

Pastor Dan's Answers to the DBS Questions for the Week of January 27, 2025

Monday

This was a tricky one! For Israel, their **“rest”** was the Promised Land, which they could not enter because of their unbelief (3:19) and their disobedience (4:6). What is the **“rest”** that awaits us? Every week, it's rest from having to work on the Sabbath (4:9). But on a deeper spiritual level the “rest” that awaits us is the rest from having to do good works to please God. Jesus did all of that “work” for us! We enter that rest both by faith in Jesus and obedience to his teachings. But we can disqualify ourselves from salvation in the same ways that Israel disqualified themselves from entering the Promised Land – through unbelief (in salvation thru Jesus alone) and/or disobedience to God's will for us after salvation.

Tuesday

The **“word of God”** is the Bible. (In this writer's time it was the Old Testament.) 3 adjectives which the writer used to describe it are: living, active and sharper than a double-edged sword. 2 verbs which describe the Bible are that it: *penetrates* us when we read it (to our core) and *judges* our thoughts and attitudes. How does the Bible do this when we read it? By the power of the Holy Spirit. Amazing!

Wednesday

We have confidence to approach God because Jesus, who was human just like us, sympathizes with our weakness and offers us his mercy (forgiveness) and his grace (power to live a holy life). Because of your faith in Jesus, despite your sins, you can face God in the mirror and not be ashamed!

Thursday

The word **“obey”** in Hebrews 5:9 is a little surprising because if this was the only verse that you ever read to a non-believer then they would have the impression that a person becomes a Christian solely by obeying God's laws via good works. Hebrews 5:9 is a good example of how we need to read the whole Bible, not just parts of it, to get the entire picture of the salvation process. The New Testament clearly teaches that we are saved from our *past sins* by confessing our sins to the Lord and believing that Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. And the New Testament also teaches that we *keep* our salvation by obeying God's laws (God's will). And when we fail to do that, (when we sin after being saved), we go back to the cross, confess our newest sins, believe Jesus paid the price for them too and continue to obey God's will. And here's two amazing things about God. First, God forgives us over and over again, because the blood of his Son will never run out. And, second, God offers us his grace (power) to begin obeying his will for us better when we use the means of grace (Bible reading, worship, prayer, communion, fasting and Christian fellowship). This is the process that our Methodist founder, John Wesley, called “going on to perfection”. This is a rewording a phrase that will appear in Saturday's reading. Do you see it there?

Friday

(Personal question.)

Saturday

John Wesley interpreted the phrase **“go on to maturity” (6:1)** to be “going on to perfection”. (The Greek word (teleiōtēta) means both. Did you see the 6 **“elementary teachings”** listed in verses 1-2. Would you be willing to do a Google search on any of the ones that you don't understand?

Sunday

I'm out of paper and this is a DEEP subject. So we're going to try to answer today's questions tomorrow, on Monday. Enjoy your day! But keep thinking about today's questions. 😊