

The Book of Hebrews

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Hebrews 3:7-19

I. Introduction

1 Corinthians 10:6 – “Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.”

Physical Bondage/Egypt
Miracles/Plagues through Moses
Sacrificial Lamb/Passover
Israelites feed Manna
Israelites drink Water from Rock

Spiritual Bondage/Sin
Miracles through Jesus
Sacrificial Lamb is Jesus
Jesus is the Bread/Manna of Life
Jesus is the Living Water

Luke 9:30,31 – “And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his **departure**, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

II. Warnings of Hardness and Unbelief (v.7-15)

a) Example of Israel (v.7-11)

Therefore “to harden one’s heart” is to refuse to listen to or understand what someone is saying. Hardness of heart originates in unbelief leading to contempt for God and in turn to distinct behavioral patterns: negativism, grumbling, quarreling, disobedience, bitterness.

To avoid hardness of heart, we must submit to God’s authority and God’s Word. When we refuse to submit to God’s way is to put God to the test.

v.10 – Provoked/Angry - means strong displeasure, amounting to offence. It means to be very upset over something someone has done. God was offended at the actions of Israel. The idea is that of extreme anger and disgust.

b) Warning Against Unbelief (v.12-15)

Take care means perceive with your eyes. The idea is to be constantly observing with a view to avoiding or constantly looking at in the sense of continuing to be wary.

This evil heart of unbelief is a heart in which the evil of unbelief is present, not in a passive or latent state, but in an active, pernicious condition.

Falling away - literally means to stand off from, apostasy, to withdraw, forsake, depart from or remove oneself from.

Exhort One Another “Today”

One of the evidence of grace to stop us from getting a hard heart and stopping the deceitfulness of sin.

Deceitfulness of Sin

“This deceitfulness of sin should serve as a strong inducement to make us doubly watchful against it, and that because of our foolish disposition and proneness of nature to yield to every temptation. Sin presents itself in another dress than its own. It lyingly offers fair advantages. It insensibly bewitches our mind. It accommodates. Itself to each individual’s particular temperament and circumstances. It clothes its hideousness by assuming an attractive garb. It deludes us into a false estimate of ourselves. One great reason why God has mercifully given us His Word is to expose the real character of sin.” AW Pink

III. Results of Disobedience (v.16-19)

Israel’s great failure was to persevere in faith. After crossing much of the wilderness trusting in God, and after seeing so many reasons to trust in Him, they end up falling short - because they did not persevere in faith in God and His promise.

Jesus reminded us in the parable of the soils with the seeds cast on stony ground and among thorns: it isn’t enough to make a good beginning, real belief perseveres to the end. If we have made a good start, praise God; but how we finish is even more important than how we start.

IV. Conclusion

v.13 – This is critical verse!