

Hebrews: The Supremacy of Jesus

Lesson 4

“Jesus: The Supreme Physician”

(Hebrews 4:1-16)

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Outline

Introduction:

Part One: Jesus's Supreme Rest (4:1-10).

Part Two: Jesus's Superior Diagnosis (4:11-13).

Part Three: Jesus's Superior Grace and Mercy (4:14-16).

Discussion

Application

Introduction

- Hebrews has been focused on the superiority of Jesus.
- Already, we have seen how Jesus is superior to the law of Moses, to prophets, and even angels.
- Chapter 4 deals with the ability of Jesus to be the great physician as he can diagnose, treat, and heal better than any doctor ever could.

Things to Look For

- Look for God's desire to save all, but the human resistance to God's will.
- Look for the power of God's word and Jesus's ability to diagnose our problems better than anyone ever could.
- Look for Jesus's sympathy towards us and how he can help us to face any problem faced in life.

PART ONE: JESUS'S SUPREME REST (4:1-10).



*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16 (New King James Version)

A CLAIMED REST (4:1-2).

- **4:1** *Therefore* connects back to the previous chapter.
 - *Promise to enter his rest* refers to experience of salvation dependent on God's work.
 - 2 things stand out from the warning of falling short.
 - 1) Typology between Joshua/Israelites with Jesus/Christians.
 - 2) People's failure did not nullify the validity of God's promises.
 - *Just as the Israelites could not trust in their ethnicity to save them, believers cannot trust in their heritage, but rather in Christ.*
- **4:2** *Good news* or Gospel refers to God's positive message given to his people.
 - Promise to refugees was to enter promised land.
 - Gospel promises individuals to enter God's eternal promised land.
 - The problem: They heard the message but did not act on it.
 - Faith is a personal trust.
 - Object of one's faith.
 - *It is not enough to hear and believe the facts about Jesus. One must trust in Jesus.*

A PATTERNED REST (4:3-5).

- **4:3** *We* associates the writer with the Christian community.
 - *Who have believed* enjoins with those who believe.
 - *Enter the rest* describes the peace that comes with God's salvation.
 - Quotes Ps. 95:11 giving argument that compares the Israelites to those who have heard the gospel.
 - *Through his works have ben finished since the foundation of the world* addresses God's rest after creation (rest does not indicate inactivity).
- **4:4-5** Verses give 2 quotations pertaining to God's rest.
 - First, quotes Gen. 2:2 indicates the rest God took after creation (4:4).
 - Second, quotes Ps. 95:11 indicating that the lack of faith and trust results in the lack of a person finding rest.
 - *God's peace will lead to a complete transformation.*

A REMAINED REST (4:6-10).

- **4:6-7** Again, *therefore* connects back to the previous points pertaining to God's rest.
 - God's rest *remains for some to enter it* indicates three things.
 - 1) God intends for people to enter his rest.
 - 2) The first generation stumbled because of unbelief.
 - 3) God's invitation to rest is still open by the word *Today* and the quotation of Ps. 95:7-8.
- **4:8** Combats possible objection that if people did not find rest in the promise given through Joshua, would they find it now?
 - Answer: God offered the rest. It was the people who refused to take it.
- **4:9-10** An additional answer is given.
 - *Therefore* again connects back to the objection and answer.
 - *Sabbath rest* is the peace that comes by trusting in Christ which can be experienced now (to God's people and from trusting in Christ).
 - Vs. 10 notes that a person can find rest just as God did.
 - This references a comfort found in completion.
 - This emphasizes that a person does not need to worry about keeping minute details to know that one is saved.

Applications

- *God desires for people to enter his rest. No one can blame anyone else but oneself for rejecting Christ's message of salvation.*
- *While we get a foretaste of the rest we find in God, it does not come close to describing the rest we will find in God in eternity.*

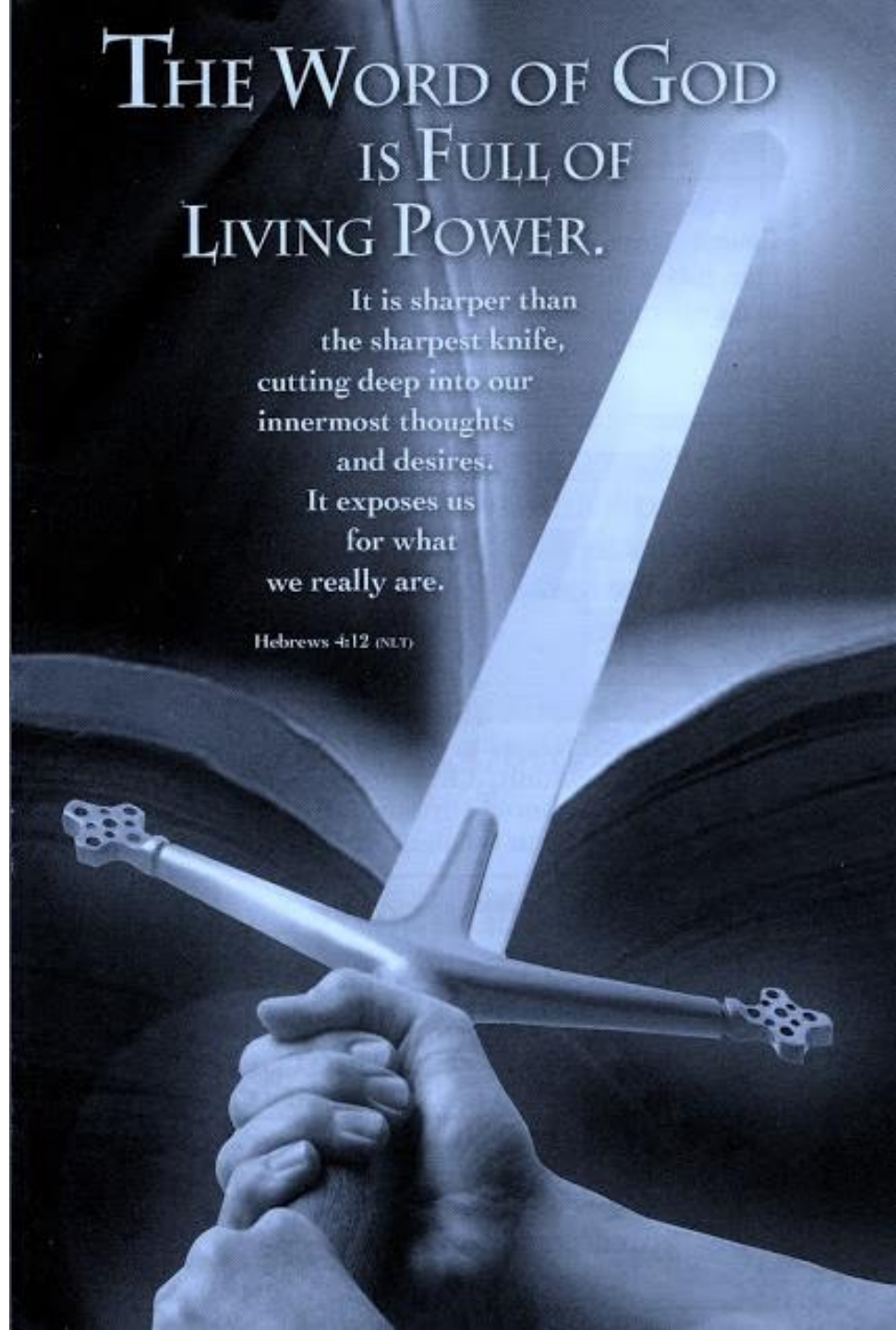
PART TWO: JESUS'S SUPERIOR DIAGNOSIS (4:11-13).

THE WORD OF GOD
IS FULL OF
LIVING POWER.

It is sharper than
the sharpest knife,
cutting deep into our
innermost thoughts
and desires.

It exposes us
for what
we really are.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)



Jesus's Superior Diagnosis (4:11-13)

- **4:11** Hebrews charges that a person should *make . . . every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.*
 - Objection 1: But wait! Someone may ask, “Isn’t salvation a work of God’s grace and not human efforts? How then does one make an effort to enter God’s grace?”
 - Reply 1: The answer is in human response.
 - Objection 2: Someone may ask again, “But, doesn’t this make salvation a human work?”
 - Reply 2: Absolutely not! God is the giver and issuer of the gift. Human beings merely receive or reject God’s gift.
 - Picture yourself giving two people the same gift. One freely receives the gift. The other refuses. Now, did the one who received work to obtain that gift? No! Absolutely not! You purchased the gift. You offered the gift. You extended the gift to the person. All the person did was receive. The same is true in the case of God’s salvation and human response.

Jesus's Superior Diagnosis (4:11-13)

- **4:12** This verse explains the warning given in verse 11.
 - God's message is alive and active.
 - *The word of God* is described in four ways.
 - 1) God's word is *living*.
 - 2) God's word is *effective*.
 - 3) God's word is *penetrating*.
 - 4) God's word is *judging*.

Jesus's Superior Diagnosis (4:11-13)

- **4:13** Hebrews makes a positive and negative statement about God's all-encompassing knowledge.
 - First, the positive statement notes that *all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of [God] to whom we must give an account.*
 - *Exposed* is a graphic term.
 - Hebrews verifies Paul's teaching of the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - Second, a negative statement is given, noting that *no creature is hidden from him.*
 - Again, this points to the fact that no one can escape from God.
 - How could any of us escape from God's knowledge or his grip?



Illustration: “No Escape for Thelma and Louise”



Applications

- *Everyone will stand before God in one way or the other.*
- *God has offered his grace to everyone.*
- *Unfortunately, many will stand before God without forgiveness meaning that they will have to pay the penalty for every one of their sins.*

**PART THREE: JESUS'S
SUPERIOR GRACE
AND MERCY (4:14-16).**



Jesus's Superior Grace and Mercy

(4:14-16)

- **4:14** Here again, one finds a *therefore* which connects back to the lesson given about God's omnipresence and omniscient understanding.
 - Since God has offered salvation through Christ and Christ is the believer's high priest, three truths are evidently true.
 - 1) Jesus is a *great high priest*.
 - 2) Jesus has *passed through the heavens*.
 - 3) Since Jesus is the ultimate high priest, we as believers must *hold fast to our confession*.

Jesus's Superior Grace and Mercy

(4:14-16)

- **4:15** How does one hold to one's faith? Hebrews brings three facts to remind us that Jesus is personal.
 - 1) Jesus is able to *sympathize with our weaknesses*. Christ has sympathy for all our weaknesses and frailties because he has experienced what it is like to be a human being.
 - 2) Jesus has been *tempted in every way as we are*. Jesus faced every temptation we could ever face, yet in a different format nonetheless.
 - 3) Jesus was *without sin*. Though he was tempted, Jesus never sinned. Therefore, he is able to help us when we are tempted but is gracious when we fall, because he knows we are sinners in need of God's grace.

Jesus's Superior Grace and Mercy

(4:14-16)

- **4:16** Since we have a sinless Savior, what should one's response be? Four points are given.
 - 1) We must *approach*.
 - 2) We must come *to the throne of grace*.
 - 3) We come to God's throne with an attitude of *confidence*.
 - 4) We come to God's throne with confidence to *receive mercy and find grace*.

Applications

- *Jesus can diagnose our needs when no one else can because he knows us thoroughly and knows our situation.*
- *We are honored and blessed to be able to call upon God and enter his throne room. Never take it for granted.*

Final Applications

- God invites all to experience his rest, but some do not because of rebelling against God's word.
- Everyone will eventually stand before God.
- Jesus is able to diagnose our needs like no one else can because of the power of his word.
- Christians can experience God's rest both now and for all eternity.

Discussion

*What present day
benefits come by having
God's rest?*

*What do you take it to
mean that we can
approach the throne of
God with boldness?*





JESUS

Our Great High Priest

Next Study:

**“Jesus: The Supreme High-Priest”
(Hebrews 5:1-14)**