

Sermon Notes

There Is No Reason to Turn Back! *An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews*

#12 – “Fear of Drifting Is Not a Bad Thing” – Hebrews 4:1-5

I. Introduction

A. Views of history

1. Various views and some want to rewrite it.

B. The Hebrews’ writer’s view is distinctive.

1. We have been studying one long homily which continues through Chapter 4.
 - a. The focal point is the historical account of Psalm 95.
 - b. Key Point – “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Ps. 95:7 quoted in Heb. 3:15).
2. Note the backstory in use.
 - a. The test of God revealed the failure of Israel.
 - b. Our trials are similar to theirs.

C. The Text: Hebrews 4:1-5

II. Exposition

A. Hebrews 4:1

1. “Let us fear” or “Let us be afraid.”
 - a. This fear checks self-confidence.
2. “Anyone of you should seem to have come short of it.”
 - a. An athletic metaphor
 - b. Perseverance is intrinsic to the Christian walk.
 - c. Hebrews 3:13

B. Hebrews 4:2

1. “It was not united by faith in those who heard it.”
2. Matthew 7:22-23
 - a. No uniting with faith

b. “United” means “co-mingled”

3. Review of Reformed theological understanding of faith

- a. *Noticia* -- _____
- b. *Assensue* -- _____
- c. *Fiducia* -- _____

C. Hebrews 4:3-5

1. Verses 4-5

- a. Unbelieving Jews would not enter His rest.
- b. Genesis 2:2
- c. “Rest” is the offer of Himself.

2. God’s labor

- a. God labored for six days and rested on the seventh which is perpetual.
- b. The Sabbath day does not end.
 1. Note contrast with King Herod.
 2. Isaiah 46:9-10
- c. The only way to enter this rest is to enter a S_____ R_____ with God.

III. Points for Reflection

- A. “Let us fear if…” any of you should seem to have come short of it.”
 1. Ezekiel 34:2b-4
- B. To know you are saved and held secure by God, makes for peaceful nights of rest and sleep.
 1. Matt. 11:28-30; Heb. 10:32-34; John 16:33
- C. Sabbath rest and the salvation rest is in Christ.
- D. To all who hear but do not believe, regardless of anything else they do, God says, “As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’” (Heb. 4:3).