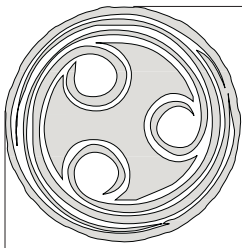


Warning #2 (Unbelief) Hebrews 3:7-19



sermonnotes

Introduction

Last week we were exhorted to consider Jesus, to put our mind carefully on whom He is, and what He has done for us. The author moves into his second warning passage, warning us that our unbelief will negate God's grace through His Son (**Hebrews 3:19**). Unbelief comes in many different forms, and is caused by a heart that is wracked with un-confessed sin, a condition of the "deceitfulness of sin" (see **Hebrews 3:13**). The story the author reminds us of comes from Psalm 95 and was used in liturgy in Old Testament gatherings to remind the people that not everyone who came out of Egypt with Moses entered into God's rest (heavenly kingdom). Not all who were freed from slavery decided to stay away from it (see **Matthew 12:43-45** cf. **Romans 6+7**). In order to stay faithful to God, it is imperative that we have a proper view of Jesus (which is what the author is trying to give us). A proper view of Jesus includes sound doctrine on who He is and an intimacy through prayer. Secondly, in order to stay faithful to God, we must choose obedience based on belief (trust) in God. Faithfulness is more than emotional and intellectual it is also volitional. Lastly, we remain faithful by being faithful to the community of faith (the church). When we isolate ourselves, we cut of our ability to grow spiritually. To this, Trappist monk Thomas Merton writes, "*Souls are like athletes that need opponents worthy of them if they are to be tried and extended and pushed to the full use of their power.*" We need each other, and as the bible teaches us, "*Iron sharpens iron,*" echoing what many developmental psychologists tells us, that we cannot grow without interaction with one another.

From The Head...

The Old Testament Illustration (Hebrews 3:7-11)

This text, Psalm 95, is the text that the author expounds on all the way through chapter four. Notice how he begins with, "*Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says...*" reminding us of other texts like **2 Timothy 3:16** and **2 Peter 1:21**, which concur with the origin of scripture. The bible's words, though written in the vernacular and style of the human author, are the words of the Holy Spirit Himself. This is why it is imperative for us to be devoted to God's word and prayer in order to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus. This Psalm, like Paul's writings in **1 Corinthians 10**, is an example and reminder that just because you have made a verbal commitment and carry out some of the religious requirements of the faith, doesn't mean that you know God. You can easily be just as hardened and unbelieving as someone who never graces the doors of the church. These verses in Psalms are clear allusions to the Jewish rebellion at "*Meribah*" and "*Massah*" (**Exodus 17 + Numbers 20** cf. **Psalms 95:7-8**).

The Personal Solution Against Unbelief (Hebrews 3:12-15)

The hardening of the heart begins in unbelief, and then works its way out as our hearts become deceived by sin, and the temptations we face. When we mistrust God, we give Satan a foothold into our souls. These verses provide for us a clear warning and the solution to guard against unbelief, and the destruction of our souls.

1. Check your heart (v. 12)
2. Help one another (v. 13)
3. Persevere in hope (v. 14)
4. Be proactive and act now (v. 15)

Six Questions (Hebrews 3:16-18)

1.. "Who provoked Him when they had heard?" The answer is: those who left Egypt in great hope. What began in hope has ended in hopelessness because of unbelief.

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2. "...And with whom was He angry for forty years?" Those who have sinned in unbelief have angered God, because they failed to trust Him for their needs.
3. "...And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest?" Those who disobey through rejection that will not "Know" God and have eternal rest. Unbelief always leads to the action of hardened hearts, and a loss of joy.

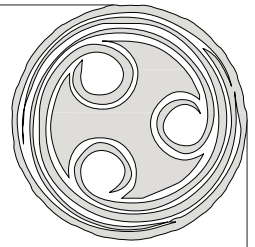
The Summary Issue (Hebrews 3:19)

When we do not trust God, our joy is robbed, and we cannot trust Him to live the life that God had intended. We live in bitterness, and hurt. We fail to forgive, because we have been hurt by one another, and can't trust God to fill heal hurt that we are experiencing, and fill us with peace and His joy in the midst of our hurt. Because of that we will not enter His rest, and find His peace.

These people moved from Hope to unbelief, and finally to disobedience, which has hardened your heart, and you can't come out of it, because you have lived a self centered life, and believe a self centered gospel, not seeing that Jesus humbled Himself, granted us forgiveness and grace, but we can't even move from our hurts to forgiving those that have hurt us, because we don't trust God, and we can't believe that he is who He is, and is capable of being our Father. I want you to meditate on these following verses from **1 Corinthians 10:1-6**, and began to ask yourself, have you experienced spiritual exodus in Christ? Have you been baptized in Christ? Is Christ your spiritual sustenance? Are you looking for your peace and rest in Christ?

"1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. 6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved."

Your unbelief is killing you, your relationship with God, and with the people around you. Christ stands before you and says that, **"Today if you hear His voice DO NOT harden your hearts..."**



... To The Heart

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