

Grace Communion International Bellflower
Worship Services: Saturdays 10:00 a.m.
at The First Christian Church
17003 Clark Avenue
Bellflower, CA 90706-5721
gcibellflower.org



Pastor's LETTERS

SEPTEMBER 2014!

Sharing the Joy of Living in the Grace of Jesus

CHRIST *Resting in*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Anciently, God commanded the people of Israel to “rest” one day a week from their labors, just as it says in Genesis that God Himself rested from his creation work on what is called “the seventh day”. This “rest” became a part of the Old Covenant commands for Israel. Unfortunately, the record of history shows they were never very successful in keeping that “rest,” and that remains true even among those who claim to be “Sabbath-keepers” in our time!

But the New Covenant speaks of a completely different type of “rest.” When Jesus appeared, He said to His followers, “Come to me, and I will give you rest.” Was Jesus simply talking about a physical day to recuperate from our earthly labors? No He wasn’t!

Hebrews 4 speaks about a future “rest.” People did not have this rest in Joshua’s day, so this chapter is not talking about the weekly Sabbath. This rest is entered by faith in Christ (v. 2). By using the word “Sabbath-rest,” Hebrews is saying that the weekly Sabbath symbolized the real rest that God wants his people to enter. Just as the Levitical sacrifices symbolized the work of Christ, the weekly Sabbath pictured our final salvation. This symbolism says nothing about whether Christians should continue observing the symbols.

Since the Sabbath points toward our final salvation, and this salvation is in Christ, we are abiding by the *purpose* of the Sabbath command when we put our faith in Christ. It is in him that we find the rest that we need ([Matt. 11:28-30](#)). The requirement for rest has been transformed to focus on Christ rather than a day of the week. If we have faith in him, we are entering God’s rest and we are therefore keeping the spiritual intent of the Sabbath.

Larry

Pastoral Team Leader