

Sermon Outline

August 9 Hebrews 3:7-19
"A Heart of Flesh"

- ✚ A warning for all time

- ✚ Hearts of stone and flesh

- ✚ The nature of faith

- ✚ The call to community

Points to Ponder to Prepare

August 16 Hebrews 4:1-13
"A Greater Sabbath"

This week in Hebrews 4 we continue reflecting on Psalm 95, especially the idea of "entering God's rest." This introduces the next "greater than..." contrast in Hebrews. Another reason that Jesus is greater than Moses is he leads us into a greater rest. Heaven is the greater Promised Land still waiting for us. Moses didn't lead the people into the old Promised Land, it was Joshua. And even when they got there, they didn't find rest and peace. They have continued war with local and regional enemies ever since. (Significantly "Jesus" is the Greek-ified version of the Hebrew name "Joshua", best pronounced "Yeshua".) Take a moment to read Hebrews 4:1-13.

This is perhaps the most significant passage in scripture for highlighting that Sabbath is a timeless concept, uniting past, present, and future.

- ✚ See the Exodus 20 version of the Ten Commandments. Notice how it ties Sabbath to God resting in creation. Sabbath is therefore an invitation to return to the Shalom of Eden.
- ✚ Compare this to the Deuteronomy 6 version of the Commandments. Notice how this makes Sabbath a present-tense living out of the Gospel. We are not slaves, because we have been set free!
- ✚ But Hebrews 4 also highlights that there "still remains a Sabbath rest for God's

people." (4:9) Every Sunday is an anticipation of heaven, in the same way the Lord's Supper is the first course of the Heavenly Banquet.

Enjoy God's gift of true Shalom today!

Scripture readings for the week

Sunday August 9	II Samuel 3-4
Monday August 10	II Samuel 5
Tuesday August 11	II Samuel 6
Wed August 12	II Samuel 7
Thursday August 13	II Samuel 8
Friday August 14	II Samuel 9
Saturday August 15	II Samuel 10-11
Sunday August 16	II Samuel 12-13

Prayer Focus

Our prayer focus this week is for **our students and their families** as they start to prepare for the upcoming school year.

- ✚ Please pray for inspiration and grace through the Holy Spirit for our volunteers and staff as they make plans for our fall ministry programs.
- ✚ Please pray for our schools, including teachers, administration and other staff, as they getting everything ready for the new school year. Ask God's blessing on our home school families.
- ✚ Pray for children and families as summer break winds down.