



Lesson 19

Title: Christ is Superior to Joshua (Part 1)

Scripture: Hebrews 4:1 (Part 1)

THEREFORE . . . (Hebrews 4:1)

- ▶ God has spoken by His Son. “Hear Him!” (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35; Matthew 7:24-29; John 7:16-17)
- ▶ Christ is superior to the prophets - He is GOD! (Deut 18:15-19)
- ▶ Christ is superior to the angels - He is their Lord.
- ▶ Christ is the Second Man who came to die for His people. Made a little lower than angels for a short time.
- ▶ Christ is superior to Moses.
- ▶ “IF” in Hebrews 3:6, 14.
- ▶ Because of what happened to the Israelites at Massah and Meribah.
- ▶ Because of the warning in Hebrews 3:12-19.
 - The warning of unbelief and disobedience.
- ▶ **Psalm 95: Israel A Picture of Christendom**
 - ISRAEL is a PICTURE of CHRISTENDOM – not God’s ELECT.
 - Israel was ELECT *as a nation*. BUT there was an ELECT *inside the nation – THE REMNANT!* (See Isaiah 1:9; 10:20-23; 11:16; Jeremiah 23:3; 31:7; Joel 2:32; **Romans 9:27; 11:5**)
 - The writer is attempting to show us (convince us, persuade us) that **many** in Israel were NOT TRUE BELIEVERS:
 - ① (3:10) “They do alway err in heart . . .” – The elect of God *do err, but they do not always err.*” (1 John 3:4-10)
 - ② (3:10) “They have not known My ways.” – surely this cannot be said of the spiritual elect who **can** discern God’s ways. (Psalm 25:14; Proverbs 3:32; John 17:2-3)
 - ③ (3:19) They could not enter into God’s rest because of UNBELIEF.

★ **NOTE: Israel is in the Bible for our learning (Romans 15:4) but Christendom (even all Christianity) is going exactly in the same way of Israel!!**

Rest and Fear (Hebrews 4:1)

- **CHRISTIANS** are warned to “flee idolatry”. (1 John 5:20-21; 1 Cor 10:14; Colossians 3:5; 1 Samuel 15:23; Gal 5:19-21)
- In verse 1, we have two seemingly different biblical concepts: 1) fear, and 2) rest.
- Here we are told to fear but in other places of God’s Word we are told not to fear! (Romans 8:15; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18)
- We are PRONE to partiality. We are PRONE to our own biases. We have tendency of remembering what we want to remember, forgetting what we don’t want to remember, and ignoring what disagrees with our opinions. We are partial in our studying of the Word of God. Even “US” have a tendency wanting to hear what we want to hear or have our ears “tickled”. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
- God **demands** that we be serious students of His Word. Are you a serious student? Are you a disciple of Christ? By definition, ALL disciples of Christ are serious students of God’s Word. ALL disciples of Christ **strive** to live their lives on “every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Luke 4:4) ALL disciples **labor** to “walk as Christ walked” and to imitate Him. (1 John 2:6; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 11:1) If you are not a serious student of God’s Word you are not a disciple of Christ. If you are not a disciple of Christ you are not a Christian. **MEDITATE ON THIS CAREFULLY.**
- **WHEN WE CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD WE WILL CERTAINLY DRIFT INTO IDOLATRY!**
- There are many PARADOXES in the word of God.
 - Definition: a **seemingly** contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated will prove to be a well founded truth.
- The disciple works hard to “rightly divide the word of truth”. (2 Tim 2:5)

Let Us Fear (Hebrews 4:1)

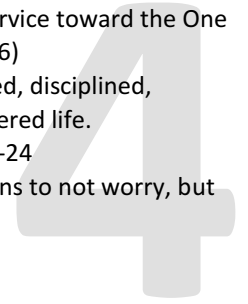
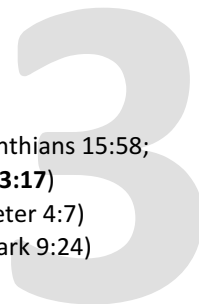
- “**us**” - the writer is including himself in this warning! This is a warning for US! Will we take this warning seriously?

- Two kinds of fear:
 - ① A fear that causes us to revere God above all else, be filled with an overwhelming awe of Him, be overwhelmed by His majesty that make us careful to please Him in all that we do and fearful in offending Him in any way out of our supreme love for Him. This a fear of respect and honor.
 - ② A fear that leads to bondage that leads to distrusting God, not loving Him, and seeing Him as some kind of evil dictator. This is a fear of condemnation and terror.
- God **requires** that we hear HIM! (Deuteronomy 10:12-14, 20; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:5; Acts 9:31; 1 Peter 2:17; **2 Corinthians 7:1; Revelation 14:6-7**)
- God is to be **greatly** to be feared in the assembly of the saints. (Psalm 89:7)
- The fear of the LORD must be learned and, therefore, must be taught! (Deuteronomy 4:10; 17:19; 31:12-13; Psalm 34:11)
- Blessed are those who fear the LORD **always**. (Proverbs 28:14)
- Do you fear God? What does it mean to fear God?
- Do thoughts of God fill you with AWE?
- Definition of AWE: an emotion variously combining dread, veneration (respect or awe inspired by the dignity, wisdom, dedication, or talent of a person), and wonder that is inspired by authority or by the sacred or sublime (lofty, grand, supreme).
- Serve the Lord with fear. (Psalm 2:11)
- Great is God's mercy on those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:11, 17)
- The LORD pities those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:13)
- God takes pleasure in those who fear Him. (Psalm 147:11)
- God comes close to those who **tremble at His Word**. (Isaiah 66:2)
- ★ **BUT HERE, IN CONTEXT, WE ARE TO FEAR WHAT WE WERE JUST TOLD IN CHAPTER 3 - WE MUST FEAR OF FALLING INTO UNBELIEF AND DISOBEDIENCE!!!!**
- ★ How does one fear in this context?
 - ① Walking circumspectly. (Ephesians 5:15-17)
 - ② Diligently guarding our hearts. (Proverbs 4:23)
 - ③ Being watchful and vigilant. (1 Peter 5:8)
 - ④ Being steadfast in the faith. (1 Peter 5:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 3:6, 14; Colossians 2:22-23; **2 Peter 3:17**)
 - ⑤ Being watchful and serious in our prayers. (1 Peter 4:7)
 - ⑥ Praying, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." (Mark 9:24)

- ⑦ Praying, "Lead us not into temptation." (Matthew 6:13; 26:41)
- ⑧ Distrusting ourselves but trusting God in all our ways. (Proverbs 3:5-7)
- ⑨ That God's exhortations and warnings seriously! The word "beware" is used 18 times in the New Testament. Consider one of them - Colossians 2:8.
- ⑩ Tremble at God's Word. (Isaiah 66:2, 5; Ezra 9:4; Psalm 119:120; Habakkuk 3:16; Philippians 2:12)

BUT What About the "Fear Not's"?

- God commands us to FEAR and to FEAR NOT! God does not contradict Himself EVER!!! A disciple takes into the whole counsel of God to understand all that God teaches us.
- Think about God's sovereignty and human responsibility.
 - God teaches us that He is *absolutely* sovereign over **everything** that happens His world. Nothing, good or evil, happens without Him **commanding** it.
 - BUT in His same revelation of Himself He teaches us that all men are responsible for their actions before their Creator. (Hebrews 4:13)
 - To deny that God is sovereign over everything, even man's so-called freewill, is to deny God.
 - To deny human responsibility would be the accountability of man to his Creator.
 - ★ BOTH of these truths are TRUE. A disciple "rightly divides the word" to be found approved God and not man. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- (2 Timothy 1:7) "*deilia*" - "fear, cowardliness, shameful fear" **BUT we were given a spirit of:**
 - ① POWER - effective productive energy. (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 3:20 - look at vv. 14-21 - can we pray this for our brothers and sisters? (John 14:17; Zechariah 4:6)
 - ② LOVE - this is the love that motivates service toward the One loved - God and brethren. (1 John 3:16)
 - ③ DISCIPLINE (sound mind) - self-controlled, disciplined, *prioritize* mind. This speaks of an ordered life.
- ★ Paul had this "spirit" in him. See Acts 20:22-24
- (Matthew 10:26-31; 6:25-34) This "fear not" means to not worry, but trust God in everything.



- (Hebrews 13:5-6) To acknowledge that God is our HELPER we must trust him. (Proverbs 3:5-7) He is a shield (Genesis 15:1) only to those who put their trust in Him with all their heart. (Proverbs 56:4)

Bottom Line for the Disciple

- FEAR what and who God says to fear.
- FEAR NOT what and who God say to not fear.
- DO BOTH!

The PROMISE (Hebrews 4:1) See Hebrews 11:13-16

Meaning of “Rest” (Hebrews 4:1)

Lest Any of You . . . to Come Short (Hebrews 4: 1)