7/12/26

Sunday 1st Message

Rest

Heb 4:1-8

Every human being needs the answer that God provides. While the Bible covers many topics, how to receive that answer is one of the most important ones. Apostle Paul was a man who received a historical answer. He had been a man who arrested believers, imprisoned them, and put them to death, but on his way to Damascus, he met Christ and received a word. The word was that he was “a chosen instrument of God to carry his name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel”. Through this single word, he became a historical figure; countless people received eternal life through him, and even today, he continues to work to save the world.

Moses was a fugitive who had committed murder and was living in hiding as a shepherd. Then one day, God’s word came to him, and his life was completely overturned. He freed the people from slavery after 400 years, lived a life of leadership in the wilderness marked by countless answers to prayer and miracles, and his life continues to influence people all over the world to this day.

The common thread between these two people is that it all began after they received the word. The answer is received through the word. Those who possess the word will enter into 24 hour prayer, and the word and prayer cannot be separated. The same is true of the word and evangelism. If receiving the word and following it becomes a consistent practice, the field will come alive, and you will continually encounter the answers and people that have been prepared. There is abundant evidence of this in the Bible and in church history. For the sake of such answers and such a life, worship must be truly restored.

In the Old Testament era, whenever Israel worshipped idols, disaster always befell them. This was because the blood sacrifice of God’s promise had disappeared.

The disappearance of the blood sacrifice of the covenant did not mean that only the sacrifice was lost. Worship ceased, prayer disappeared, and both offerings and sacrifices vanished. Since the priests and Levites depended on these offerings and sacrifices for their livelihood, the disappearance of these contributions meant they could no longer continue their duties regarding the sanctuary and the altar. Naturally, disaster befell the entire nation, and with the nation in such a state, the fate of the individual went without saying. Numbers 18:5 states: “And you shall keep guard over the sanctuary and over the altar, that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel.”

The Levites and priests must fulfill their duties in worship, and we must offer worship rooted in the covenant. Only then will we live, and only then will our nation and future generations thrive. This is why we must pour our hearts into worship and listen diligently to the word. Today, as God gives us his word that will be fulfilled, may we experience his answer and see our lives restored, so that our worship may be a source of life for others.

1. **Rest**
    1) The word “rest” appears several times in today’s passage. In verse 1, it is “his rest”; in verse 3, “that rest”; and in verse 5, it is “my rest”. Rest refers to eternal life in the kingdom of heaven and is attained through faith in Christ. Therefore, in verse 3, he says, “For we who have believed enter that rest.”
    2) And in verse 2, it says that we can only obtain the rest of eternal life by hearing the word and uniting by faith. Faith alone is the way to salvation; it is sufficient, and nothing else is needed. In John 1:12, it says to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, and in Mark 5:34, the Lord said to the woman suffering with blood discharge for 12 years, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

3) And in the latter part of verse 3, it says that his works were finished from the foundation of the world. This means that everything concerning salvation and judgment was already determined at the time of creation. However, there is one point to consider in today's passage. In the middle of verse 3, it says, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest'", however, if we read back from chapter 3, it appears that this "they" refers to the people who disobeyed God's word in the wilderness.
4) However, God said he was angry with them and that they would not enter his rest. If we read today's passage a little more closely, it is not clear whether this rest refers to entering the Promised Land or entering the Kingdom of Heaven. In verse 5, it says, "And again in this passage he said, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"; and in verse 6, "those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience."
5) However, it is not clear from the text whether these expressions mean that they did not enter into eternal life in heaven or that they did not enter into the rest of Canaan. Therefore, we should be a little cautious about forcing interpretations.
6) However, one thing is clear. Regardless of which rest is being referred to, the answer to how we enter that rest is clear. It is through obedience, faith, and before the foundation of the world.
7) Verse 2 states that they were not united by faith with those who listened, and in verse 3 says that we who have believed enter that rest. Verse 6 states that those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, and the last part of verse 3 says that this was finished from the foundation of the world. Therefore, regardless of which rest is being referred to, we should conclude that we must obey and believe in the Lord, and that this was already determined before creation.
8) And in verse 7, again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." - and in verse 8, it says, "For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on."
9) In other words, if God had granted them complete rest at that time - when Joshua led the people into Canaan - He would not have had to set aside another day, calling it "today," and tell them not to be stubborn but to obey and follow his word.
10) Therefore, it seems best to interpret the word "today" in its entirety as referring to the day when the gospel of Christ comes. We should understand this to mean that when that "today" comes, we are to obey, believe, and receive salvation. The gospel of Christ is complete and powerful. It likely means that we are to enjoy its mystery, triumph, conquer, and bear witness. Rest signifies peace. Satan is always anxious and restless.
11) No matter how many rituals they perform or how much they pray, those who follow Satan will never find peace. Because they are constantly anxious, they continue to serve demons, perpetuating a vicious cycle. Christ is the one who sets us free from this condition. His blood breaks every curse and disaster, allows God's kingdom to come upon us, and sets us free from every bondage.
12) To the Egyptians, smearing the blood of the Passover lamb must have seemed utterly ridiculous, but because of that, all the firstborn sons throughout their land died, and even among the animals, only the firstborns were singled out and killed.
13) It was the day when he revealed to all of Egypt who the God of Israel is and what his covenantal blood signified, and declared it to that generation. This covenant remains in full force even today. I hope that we will all once again grasp this covenant, pray, receive his word, be answered, and conquer the world.