

“Strive To Enter That Rest”

Hebrews 4:11

August 12, 2018

VIDEO 1: *“Seeing God As Loving”* (2:58)

(Start looking thru the Lord’s “lens of love”)

INTRO: All God’s standards & Scriptures are loving & 4U2!

WELCOME: We’ve been deliberate & steadfast in our walking through of Hebrews... taking special care to engage & explain defining texts AND contexts. In that regard, today will be no different.

BIG IDEA: God’s loving grace is given FOR Gospel striving!

- Acts 1:8... Matthew 28:18-20... John 20:21
- Ephesians 2:8-10... 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

PREVIEW:

- I. **ENGAGE** striving to rest
- II. **EXPLAIN** striving to rest
- III. **EXEMPLIFY** striving to rest

CONTEXT:

- A. Hebrews series: “Hold On”
- B. Warning #2... Do NOT disconnect...
- C. Last week = * 12 Facets of God’s Biblical Rest *

TEXT: Hebrews 4:11

Therefore let us strive to enter that rest, so that no one will fall/perish, through following the same example of disobedience.

I. ENGAGE Striving To REST

- ENGAGE *Truth & Love*
- OVERCOME *Fear & Laziness*
- STRIVE-for *Rest & Restoration*

Hebrews 4:11

Therefore, let us strive to enter that rest

- A. Engage TRUTH & LOVE
- B. Overcome FEAR & LAZINESS

VIDEO 2: “How Does Knowing God Help Us?” (4:53)

C. Strive-for REST & RESTORATION

- i. **2:1** = *pay much closer attention to what we have heard...* (Proverbs 3:21)
- ii. **3:1** = *...consider Jesus...* (Philipp. 3:14)
- iii. **3:12** = *Take care brethren...* (Col. 2:8)
- iv. **3:13** = *Encourage one another day after day* (Heb. 10:24; Ephesians 4:22)
- v. **4:1** = *Let us fear...* (2 Corinthians 6:1)
- vi. **4:7** = *...do not harden your hearts.* (Ps. 95:71)

VIDEO 3: “Discovering Your Purpose” (2:14)

We’ve got to know what our words mean, if we are to mean what our words say! – JDP

Definitions define words... words define thoughts... thoughts define beliefs... & beliefs dictate behaviors.

- The definitions you believe determine the behaviors you develop. - JDP
- *Your behaviors reveal your beliefs...* - JDP
- *What you believe is who you become!* - JDP

II. EXPLAIN Striving To REST

The need for God's rest is urgent. - MacArthur

Hebrews 4:11

Therefore let us strive/make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall/perish,

2018 Vermont-Mission Devotional Teams

Pastor Charlie & Mark: 2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

We (all Christians) have been chosen by God to diligently study and accurately apply and proclaim His Truth, as stewards of His Word, to show all the world the only way to life... AND we are to silence all lies.

VIDEO 4: *"How Can I Find Happiness?"* (2:48)
(Rest = striving to GIVE vs. striving to GET)

Marie & Sondra: Luke 9:62

Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

We get to live a surrendered life to Christ alone; forsaking the things of the world from which he delivered us.

VIDEO 5: *Sondra’s Baptism* (4:23)

Matthew & Mike A.

1 Kings 8:61

Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments...

God’s holy devotion to us calls us to be wholly devoted to God.

Lorraine & Tiffany

Acts 2:42

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching & to fellowship, to the breaking of bread & to prayer.

The TRUE Body of Christ should be totally devoted to unity with one another in all aspects of their lives (a.k.a. “The gathering of God’s people, in loving remembrance of our Lord Jesus who died, so that we might live”)... for the glory of God.

Christine & Brenda

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

In the race of the Christian life, we must never stop pushing forward. We must keep our eyes on the prize as we solely pursue Christ-likeness thru the miraculous work of the Spirit.

Kary & Tonya

Matthew 4:19

He said to them, "Follow me, & I will make you fishers of men." Jesus calls us to radically abandon our own self-interests and lay down our lives to follow Him without hesitation. We follow, in part, so that Christ can show us and teach us how to intentionally share THE good news with a world full of lost people... in order that they may come to BE disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

*Those who "fish for men" all day are following Christ... By contrast, those who fall-away from Christ are following the devilish, disobedient, & deceptive. **So... will you fish-all-day OR fall-away?** Hebrews 4:11 says your answer will come down to who you are following! - JDP*

Kim & Jessica

Deuteronomy 4:9

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—

Take great care and have great concern for the things God has said and done so that you do not drift, disconnect, get distracted, dilly dally in those distractions, disobey God and/or defy God. Disciple your children and children's children.

Josh

Galatians 6:9

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

We are to encourage one another, that includes both Christians and Non-Christians, to pursue the Lord!!

Sarah & Yudayah

Ephesians 4:15-16

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

It is important for Christians to know God's truth AND to lovingly share the Bible's truth with others.

Evon & Wanda

1 Thessalonians 4:1

Finally, then, brothers, we ask & urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk & to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more & more.

Because of the instruction from God's Word God tells us to go out and spread the gospel, I will strive to live a more purifying life & continue to grow in knowledge of the Bible's Truth.

Judy & Peggy S.

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Possible persecution may be ahead in my walk of faith. Only by a close daily walk with my God can I persevere. He will give me strength day by day to endure & overcome whatever Satan throws my way... I will be ok... looking forward to going to my home in Glory!

Pastor Troy & Peggy H. **Zechariah 6:15**

“And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

“The King is coming. BE ready!”

Pastor Jeff & Chester **The Gospel** mMm

Ellen & Silas/children **The Bible**

The Bible is His story! Jesus loves you so much that He died on a cross to pay for sinner’s sins and to offer eternal life to all who believe (biblically) and follow Him.

VIDEO 6: *“How Do You Find Purpose In Life?”* (2:35)
(Rest & Purpose = biblical relationship... vertical & horizontal)

III. EXEMPLIFY Striving To REST

Hebrews 4:11

Therefore let us strive to enter that rest, so that no one will fall/perish, through following the same example of disobedience.

- **Exemplified** by the expressed negative...
 - Sample *their example...*

VIDEO 7: “Fight Song – Mission Girls” (6:10)

- **Exemplified** by the implied positive...
 - Set *the example...*

Champion *the Components & Characteristics of “Striving”*

- **Truth** (defining definitive definitions!)
- **Love** (Christ-like vs. “cultural” love)
- **Warfare** (striving requires fight/armor wearing)
- **Faithful Obedience** (Luke 14:27... cross-carrying)
- **Ekklesia** (see John 6:44! – all others = “self”)
- **Koinonia** (see John 17! – all others are fakes)
- **Homothoomadon** (see Acts 2! – passion validates)
- **Beatitudes!** (striving in action & on display...)
- **Fruit of the Spirit...** (this is the “fruit of God’s rest”)
- **Take every thought captive**
- **Think on good things**
- **Tension of biblical fear....** Fear not! & Fear now!
- **Go and make disciples** (soldiers/athletes/farmers)
- **5 stages of life cycle** (Engage, Explain, Equip, Empower, Exemplify)
- **Live a life worthy of your calling**
- **Witness**
- **Confront false teachers**
- **Call out the wolves**
- **Feed, lead, & protect** God’s sheep/family
- **Pray**
- **Forgive**

- Great Commandments
- Confidence in Christ
- Proclaim/Evangelize
- Persevere/Finish
- Repent & Believe
- Accept Persecution & Suffering
- Walking by faith
- Sacrificing & Surrendering
- Learning
- Broken/Breaking
- BE Fluid
- Studying God's Word
- Hoping & Holding On!
- Resisting the devil...
- RESTING in Hard living (per Jesus)

QUOTE: *The fires of persecution have always purified the church, because suffering separates true believers from the counterfeit. True believers are willing to suffer for Christ and they hold firmly to their convictions and their confession of faith.... (Remember) we are not saved by holding to our confession. The fact that we hold to our confession is proof that we are God's true children. - Wiersbe*

- **Remember** the striving saints of **Hebrews 11**...

CLOSE: *God's rest is found & exemplified when...*

REST is found AND grown in fields of truth and love! –JDP

REST is found when you learn the truth about love! –JDP

REST is found when you learn to love the truth! -JDP

REST is found when you fulfill your purpose with passion! -JDP
REST is found in the aftermath of offering your very best! -JDP
REST is found when you get what you want – IF you want Jesus! -JDP
REST is found when you get honest with yourself & God. -JDP
REST is found when you surrender to victory in Jesus the Christ! -JDP
REST is found when you repent & believe biblically. -JDP
REST is found when God's holiness humbles you. -JDP
REST is found when your happiness is found in God's holiness. -JDP
REST is found when God's mercy & grace redefine you. -JDP
REST is found when God's Spirit indwells & empowers you! -JDP
REST is found when God's glorification generates your joy. -JDP
REST is found when Christ-likeness shifts from *have-to* to get-to... -JDP
REST is found when BE-ing the Church replaces going-to church... -JDP
REST is found when human-happiness is upgraded to joy-in-Jesus. -JDP
REST is found in the faith-filled fullness of the Fruit of the Spirit! -JDP
REST is found when you overcome your fear & laziness. -JDP
REST is found when you walk sure-footed on the narrow road! -JDP
REST is found when you live thru your first/spiritual funeral. -JDP
REST is found when God's revelation becomes your revolution! -JDP
REST is found when you don't need relaxation to rest. -JDP
REST is found when you live for others vs. yourself. -JDP
REST is found when you live for tomorrow instead of today -JDP
REST is found when you live to die & die to live! -JDP
REST is found when you know the Answer to life's eternal questions. -JDP
REST is found when you see God biblically, for who He really is. -JDP
REST is found when the Bible comes alive to you. -JDP
REST is found when your why's & worries become thanks & praise. -JDP
REST is found when Jesus turns the lights on... -JDP
REST is found when tragedy & suffering are seen thru God's eyes... -JDP
REST is found when you live above & beyond your circumstances. -JDP
REST is found when you live with an attitude of gratitude. -JDP
REST is found when you take every thought captive... -JDP
REST is found when you forgive freely & completely... -JDP

REST is found when you want to be righteous more than just right. –JDP
REST is found when you come-to & give your burdens to Jesus... -JDP
REST is found when you stop fighting against God & His Word. –JDP
REST is found when you find & fulfill God’s mission in life. –JDP
REST is found when you realize you are an overwhelming overcomer- JDP
REST is found when your forever fills-&-overshadows your today. –JDP
REST is found when your walk and your talk mirror each other. –JDP
REST is found when you are with others you can truly trust. –JDP
REST is found when you live a life worthy of your calling. –JDP
REST is found when you make disciples who make disciples... -JDP
REST is found when you find the lost & grow found! -JDP
REST is found when you become God’s army, aroma, & ambassador!- JDP
REST is found when you learn & love to live in the armor of God! –JDP
REST is found when you realize that your war is already won! –JDP
REST is found when God’s Word becomes your ultimate authority. –JDP
REST is found when “give” becomes better than “get” in your life. –JDP
REST is found when you can finally stop searching for rest... -JDP
REST is found when you actively trust Jesus as your Lord & Savior. –JDP
REST is found when the Spirit of God transforms & fills your heart. –JDP
REST is found when your goals and your God align & agree. –JDP
REST is found when you stop needing new remedies for your realities- JDP
REST is found when you’re wants are the Lord’s wants for your life... -JDP
REST is found when you become a *No Matter What!* Christ-follower. -JDP
REST is found when you realize that real rest is a miraculous gift. –JDP
REST is found when you are willing to give everything else away for it- JDP
REST is found when you realize there’s only 1 place where rest
can be found... -JDP

REST is found when you realize that you are being carried by
Christ... when you are carrying your cross. –JDP

Let’s PRAY!

VIDEO 8: *“Vermont Mission 2018”* (6:45)