

「自分のわざの終わり」
—ヘブル書3章7節～4章13節—

木内伸嘉

ABSTRACT Nobuyoshi KIUCHI, “The End of One's Own Works-Hebrews 3:7-4:13.” This study aims at exploring the meaning of Heb. 4:10, particularly the idea of ‘resting from one's own work,’ in the context of 3:7-4:13. Most commentators appear to understand the ‘works’ in 4:10 either as ‘toils’ in one’s lifetime or as ‘Jewish rituals,’ while a few take it as referring to the ‘dead works’ in 6:1 and 9:14, with which the present author concurs.

The root of the ambiguity and lack of consensus among the exegetes lies in failing to understand correctly the meanings of some key terms and ideas, such as πίστις, ἁμαρτία, ὑπόστασις, and ‘hardening of heart,’ which appear in 3:7-4:13, and ‘dead works,’ which occurs in 6:1 and 9:14. Furthermore, the commentators have not paid attention to the fact that OT ritual (including the sabbath regulations) and the conquest of Canaan had, even already in the Old Testament times, spiritual and educational purposes. Probably because of this situation some commentators do not seem to be sufficiently challenged by the danger of the ‘falling from grace’ that is addressed in 3:7-4:13. This is evident when, in interpreting 3:7-18, they discuss whether the nature of the Israelites’ sin envisaged by the author should be characterized as the lack of faith or apostasy, or when they preclude the idea that the heavenly reality can exist in the human heart.

Therefore in this paper the above-mentioned terms and ideas in 3:7-18 are reevaluated in order to be specific about the relationship between ‘resting from one's own work’ in 4:10 and salvation from sin. It is argued that the deceitfulness of sin (ἁμαρτία) is the polar opposite of ‘faithfulness/trust’ (πίστις) and that the disappearance of the former leads to ‘rest’ (κατάπαυσις), and that these terms refer even to the unconscious dimension of the human heart. By πίστις one enters into God’s rest, but on principle the πίστις cannot be separated from the death of the egocentric

nature that manifests itself in stubbornness. Based on the present author's proposal elsewhere (*Leviticus* [Leicester: InterVarsity, 2007]) that the sabbath ordinances target destroying human egocentricity, which is the ordinary condition of the human heart after the Fall, it is surmized that 'resting from one's own work' in Heb.4:10 means dying to the egocentric nature. Furthermore, it is also probable that this 'one's own work' is coterminous with 'dead works' in 9:14.

Although this passage places high demands on the recipients of the epistle and the readers today, the author of Hebrews, by stressing 'today,' urges the readers to attain this goal during their lifetime, rather than referring to the time of their physical death or to some 'eschatological "day"' .