

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

6-7-15 Ken Carlton

Title: HOLD FAST

Main Text: Heb 4:1-14

Sermon Description: We need not wonder what is the goal of 'holding fast' in this chapter of Hebrews. The term 'rest' is employed ubiquitously as the desirable end of our gospel driven efforts. Rest as the “utmost of salvation” is further expounded in Thayer's greek lexicon as: “The heavenly blessedness in which God dwells and of which He has promised to make persevering believers in Christ partakers after the toils and trials of life on earth are ended.” We've identified and summarized the big picture truths of 'sabbath' from this section in prior messages proposing a contextual definition of 'sabbath rest' as: “The reassuring covenantal signature of God's favor heralding through creation and holy oracle, to otherwise restless man, the sovereign course and consummation of redemptive history.” The church of Jesus Christ is the 'rest bound' who HOLD FAST. Hebrews chapter 4 explores some paradoxical truths along these lines and emphasizes the tenacity characterizing the persevering saints.

Heading: FOUR PARADOXES IN HEBREWS CHAPTER FOUR...

1. GOOD NEWS & FEAR (4:1-3,14)

- a. Context (Heb 1:1-3, 2:1-4, 13:20-21)
- b. Continuity
- c. Confession (Rom 10:14)

2. TODAY – LONG AFTERWARDS (4:3b-9)

- a. Finished (3b-4)
- b. Figures (3:2,5,16, 4:7,8, 5:4)
- c. Future orientation (Heb 12:22-24)

3. STRIVE TO REST (4:10-11)

- a. Psalm 95
- b. Sabbath

4. LIVING LOGOS (4:12-13)

- a. Powerful
- b. Penetrating
- c. Personal

Close: Communion itself contains the paradoxical truth that through the suffering and death of Christ, we gain eternal life abundantly. Like the passover of old, we are revisiting the altar of deliverance unto rest. In addition, communion foretells the marriage supper of the Lamb. We are reassured in this covenant meal today that the course and consummation of redemptive history promises us eternal rest – the utmost of salvation – so let us hold fast to His finished work of Calvary!

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:
Good news	Let us fear	Future orientation	O.T. Reference	Strive to rest	Living Word
Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:
Heb 1:1-3, 2:1-4	Heb 4:1-3, 14	Heb 4:3-9	Psalm 95	Heb 4:6-10	Heb 4:12-13

FURTHER STUDY: see 'Excerpts' posted weekly at providencecrosslake.com & 2-23-2014 “Lord of the Sabbath” sermon

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 49