

“GracePoint in Pause” Hebrews 4:9-13

Context: Our reflection this evening is taken from the book of Hebrews and applies it to the pivotal verses studied at GracePoint since our inception. The context is that of striving to enter into God’s pause, that is, eternal rest from our daily weariness as well as a rest from the sorrow produced by any works revealing unbelief in Him. That striving is one of active dialog between us and God’s Word. God’s critical scrutiny of our obedience is then pictured by the characteristics of a surgeon who can remove the pus of sin with skill and precision. His scalpel is the Word, which lays bare the minutest details of our spiritual attitudes and their physical outworking for His examination.

Life Principle: Intense Godly dialog yields eventual eternal rest (Heb. 4:11).

- 1. Having the Word of eternal life – John 20:31**
God dialogs with humanity through the signs, wonders, proclamations, and redemptive atonement of Jesus, the Word.
- 2. Repentance, witness, and worship – Revelation 1:3, 5**
The reading, hearing, and heeding of the Revelation of Jesus Christ translate into repentance, witness, and worship.
- 3. Repentance for Kingdom life – Matthew 4:17**
The change in mind that Jesus called for in repentance is presented in five narratives describing attitudes of entrance, Kingdom in-breaking, disciples’ proclamation of Kingdom, Jesus’ Kingdom identity, and work.
- 4. Spiritual enlightenment toward holy redemption – Eph. 1:17-23**
Christ’s resurrection and power are manifested as He empowers each member of the Church to live now and in the ages to come.
- 5. Salvation we’ve been waiting for– Isaiah 25:9**
The redeemed Remnant’s ongoing struggles, hopes, successes, and failures in the world culminate with their eternal reward in the Messiah’s newly created universe.
- 6. Knowing the exact truth – Luke 1:3-4**
Luke describes the resurrected presence of Christ through the promise of the life-giving Spirit in order to steady the sometimes wobbly belief of God-lovers as they live out their gospel witness.

Study questions:

- We studied the meaning of the word ‘hope’ for the first week of Advent. As a **Bible study method**, look up the word ‘diligent/spoudazo’ using a *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of the NT* (<http://www2.mf.no/bibel/vines.html>). What does the word group stress? How is the serious effort for God-dialog conveyed by this word different from the example of the Israelites in the Sinai? What would a serious effort to dialog with God through His word look like in your life?
- Our doctrinal statement professes that the sixty-six books of Holy Scripture are the “only infallible rule for faith and life” (cf. ‘**On God’s Revelation** in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at (<http://www.gracepointfellowship.org/files/DocStmnt.pdf>)). How does the life of Jesus clearly reveal God’s nature to His servants (cf. John 1:18)? Why is His way the “only infallible rule for faith and life?” How do you strive to dialog with God about your life?
- Look up the word pictures of being naked and exposed to the eyes of God (cf. Hebrews 4:13) at <http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/rwp/>. How do the habits of seriously meditating on God’s word in and out of your daily life circumstances lay bare your feelings and intentions before God? Why does such striving bring rest?

Transformation exercise:

Memorize Hebrews 4:12. Make a plan to study God’s word each morning and conclude each night by reflecting on what you learned through dialoging with God over His word. Here is truly the foundation a Happy New Year. *Selah!*