

## **Hebrews – A Superior Look from Heaven**

### **Week 7 – Hebrews 3:12-19**

#### **Hebrews 3:12**

- **What does the writer of Hebrews warn Christians to guard?**
  - Heart
- In order to fall away from something, means you had to be there in the first place. Now the fact, he uses the term brethren shows that this is speaking to Christians. And the writer he is letting you know to guard that heart.
- What the writer wants you to realize here is that you should be learning the lessons that were learned by the Israelites in the wilderness and that we should not make the same mistakes. “Foolish is the man who will not learn from others.” There is a likelihood of falling away if one is not careful.
- **How can we tell this is a personal message to all Hebrew Christians?**
  - Any one of you
- These kinds of warnings are scattered throughout the scripture. Let take a look at a few.
  - I Corinthians 10:5-10
  - I Corinthians 10:12
- **So what is it that can cause a person to obtain an evil, unbelieving heart?**
- Sin can cause a person to contract an evil, unbelieving heart. Sin can cause a person to start to drift away from the word of God. Sin can cause a person’s heart grow callous and eventually fall away from the Living God.
- Dwight Moody had a great quotation – “The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.”
- That is why God wants us to put away the sin and the desires of the flesh out of our lives.
  - Romans 8:12-13
    - So if you are living by the flesh, you must die. What do we think the word must means here?
    - So what are some of these deeds of the flesh?
  - Galatians 5:19-21
    - God wants us to get rid of all of these deeds of the flesh, which can only be done with a focus on Jesus Christ and by using the Holy Spirit’s help.

#### **Hebrews 3:13**

- **What does the writer of Hebrews mention here as a remedy for sin?**
- Encourage one another – or exhort is how we help each other to get there.

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- This means we need to give each other pep talks. Is it an easy world out there? Isn't it easy for some to fall into temptation and to let the lusts of this world sweep them away? Is it written somewhere that "bad company corrupts good morals?" (I Corinthians 15:33).
- People need pep talks. Big corporations pay big money to bring in motivational speakers each year to get their people hyped up about the company and about their products. Well we have the greatest product and we have the greatest motivational teacher that ever lived.
- **How often should we be encouraging each other?**
- Day after Day
  - God realizes what an evil world that we live in. He understands that most of the people in the world are rebellious toward Him. That is why He would like us to be hanging around other Christian people so we can receive this constant encouragement day by day.
  - God understands that it is only with great difficulty that the righteous are saved (I Peter 4:18). And he realizes that Christians need to be exhorted.
  - This is what Timothy was told to do in the second letter that Paul wrote to him.
    - II Timothy 4:1-2
  - This was also mentioned in the scripture when looking at the qualifications of elders.
    - Titus 1:7-9
  - So exhorting or encouraging is very important in this thing called the church of Christ and it needs to be done everyday.
- So that none of you will become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
  - Make no mistake about it – sin is deceitful. And sin can cause that hardness of heart as we read about earlier.
  - There are millions in the world out there that are going to try and lead you astray. And the Bible warns against this over and over as well.
    - Matthew 24:24
      - Now if you interpret the scripture correctly, this is not an event that is going to occur before the second coming of Christ but was to happen before the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.
      - But notice that it speaks to the fact that many false Christs and prophets would arise to lead away many of the Christians before the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.

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- Colossians 2:8
  - We need to be captives of Christ and not captives of men.
- **When does the decision to follow day after day need to be made?**
  - **Today**
  - Brethren, let us not become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin but let us follow the teaching of the scripture and listen to those that teach the scriptures.

#### Hebrews 3:14-15

- **What are Christians partakers of?**
- So we have become partakers of Christ if we hold fast firm until the end.
  - **What do you think this means?**
    - Ephesians 3:4-7
      - A long time ago we talked about the word promise – when the term is used by itself in the scripture it is usually in reference to the Indwelling Holy Spirit, which is what you see in this case. But notice that we get to be fellow partakers of the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ
    - But then notice that the scripture puts that big IF right in the middle of this statement. So we must stay faithful to the end of our lives.
      - Revelation 2:10-11
        - So it says the same thing here as well - The sufferings that we suffer are all apart of our testing and tribulation. But what do we need to do with these tribulations? We need to be faithful until death and not denounce Christ or to give up.
        - This is the message the Holy Spirit is giving to the churches – not once saved, always saved, but be faithful until death and you will receive the crown of life. Notice that these trials need to be overcome and if we do that, the second death will be of no consequence.
- **By the way, how many of the seven letters in Revelation say that we need to overcome to receive the prize (Hint: the answer is at least one)?** All of them
- So let's listen to the voice of the Lord and follow it and not harden our hearts but do what He says. We do not want to be lumped into the group of the Israelites from the wilderness that did not follow the word of the Lord and their carcasses and littered the landscape the wilderness.

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- Let's not test the Lord but follow the Lord. This is not the play ground we are talking about but the battle ground. This is not Disneyland we are talking about but the Promised Land - heaven.
- The today is put in here to make the reader realize the sense of urgency that comes along with others getting the gospel messages and the urgency of decisions that need to be made.

#### **Hebrews 3:16**

- **According to these two questions, how many of the Israelites was God angry with in the wilderness?**
  - **All of them**
- “Who” can be used in an interrogative sense and requires a question mark at the end.
- Or “Who” can also be an inadequate pronoun to some and requires a period at the end. So when you use the word the “some” it would appear there were many that did not provoke, but the group was tiny – Joshua and Caleb.
- However, whichever way you translate it, the rule is – avoid being like the Israelites and do what God says.

#### **Hebrews 3:17**

- **Who was God angry with while they were in the wilderness?**
  - Those who sinned
- **How many Israelites that were over the age of 20 came out of the wilderness and made it to the Promised Land?**
  - Numbers 26:63-65 (Numbers 14:29)
    - So only two of them made it into the Promised Land.
    - So everyone that was 20 years old or older would not be allowed to go into the promised land of Canaan. Funerals must have been a constant reminder to follow the word of God as a full generation died in the wilderness.

#### **Hebrews 3:18-19**

- **According to verse 18, who was the group that was not allowed to enter His rest?**
  - Those who were disobedient
- Disbelief or doubt displeases God. It breaks and/or is a barrier to fellowship.

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- Disbelief drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden
- Disbelief kept Israel in the wilderness.
- Disbelief keeps men away from God.
- **According to verse 19, why was this group not allowed to enter His rest?**
  - Because of their disbelief
- God had promised the land of Canaan to be a land flowing with milk and honey where there would be no oppression or bondage or any of those other things.
  - Deuteronomy 6:10-15
    - However those who entered Canaan performed the will of God like their parents so they really never enjoyed the rest there either.
- Notice you do not have to be a great worker of evil to be disqualified, only a disbeliever.
- **What two words are being linked together in these last two verses?**
- Notice that **believing and obedience** are tied together in these verses. If you believe, you will obey. If you don't believe, you will not obey or become rebellious.
- Also notice that these were people that were believers and then became unbelievers – backsliders. There is a huge difference in those who believe God and those that believe in God.
  - Romans 4:3
    - Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.
    - This same fact is also reiterated in Galatians 3:6 and James 2:23.
- Hosea 4:16
  - Some translations including the KJV translate the stubborn there as backsliding. So they were called the backsliding heifer according to the Lord Almighty.
- So to show our belief or faith, we must follow the word of God. We must heed the directions given in the pages of the New Testament and by our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us not prove ourselves to be backsliding or stubborn heifers but true and faithful children of God.

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**Hebrews 3:12**

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How can we tell this is a personal message to all Hebrew Christians?

I Corinthians 10:1-12

So what is it that can cause a person to obtain an evil, unbelieving heart?

Romans 8:12-13

**Hebrews 3:13**

What does the writer of Hebrews mention here as a remedy for sin?

How often should we be encouraging each other?

When does the decision to follow day after day need to be made?

**Hebrews 3:14-15**

What are Christians partakers of?

What do you think this means?

Ephesians 3:4-7

Revelation 2:10-11

By the way, how many of the seven letters in Revelation say that we need to overcome to receive the prize (Hint: the answer is at least one)?

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**Hebrews 3:16**

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**Hebrews 3:17**

Who was God angry with while they were in the wilderness?

How many Israelites that were over the age of 20 came out of the wilderness and made it to the Promised Land?

Numbers 26:63-65 (Numbers 14:29)

**Hebrews 3:18-19**

According to verse 18, who was the group that was not allowed to enter His rest?

According to verse 19, why was this group not allowed to enter His rest?

Deuteronomy 6:10-15

What two words are being linked together in these last two verses?

Hosea 4:16