likened** unto our **life of victory** as we walk by faith.

a) So there is a **Past, Present, & Future rest** for those who come unto Him.

C. **Slide#5 Title: Divine Rest**

D. **Outline: Still Time for Rest? & The secret of entering His rest?**

III. Slide#6 **STILL TIME FOR REST? (1-10)**

A. **Slide#7a (2) Not mixed w/faith –**

1. **It's like** spaghetti w/o boiling water; **it's like** running out of flour in the midst of preparing a cake; **it's like** sushi w/o soy-sauce/wasabi...**so** belief (intellectual only) w/o faith(trust).

2. Thousands upon thousands were **believers** (in that they had a **mental ascent** in believing there was a God), **but** only 2 really **trusted** God & found **rest**. (Joshua & Caleb)

3. “Belief, the **mental acceptance of a fact as true**, will simply not bring rest to any soul.” (Kent Hughes)

B. **Slide#7b (3) My rest** - This is the rest God enjoys Himself. *This is like when Jesus said...*

1. **Peace** I leave with you, **My peace** I give to you. Jn.14:27 **Jesus Peace**

2. **As the Father loved Me**, I also have loved you; abide in **My love**. Jn.15:9 **Jesus Love**

3. These things I have spoken to you, that **My joy** may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. Jn.15:11. **Jesus Joy**

- a) So this **My rest**, is **God rest**, that we see...they missed.
- C. **How do we enjoy the rest of another?** - In Alaska I enjoyed the “rest” of 2 brothers that sold all, & built a cabin on the shore of “Excursion Inlet”, north of Juneau.
- D. **Slide#7c (4) God rested** - A rest of **satisfaction not** after *exhaustion*.
1. Interesting all 6 days of creation end w/“So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” Then it comes to the 7th day & it doesn’t mention morning or evening... ie. “God’s Sabbath still continues.”
- E. **Slide#7d (7) Today** – Don’t be disheartened church. This rest is still available to you.
1. As it was to the **Israelites** (vs.6, those to whom it was 1st preached), **then** in **David’s** time (Ps.95 quote), **it still is** in the **Hebrew Christians** time (to whom he was writing); & **now** it is in **our time**. **Today = Now!**
 2. There are only 2 things that prevent the **promised rest** from our lives...**distrust & disobedience**.
- F. **Slide#7e Harden not your hearts** – It never says to **soften** your heart, instead to **get a new 1**.
1. Ezek.18:31 **Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?**
 2. [pull out play dough] Once we’re saved, our heart is like **Play Dough**...every time you want to use it again it needs **re-worked**. [God has to soften it]
- G. **Slide#7f (8) Joshua** (same as Jesus in the Gk.) – The OT “Jesus”/Joshua led his followers to the land of Canaan. **But that was not the real rest but only a type. But now** the NT Jesus, the Son of God, **can & will** bring us into **His rest**.
- H. (9) If you get anything out of this remember the rest is there if you want it.
1. What did Jesus say, **Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**
 - a) Msg **Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company w/me and you’ll learn to live freely & lightly.**
- I. **Slide#7g (10) Ceased from our/his works** – When we believed, we finished w/our works-righteousness & entered God’s rest.
1. This will result ultimately in our eternal rest like it says in the Holy Spirits beatitude, **“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” Rev.14:13**

IV. Slide#8 THE SECRET OF ENTERING HIS REST? (11-13)

A. (11) Ok, how do we get this rest? [here comes 2 challenges]

1. Slide#9a Be diligent – labor; to be in a hurry; make haste.

- a) “Be in a hurry to rest”; “Strive to rest” - Concentrate one’s energies on the achievement of a goal.
- b) This is the opposite of drifting. (2:1)
- c) Do our utmost to focus on the rest. There is no room for mental laziness. Think with all you have on Gods rest. Kent Hughes pg.113
- d) Again, this is not speaking of salvation but the Victorious Christian life.
- e) No one ever matured in the Christian life by being careless or lazy.

(1) Remember, “Sodom can’t evangelize Gomorrah!”

2. Slide#9b Be in the Word of God. - The Word is the answer to every spiritual condition.

a) The Word has cut me many a times! And each wound was bandaged up, & healing was produced.

b) Like each of the scars on your body, bring the reminder of how you received them.

(1) How has the Word cut you? - How is the Word cutting you today?

c) Slide#10a Living – (not dead) Alive.

(1) It lives because it endures forever, Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. (Ps.119:89)

(2) It lives because it has life in itself, it’s God breathed.

d) Slide#10b Powerful – (not weak) Energetic, active, productive, effective.

(1) Activity which produces results. Often used for Divine activity which produces effective results – It does what it promises!!!

(2) Is.55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Wow

(3) I like reading of the champions of the faith who were saved when they heard one special verse. Like Martin Luther being awakened by The just shall live by faith.

(4) Or the one word that struck Spurgeon between the eyes.

(a) Retell the story from “The Life of Charles Haddon Surgeon”, pg.60-64

(b) Is.45:22 Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

(5) Do you remember the verse or text when you believed? (mine was in Kings)

e) Slide#10c Sharper – (not dull) God’s Word can cut through anything.

(1) It (the Word) can sever the closest of relationships(even family).

- (2) **The Word of God** can **filet us** wide open (e.g. China fish market in Guangzhou)
- (3) **The Sword of God** is a **sin slayer** - It has stains of blood all over it...even up to the hilt.
 - (a) It cuts like a **hot knife** through **ice-cream**.
- (4) It is **2-edged** thus it cuts us **2 ways** – 1st deeply that we might **die**; **then** it cuts us again that we might **live again**.

f) **Slide#10d Piercing** – (not sheathed)

- (1) (i.e.) **the extreme power of penetration** of the Word of God, **to** the very core of man's being.
- (2) **A man named Thorpe was a member of the Hell-fire Club.** (a group of men in the 1700's who tried to detract the work of **George Whitefield**) - **One day Thorpe jumped upon a table & started mimicking Whitefield, delivering his sermon brilliantly accurately, perfectly imitating his tone & facial expressions, when he himself was so pierced that he sat down & was converted on the spot.** [he went on to be a prominent Christian leader in the city of Bristol]

g) **Slide#10e Discerner** - (not ignorant) God's Word sifts through the hearts thoughts & attitudes w/unerring discrimination.

- (1) **Do you ever feel I'm talking right to you & a situation that you are going through?** I hope you take it personal. I hope you get cut from God's word while I'm teaching...else I am not wielding it properly.
- (2) **Unbelievers...I dare you** to come to the Word of God with an open mind.

B. (13) **Naked & open** – (not hidden nor veiled) there is nothing to hide in or behind.

1. **Slide#10f Naked** we flee to God for clothes...Like in the garden.

a) **But its your choice...which clothes:**

- (1) **We flee to man's way** - Fig leaves (very itchy on the back side).
- (2) **We flee to God's way** – Sheep Skin seat covers (**garments of skin**, Gen. 3:21)

2. **Slide#10g Open** - different suggestions to this words meaning.

- a) Refers to the bending back of the neck of a sacrificial victim making ready for the final stroke. (LKGNT)
- b) Refers to the wrestler's art of seizing one by the throat rendering him limp & powerless.

3. **Slide#10h** The meaning is clear, all creatures are in the grip of God, totally vulnerable, helpless, & laid bare before his eyes, of Him to whom we must give account.

- a) Prov.15:3 **The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil & the good.**
 - (1) **God sees everything!** This can be *discomforting*...**IF** you have something to hide. **Or,** This can be *comforting*...**IF** you're ready to come clean, with nothing to hide.