

## Hebrews 4: 9-11

“There remains then a Sabbath-rest for the people of God (v.9) ...  
Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest (v.11).”

### Laboring Unto Rest

As I listened to a short devotional in our Sunday service, regarding entering into God’s rest, I was struck. As I listened to a short devotional in our Sunday service, regarding entering into God’s rest, I was struck by verse 11, exhorting us to “**labor** to enter into God’s rest.” The words resonated with me throughout worship, throughout the message, and long after. I found a mixture of comfort and discomfort in the exhortation in a couple of ways:

1. *Laboring to enter God’s rest* acknowledges that entering God’s rest is not going to be easy; we have to work at it, which I find comforting. So much, as Christians, we forget that the LORD does not expect our walk with Him to be easy. We put that high standard on ourselves. He knows we are embattled on all fronts, something His people have experienced since creation, and throughout history.
2. *Laboring to enter God’s rest* requires diligence and discipline, which I do not find comforting, but which I know brings its own reward. When I push through the difficulties, I know that He will answer; even when it takes a while I will get an answer. I know it because I have pushed through before, and seen His provision.

Romans 5:1-5 establishes expectations for our troubles, explains the level of difficulty, and sets an example for those following.

“We glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

Romans 5:3-5

I have learned throughout my walk with the LORD (25 years; it's taken me that long!), that I can do it the hard way, or I can do it the *harder* way. The hard way is with Him – but it is worth it, and I would not change anything (except maybe answer His call upon my heart sooner). The harder way is without Him and since it denotes a separation from the One who created me to be in communion with Him, it is not worth considering.

We have barely touched this message of “laboring to enter God’s rest”. I think we will extend it to another week, at least.

Blessings.