

The Rest of God—Abiding in the Vine

Joshua 4:1-9; Hebrews 4, John 15:1-8

INTRO: We have been studying the relationship between the Law and Grace. Free from the Law is a factual reality in Christ when we are born again by the Spirit of God. Understanding or freedom from the Law is the first step in coming to the "rest of God." We cannot abide in the vine, nor enter God's rest, until we cease from our own efforts to live the Christian life.

I. Crossing the Jordan & Entering the Promised Land (Joshua 4:1-9)

- A. While being absolutely historical, the journey from Egypt to the promised land is also a type of the salvation experience in Christ Jesus:
 - 1. The Passover
 - 2. The Red Sea
 - 3. Water from the Rock, the healing waters, manna from heaven, the fiery serpent and other types of Christ
 - 4. The tabernacle: a symbolic representation of our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit
- B. Crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land
 - 1. Made possible by the Ark & the Mercy Seat
 - 2. A descent into death to self and a resurrection to life in Christ (see Romans 6)
 - 3. The memorial stones: 12 in the Jordan and 12 from the Jordan (Joshua 4:1-9)
- C. No rest due to unbelief (Joshua 4:6 & 8)

II. The Sabbath Rest of God—Ceasing From Our Labors (Hebrews 4)

- A. The Rest of God and the Invitation to Restoration (Heb 4:1-7)
 - 1. God ceased from all His labors and rested on the 7th day
 - 2. Adam and Eve's first day on the earth was the 7th day of God . . . they were made to begin with rest
- B. The Sabbath Rest of God is Available to Us NOW (Heb 4:8-11)
 - 1. Joshua did not give them rest due to their unbelief
 - 2. There remains the promise of a Sabbath Rest
 - 3. The Rest of God is offered to us who will believe—it is a cessation of all our own labor (efforts)

III. In New Testament Terms the Rest of God is Abiding in the Vine (John 15:1-8)

- A. Abiding in the Vine means to simply hang on the Vine, drawing from Its food and water
It takes no real effort to hang on the Vine
- B. Those who abide in Christ will bear much fruit
- C. "Without Me You Can Do NOTHING" (John 15:5b)
- D. In this intimate relationship with Jesus, we can ask whatever we wish and it will be done
The only true work of the abiding believer is prayer

CONC: Spirit-Filled living is a life of rest and abiding. It is a life lived in intimate connection to Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit to bear fruit that is eternal. Free from the Law, this life is lived in the life of the Spirit and full of grace. As we draw our life from Jesus by the Holy Spirit we experience victory over sin, the flesh, and the devil. It is victorious living.