

Bible Study Hebrews 4:9

Fred R. Coulter—August 1, 2015

Today I was going to cover some more things concerning abortion, but even though there's much, much more that is yet to be exposed, I've decided not to, even though that's what's been on my mind almost all week because of the magnitude of it.

I had Randy Vild go ahead and download all the public domain video before the news cycle goes out on other things, and so forth. There is about three hours of things on here that's very important for you to know. We made some copies this morning.

If you do not have Fox News or haven't watched it, you don't know anything about it and it is dismissed by all of the liberals as surreptitiously and sneakily recorded interviews that have been maliciously edited; so therefore, you shouldn't pay any attention to it. Such is not the case. *This is the most horrendous thing in the world, probably in the history of mankind!*

We have been told in the Bible, 'that as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.' However, at this time, we have pretty close to 7-billion people, so the magnitude is greater.

Since abortion has become available, and it's available worldwide, I'll just give you one statistic: they have **murdered 1.234-billion babies in the womb!** What they're doing in selling the body parts and the absolutely hard-hearted, just vicious, cruel, so ingrained and hard-hearted, that they talk about it as if you're talking about different things that you put into a recipe for dinner.

Since God is the One Who has been forming these children, and the sacred trust of protection by the mother has been abandoned for pleasure, *the wrath of God is going to come! It's going to come!*

Before any of these came out, I did a video here and no one was here when I did the video, but it was on abortion. It was a call to repentance and it's on churchathome.org under *America—Great Awakening*. I watched part of that last night, but my iPad I was down to 5% in power and it went out. Dolores says that teaches me; I should have had it powered up. But that also shows that if you don't have one of these—*The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*—you better get one of these. If you're just electronic and digital, look out. The day is going to come!

I'll let you figure out some questions, while I cover one thing here. A man wrote recently, and it

shows how absolutely vicious that people are concerning the Sabbath. They will go to any length to try and twist the Scriptures. The question was brought up: Why can't we just tell people, 'God made the seventh day Holy and that's it. He hasn't changed it.' They don't read those Scriptures. Then they'll tell you, 'Christ has done away with the Law.' He said He didn't. They don't read those Scriptures. Or if they read them, they read them from an entirely wrong point of view.

This is one of the reasons why in the *Faithful Version Bible* the very, very first appendix is the *Fourteen Rules of Bible Study*.

What Paul is doing in Hebrews is showing that Christ is much greater than Moses. As a matter of fact, ***if God speaks it, it is true!*** Speaking of Christ, what was one of the last things He said before He ascended into heaven? *'All power in heaven and in earth has been given to Me.'* On that basis, He says, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.'

We're going to follow one of the rules of Bible study, which is: **What is the context?** *Read the verses before and read the verses after so you can understand it!*

Hebrews 3:7: "For this reason, even as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, if you will hear His voice...'" What is the thing concerning God? ***Obey My voice!*** God is so powerful and so good and so great that He has caused His Word to be preserved, translated in hundreds and hundreds of languages. Everything that is in here is the Word of God. He either spoke it to Moses, to the prophets. Jesus spoke it to the disciples and then the apostles wrote what Christ led them to write.

Then we have the book of Revelation, which is all the words of Christ Who was God. So, no one can say, 'I never heard the voice of God.' It's a good thing you haven't, because you may not be alive.

God in His mercy sent Christ in the flesh to talk to us as a human being and have it all written down. Isn't it much easier to read than it is to hear the thundering voice of God? What did the children of Israel say when they heard it? *We're going to die! Moses, Moses, you talk to God!*

"...if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts..." (vs 7-8). How do you harden your heart? *I've got a better idea than God!*

- Is God perfect?
- Is His Law perfect?
- Is His way perfect?

If that is so, are you perfect? *No!*. Then how can you have a better idea than God? *Impossibility!*

Verse 8: “Harden not your hearts, as in the rebellion, in the day of temptation in the wilderness, where your fathers tempted Me *and* tried Me, and saw My works forty years” (vs 8-9).

How much does it take to convince people? Remember the miracle of the manna? *He gave them manna six days of the week for forty years!* Did that convince them and ingrain in their brain that the seventh day is the Sabbath of God? Because for the manna on the Sabbath, they collected twice as much on the sixth day, and God performed a miracle every single Sabbath, because it didn’t breed worms and stink and rot if they kept it over from the sixth day to the seventh day.

Verse 10: “Because of this, I was indignant with that generation, and said, ‘They are always going astray in their hearts...’” That’s the most important thing for us to understand. God judges our hearts and our thoughts. Yes, we can have wonderful outward things that we do, but what is in our hearts and in our minds. This is what God is looking to.

“...and they have not known My ways” (v 10). We can’t say that today. They didn’t have the Bible back then. We’ve got it.

Verse 11: “So, I swore in My wrath, ‘**If** they shall enter into My rest—...’” The *if* is on them whether they will love God and obey Him, to enter into His rest. That transfers over going into the Kingdom of God in Heb. 4.

Then he gives a warning, v 12: “Beware, brethren, lest perhaps there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in apostatizing from *the* living God.” There a lot of people who were in the Church of God never read that.

Verse 13: “Rather, be encouraging one another each day, while it is called ‘today’...” Each day is today. You’ve heard the sports figures say, ‘I take it one day at a time.’ That actually originated with God. Every day! If the day before was a bad day, don’t make this day a bad day, because you’re still living in that day. Today—and of course, this is referring to the Sabbath.

“...‘today,’ so that none of you become hardened by *the* deceitfulness of sin” (v 13). It’s so easily presented. Just like with these abortionists in selling parts. They say, ‘It’s for a good cause. It’s for research. If we say research, no one will know the difference.’ Their hearts are so hardened. I don’t know how they are ever going to repent in this life or in the second resurrection.

But it can happen doctrinally. That’s what this is here, when we get to Heb. 4. Deceitfully, not knowing what the Truth actually is.

Verse 14: “For we are companions of Christ, **if** we truly hold the confidence *that we had* at the beginning steadfast until the end.”

What does it say about those in the end-time? ‘*The one who endures to the end—the end of your life or the end of the age—shall be saved.*’ **Never use the excuse of the corruption of men to give up on God!** Never do that.

1-Timothy 6:3—very important verse; we’ll see this tells us an awful lot: “If anyone teaches any different doctrine... [of any different thing] ...and does not adhere to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

- What does that tell us?
- When did Paul write this? *About 62_{A.D.}*
- When was Christ crucified? *30_{A.D.}*

So, here we have 33 years later.

- What does this tell us that happened in that time?

“...to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine *that is* according to Godliness” (v 3).

Timothy never heard Jesus speak. *This tells us they were written down!* The way that most people ignore the Bible and say, ‘Well, it was only orally preserved by tradition for 300 years before the Catholic Church wrote it down.’ *No!* The Catholic Church didn’t write it down. The Catholic Church had absolutely nothing to do with it.

Sound words of Jesus Christ! This shows that they had everything written down. Part of what I’ve written in the Commentary (In *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*) is that they had it very early. However, I believe I even made the statement there that when you read some of the things in the Gospels, when you read what Jesus said, you have to be struck by the fact that it sounds as though it’s the literal words written down while He was saying it. Do we take notes at Church? The things are important in addition to what we have in the Bible? *Yes, indeed!*

Luke 1:1: “Since many... [not a few] ...have taken in hand to compile a *written* narration... [write it down] ...of the matters which have been fully believed among us.” Luke was writing this in about 58_{A.D.} but he knew of these things. Paul was in prison in Caesarea at that time and he was undoubtedly going up to Jerusalem and looking at all of the written narrations that they had stored at Jerusalem.

Verse 2: “As they delivered *them* to us, those who from *the* beginning... [Who did the writing narrations? *Those who from the beginning!*] ...had been eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word.” What is a minister of the word? *Someone who deals in the Word of God!*

What is Jesus called? *The Word!* ‘In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ His message is called The Word. What were they compiling and writing down? If you see something happening and you write it down as an eyewitness... They weren’t dumb, stupid people back then. They knew how to write.

There’s a new book I’m getting, *Jesus’ Stenographers* by B.J.E. Van Noort and how they took shorthand. God didn’t hire, or call, a bunch of ignoramuses, wearing rags, and having long hair and beards down to their navel. You need to understand that.

Also an alternate translation of “...have been fully believed among us” (v 1) could be, ‘having been accomplished among us.’ So, the eyewitnesses were writing the things that had been accomplished *as they saw them happening!*

Verse 3: “It seemed good to me also, having accurately understood everything from the very first, to write *these things* in an orderly sequence to you, most excellent Theophilus. So that you might know the *absolute* certainly of *the* things in which you have been instructed” (vs 3-4).

Was Moses an eyewitness of God? *Yes!* He said, ‘Moses, I want you to gather the seventy elders of Israel together and I want you to verbally go over this whole thing so they can memorize this and keep it by tradition.’ *NO!* It was so important God wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger. It was so important He told Moses to write.

Let’s come to some of the prophets. They wrote down what God told them to write down. Remember what happened during the days of Jeremiah when Jehoiakim the king asked for the scroll that had just been given.

Sidebar: Who did Jeremiah have as a scribe? *Baruch!* This arrogant king, in rebellion against God, sitting in his winter palace with a big fire in the fireplace going, reading—he was intelligent—what Jeremiah had written. He took a penknife—they had sharp instruments—and cut it up and threw it into the fire.

God wasn’t going to put up with that. So, He told Jeremiah, He said, ‘You get Baruch and you have him write all those words again, plus many more that I’m going to give you.’ So, we got Jeremiah.

Hebrews 3:14: “...hold the confidence *that we had* at the beginning steadfast until the end.” What is that? With the:

- Spirit of God
- Word of God
- written down
- understanding
- talking to eyewitnesses who were there

Paul saw Christ, was taught in vision, was taught personally by Christ three and a half years in Arabia.

Verse 15: “As it is being said, ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion.’ For some, after hearing, did rebel, but not all who came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was He indignant *for* forty years?....” (vs 15-17).

Stop and think about the indignation the wrath of God is going to have with this end-time generation. Then He looks at the Church and it’s Laodicean. Everything we have is convenient. Boom! Boom! Boom!

“...*Was it* not with those who had sinned... [What is sin? *Transgression of the law!*] ...whose dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear *that they* would not enter into His rest, except to those who had disobeyed?” (vs 17-18).

Remember what happened with that? *God didn’t originally intend them to be out there 40 years wandering in the wilderness!* At the Feast of Tabernacles, in the second year, they were ready to go in. God was going to take them, even though they had rebelled against Him ten times during that year and a half.

Everybody said, ‘Let’s send spies out.’ So, they sent out one spy from every tribe. They spied out the land. They wanted to let them know how good it was, so they took one cluster of grapes that was so huge that two men had to carry it on a pole, suspended. They came in and ten of them said, ‘We can’t go in there. They’re giants.’ Everybody got angry, crying, and boo-hooing. Joshua and Caleb said, ‘No, no, God will fight for us.’ God got so mad. Right at that point He said, ‘Enough! You’re not going in. They searched out the land for forty days—a year for a day.’ So, they wandered *40 years*.

The next morning they had a change of heart. ‘Oh, boo-hoo, we thought it over. We will go.’ Moses said, ‘Don’t go! God will not be with you!’ *Oh, but we’ll go.* What happened? They got beaten back, a lot of casualties and deaths. Does that tell us that we need to obey the voice of God? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 18: “And to whom did He swear *that* they would not enter into His rest, except to those who had disobeyed? So, we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief” (vs 18-19). Unbelief and disobedience are equated as synonyms.

Hebrews 4:1: “Therefore, we should fear, lest perhaps, a promise being open to enter into His rest, any of you might seem to come short. For truly, we have had the Gospel preached *to us*, even as they also *did...*” (vs 1-2). The Gospel was a little different. It was for the physical land, but it still was the Word of God. Today ours is for eternal life.

“...but the preaching of the Word did not profit them because it was not mixed with faith in those who heard” (v 2). Yet, they’re willing to listen to lies. Wasn’t that true with Adam and Eve? *Yes!* I imagine Satan had some really wonderful, just plausible, great arguments as to why Adam and Eve were so good, that if they ate of that tree they would be even better. *They didn’t believe!*

Verse 3: “For we who have believed, we ourselves are entering into the rest, as He has said...” We’re on the journey to enter into the Kingdom of God, same way. As long as we are faithful, we will be in.

“...‘So, I swore in My wrath, “If they shall enter into My rest—”’ (v 3). Although the works were finished from *the* foundation of *the* world.”

Verse 4: “For He spoke in a certain place about the seventh *day*... [which is the Sabbath] ...in this manner: ‘And God rested on the seventh day from all His works.’”

Think about this for a minute: What if God rested on the first day? Nothing would have been created. Now think about this. What if you go to church on Sunday and rest on the first day? Are you really doing anything toward eternal life, though you think you are?

Remember the sermon I gave: *What is in a Seed?* I finally got fifty seeds for sequoia trees. I thought they would be at least as big as a pine tree seed, but it came in a wee little package. They are no bigger than a kernel of wheat. Imagine that, the tallest tree in the world. What is the biggest problem with plants and food today? *Genetic-engineered food!* What does it cause? *Sickness, disease and death!* Not right away, but it does cause it. What does it do to bees? Other animals? *It kills them!* They run tests on rats and they develop tumors and cancer. But that research won’t be let out by the ‘honest’ Food and Drug Administration. I bring this up as an analogy.

Think of this: If you call yourself a Christian, but you disobey God and don’t believe

His voice—after all He spoke the Ten Commandments—didn’t He? Which day did He speak about to keep? *The seventh day, the Sabbath!*

If you think you’re building Christianity because of Sunday and the holidays of this world, which are straight, almost mainline from Satan the devil today, you’re creating the same kind of spiritual life that the GMO foods do with physical life. It is a counterfeit and you are going to die, maybe even the spiritual death; same thing.

Seventh day God rested from His works. Verse 5: “And again concerning this: ‘If they shall enter into My rest—’” What did they do every Sabbath for 40 years? The Sabbath was there to keep, but they kept rebelling against God.

Remember the thing of Baal-Peor? *Yes, right in the face of God!* So, it’s likewise again today. “...‘If they shall enter into My rest—’” **Are you going to enter into the Kingdom of God? Sunday-keepers and those who keep the holidays are going to be very disappointed!**

Verse 6: “Consequently, since it **remains...**” The word *remains* is the key word here. Remember this, *Strong’s Concordance* can lead you astray because none of the verbs are delineated or parsed, meaning that the first definition given may not be correct. But if you go from English into *Strong’s Concordance* you think, ‘Oh, boy, this is great. Look, I’ll understand the Greek.’ There are 1200 verbs and the variations give you the meaning. The noun and the verb are together in one word. The tense and the person is in the spelling.

The Greek word for *remains* (a verb) is ‘apoleipotreti,’ [transcriber’s note: unsure of spelling] and it’s the plural-passive. The definition given in *Strong’s Concordance* for the root verb here, they put it as ‘left behind.’

Verse 6: “Consequently, since it remains *for* some...” How do you make ‘left behind’ out of *remains* there? *You don’t!* If you’re left behind, how can you enter in? “*for* some...” is the subject of the verb *remains*.

“...to enter into it, and those who had previously heard the gospel did not enter in because of disobedience, again He marks out a certain day, ‘Today,’ saying in David after so long a time (exactly as it has been quoted *above*), ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.’ For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken *long* afterwards of another day” (vs 6-8).

In other words, if Joshua had given them the fulfillment of the purpose of God for the Sabbath day, picturing His Kingdom, and they entered into the Kingdom of God, in the spiritual sense, he

wouldn't have spoken long afterwards of another day.

Verse 9: "There remains, therefore..." These clever people in twisting and turning the Scriptures say, "Therefore it is left behind." *That is the Sabbath is left behind!* Perfect understanding for a carnal mind!

"There remains, therefore... ['Sabbatismos,' which is Sabbath keeping] ...Sabbath-keeping for the people of God." Notice here, it does not mean the Jews. Who are the people of God? *Jews, Gentiles, all nations, all races!*

They're going to keep the Sabbath all during the Millennium—from Sabbath to Sabbath, and month to month. They're going to be keeping God's way. God says, 'I change not.'

Verse 9: "There remains, therefore, Sabbath-keeping for the people of God." We have an appendix for that in the back of the book *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?*

Verse 10: "For the one who has entered into His rest..." What do we do every seventh day? What is the rest of God? *The Sabbath Day!* It is also a type of the Millennium. It is also a type of the Kingdom of God, because we will be with God.

Verse 10: "For the one who has entered into His rest... [the weekly Sabbath] ...he also has ceased from his works..."

- How do you do your Sabbath?
- How do you time it? *Just like God says: sundown!*
- What do you do sundown?
 - ✓ Oh, boy, I'm going to watch my famous sports show!
 - ✓ I'm going to do whatever I want!

No! God says, 'Don't do any work. Don't do your pleasure.' So what do you do? *You cease work.*

You can use it for a time of prayer. If you're tired, go to bed early and rest. God wants you to be rejuvenated. That day is God's day. Two things happen on that day:

1. you show you love God and honor God and obey Him because you keep the Sabbath Day
2. God puts His presence in that day in your life individually

Especially if you are baptized, because you have Christ and the Father in you with the Holy Spirit. So you are

- resting with God on the Sabbath Day
- fellowshiping spiritually

- being taught by studying and learning the Word of God
- coming to Sabbath services

—where then you should be taught the Word of God and how to maintain that relationship with God.

I know all of you have the recording on the reading of the book of Revelation. I have it in my car and I listen to it from time to time when I am driving. Today, to drive over here, the short way over here, it was on chapter four, where it shows the throne of God.

Every time I hear that, I cannot help but think, what a fantastic thing that it is that God, with His Spirit in us, is dwelling in us. That when we pray, when we come before God, we are coming before the very throne that is described there in Rev. 4 and 5. Those things are just absolutely amazing when you think about it.

Verse 10: "For the one who has entered into His rest, he also has ceased from his works, just as God *did* from His own *works*." Rested! Didn't do any creation or working.

Verse 11: "We should be diligent, therefore, to enter into that rest..." That means:

- diligent to keep the Sabbath
- diligent to grow and overcome, to enter into the Kingdom of God

Both! Always remember that God has immediate, intermediate, and long-term plans and fulfillments.

"...be diligent, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience" (v 11).

What happened to those who quit keeping the Sabbath and went back into the world? *They're destined for a fall!* How long suffering and patient God will be with them, I wonder how many times God's Spirit has been there to try and prick their conscience to come back to Him. We get letters like that quite often.

'Oh, I left the Church years ago, but now I see I shouldn't have done it.' They need to come back. A good number of them also need to be re-baptized, too. God hasn't given up on them. But they can fall. They fell from grace. Only the mercy of God to bring them back can reinstate them. God has to do that and it has to be the change in their life.

Just like here we are today. We are a few here today. We are the few. We are the remnant. You look around, you look how bad the world is becoming, and you look at us, we're all marching toward our place of safety, called the grave, if there's enough time.

There is not a flood of young people coming into the Church. So, that's something we need to work on and pray about.

Verse 12: "For the Word of God *is* living... [Jesus said, 'My words are Spirit and they are life] ...and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword..." You might fear that if that were held up into your face. Fear for your life, but this one:

"...piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit... [your life and your thoughts] ...and of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart" (v 12).

What do you suppose the thoughts and intents of the heart would be of someone who would believe and twist the Scriptures and say that the Sabbath has been left behind, by trying to make a definition from *Strong's Concordance*, which has nothing to do with the reality of the active Greek verb? We can't fool God and that's why the biggest Church in the history of the world no longer exists. They thought they could sin and fool God.

Verse 13: "And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things *are* naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account." That's pretty heavy stuff. However, since the goal is so great, and we are so weak, God has provided Christ.

Verse 14: "Having therefore a Great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens. Jesus the Son of God, we should hold fast the confession of *our faith*. For we do not have a high priest who cannot empathize with our weaknesses, but *One Who* was tempted in all things according to *the* likeness of *our own temptations*; yet, *He was* without sin. Therefore, we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (vs 14-16).

That's why when we keep the Sabbath, every Sabbath Day, we are rejuvenated with the Spirit and Word of God. That's what it's all about.

All of this social 'churching' and political 'churching', and all of that thing, God is going to strike it soon. We're really going to get serious about coming to God and mean business, because God means business. He's going to do it because He wants them to have eternal life! He wants them to repent and change!

How many times does He say to Israel, 'Return to Me and I'll return to you.' Same thing right here. Christ is right there to help.

Got a little involved in that study, but that's the whole meaning of it!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Hebrews 3:7-14
- 2) 1-Timothy 6:3
- 3) Luke 1:1-4
- 4) Hebrews 3:14-19
- 5) Hebrews 4:1-16

Scriptures referenced, not quoted: Revelation 4; 5

Also referenced:

Sermons:

- *What is in a Seed?*
- *America—Great Awakening* (churchathome.org)

Books:

- *Jesus' Stenographers* by B.J.E. Van Noort
- *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Strong's Concordance*

From *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order: Appendix A: Fourteen Rules of Bible Study*

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