

The Promise: Warning #2

Hebrews 3:7-19

Introduction:

I. Do not harden your heart (vv.7-11)

- A. Psalm 95:7-11
1. This Psalm was written for the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) for the people to remember to focus on Worship and be regularly warned of disbelief as they annually remembered the wilderness experience and God's faithfulness and promised rest (Canaan)
 2. The "rebellion" is marked at Meribah, where the children of Israel complained for a lack of water
 3. **Exodus 17:1-7**
 4. This is the first encounter with water, the rock, and Meribah. The second encounter was after Sinai, back through Meribah, and God commanded Moses just to speak to the rock. Instead, Moses struck the rock again, and water flowed, but Moses is forbidden from entering the rest of Canaan.

- B. Holy Urgency
1. The Holy Spirit says
 2. Today...if you hear
- C. Nature of Hardening is Rebellion
1. Rebellion is unbelief
 2. Unbelief is a heart issue
 3. Unbelief incenses God and incurs His wrath

II. The Evil of Unbelief (vv.12-19)

- A. Be careful (v.12)
1. Why be careful? God is the same yesterday, today, forever
 2. Trials will come
 3. Evil is bound to an unbelieving heart
 4. The danger of unbelief is falling away from the living God
- B. Unbelief must be battled against (v. 13-14)
1. The church should seek to insure that all of her membership persevere
 2. Unbelief is the battle the church wages against...for each other
 3. Understanding Sin's strategy
 4. Assurance in the midst of Warning

- C. The Illustration (**vv.15-19**)
1. Considering the comparison of Christ with Moses earlier in this chapter, this example makes perfect sense
 2. The continuation is not, however, in promoting Christ's supremacy directly, rather it is a warning against unbelief
 3. We must understand, though, that Glorifying God is realized in believing in and on Christ (God is glorified the most in our treasuring Christ above all things)
 4. This is not for the spiritually elite - this is core to being a believer
 5. Next week we are going to look more closely at this OT example (**vv.16-19**) to warn and teach us to examine our lives, because Satan's deceptive work is to produce in us disbelief, because this subverts the glory of God. (note: something of the progression of deceit)
 6. What do we see thus far in Hebrews to help us understand the nature of saving belief?

Where do you run? Who do you long for? Is His Word enough?

Perhaps you find yourself not believing in God. Perhaps you feel that He has let you down and burned you. Perhaps you are now realizing that pain is a kindness leading to repentance. Momentary affliction doesn't compare to hell. Wake up and run to the cross, knowing that this perfect holy God has created you to glorify Him. You must realize that you are unworthy of any good thing, indeed a sinner apart from God. You must trust that Jesus is true and died the death you deserve because God hates unbelief. Then, repent and have faith in Him. Stop looking to the world for satisfaction, and look to Christ alone.

Believer, be encouraged! Church, arise and exhort one another with the gospel to keep going and not give up. It is difficult and it will be painful, but to persevere and have assurance of life with the Living God is priceless!

CONCLUSION:

- Are you in a trial right now? Are you thirsty? Careful. What (or Who) you find your satisfaction in is telling of your present hope. Believe in God. Trust in who Christ is and what He's accomplished on your behalf. This time is a heart issue.