

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS**

### **THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S POWER FOR YOUR SALVATION**

Hebrews 4:2 "For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed."

It is one thing to have heard the Gospel. It is an entirely different thing to hear it, believe it, and hold on to it. Today the writer to the Hebrews speaks to you contrasting the hearers of the past who received the Good News of God's love for them, but ultimately rejected it with you who hear it, in faith believe it, and totally embrace it. They heard the message of God's love for them and were blessed only later to reject it, turn away from Him, and embrace the false gods of neighboring nations.

Compared to the Old Testament nation of Israel, God through the writer to the Hebrews has given a new community of people His Good News. The writer says you have had the Good News (Gospel) proclaimed to you! Through this gospel God has announced to you your heavenly rest in Christ Jesus. The Greek grammar found in this verse speaks not only of a completed work of God accomplished in the past but also of its continuation in the present time.

Think back to the recent devotion in which the words of Jesus' invitation to come to Him to find rest. The rest He invites you to receive is not just an overnight one, but one for all eternity. It is a heavenly rest. It is a peace that is yours only because through your faith in Jesus your sins are no more and you are now one with Him and your Father God. One commentator says this particular verse could be translated, "you have been completely good newsed or gospelized."

The Gospel has this complete power under God's blessing to save you. So writes St. Paul in Romans 1:16, ". . .the gospel, is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. . ." Whereas, the message of the cross is unbelievable and rejected by those who are perishing, for you, because you know it is true and God has given you faith to believe it, "it is God's power for your salvation. (see Romans 1:16) This foolishness of God (Jesus' death on the cross in payment for

your sins) “is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

Prayer: Lord, keep me steadfast in Your Word, in faith assured and confident that You forgive me all my sins and You have an eternal rest prepared for me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Lord keep us steadfast in Your Word,  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.  
(LSB 655)