

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 3:7-19

“Helping Each Other to Heaven” – February 4th, 2018



Introduction

A person's drift from God is often so subtle, so gradual, they are unaware it's even happening. Small compromises, sinful choices that seem harmless and inconsequential ever so slightly veer the person off course. Left unchecked, the heart hardens a bit, making sin more normal and less shocking. A hardened heart paves the road for more sin and more hardening until one day, they wake up and realize their life is in ruins. All of us are susceptible to this danger. The original church Hebrews was written to was at risk of it and so is the church today. Knowing our need to hold fast to our confidence and hope in Christ, Hebrews 3:1-6 called us to 'consider Jesus.' In the remainder of the chapter, we're equipped with two more tools to strengthen our faith and hope in Jesus that we might make it to the end.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:17-24](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Learn from the past (3:7-12)
- II. Exhort one another (3:13-19)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 3:7-12](#)

In vv7-11, Hebrews quotes Psalm 95 which calls on God's people to give praise and thanks to God. Not only is He the Creator and Ruler of all things...as our good Shepherd (think Psalm 23) He lovingly leads and provides for all our needs. Because that's true, God's people can trust and follow Him. The quote from [Psalm 95:7-11](#) is a history lesson saying, "Guys don't forget the Exodus. All the way from Egypt to the Promised Land God's people saw grace after grace from God as He loved, protected, and provided for them. But even after all they saw, they hardened their hearts!" In essence, he holds up their bad example to say, "Learn from them! Don't be like them!"

Israel's problem was that they had a wrong view of God. In forgetting God's mercies, they assumed God *hated* them ([Deut. 1:27](#)). You don't trust someone who hates you. Instead of seeing and trusting God, the inhabitants of Canaan seemed like giants, impossible to defeat and they rebelled, wanting to go back to Egypt ([Numb. 13:33-14:4](#)).

Israel is held up as an example for us to learn from (see [1 Cor. 6:10-13](#)). The Christian has been set free from sin, but on a wilderness journey heading for the Promised land, which

in the New Testament is the New Heavens and the new earth (Heb. 11:13-16, 1 Pet. 1:4). How do you view God in your trials? What are ways you're tempted to believe lies about Him? Where's the best place to see the balance of God's love and justice? The cross of Christ. In one of the hymns we sing as a church, we sing, "You who think of sin but lightly...Nor suppose the evil great...Here may view its nature rightly...Here its guilt may estimate...Mark the sacrifice appointed...See who bears the awful load. Who are we singing about? Christ, on the cross." At the cross, we see something of the depth of God's love (Rom. 5:8) and the seriousness of our sin. Take time to thank God for His incredible mercy and for His perfect justice...

Additional reading: Romans 3:23-26, Romans 2:4

2) Read [Hebrews 3:13-19](#)

If we are to endure to the end, to hold fast, we need the help of our brothers and sisters from our local church. We are to 'exhort one another' which means to come alongside and to warn and to encourage (the very thing Hebrews is designed to do!). How can we cultivate relationships? With God's help we should strive to build relationships with others at First Baptist Church that are:

- 1) *Biblical* – Centered on God's word, we should regularly be discussing, studying, memorizing and applying God's word to fight temptation and think rightly about God.
- 2) *Honest* – We should be confessing sin to each other, sharing our joys and sorrows not just when asked, but whenever we're in need.
- 3) *Regular* – Hebrews says we should do this 'every day, as long as it's called today'!
- 4) *Available* – Am I able and likely to meet with this person(s)? Is my schedule so busy that I'm unavailable?
- 5) *Intentional* – Whether formal or informal, we must work to build diverse, selfless and loving relationships.

Additional Reading: Proverbs 27:5-6, 27:10

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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