

Today Hebrews 3

Hebrews 3 Introduction

- Moses led Israel out of Egypt.
- Unfortunately, not everyone who he led out of Egypt made it to the Promised Land.
- A whole generation died in the wilderness because of their unbelief.

- Many people make initial commitments to Jesus Christ.
- This can be compared to taking that initial step out of Egypt.
- But how many will reach that place of rest and blessing in their relationship with God?
- Many are content with a faithless, fruitless, and ultimately useless Christian experience.

- The time to do something about that is **Today!**

Hebrews 3 Outline

- I. Moses is great, but Jesus is greater. 3:1-6
- II. Hold fast to your faith in Jesus. 3:7-15
- III. Make sure that you enter His rest. 3:16-19

Moses is great, but Jesus is greater. 3:1-6

- 3:1 **Apostle** Only here about Jesus
- The Gospel of John repeatedly emphasizes that Christ was “sent” to us from God.
- **High Priest** emphasizing the sacrificial nature of Christ’s mission.
- In His role as apostle, Christ is God’s messenger to us.
- In His role as High Priest, He approaches God the Father on our behalf.

- 3:5 **servant** This is a word used only here in the New Testament.
- *“It denotes a faithful friend to a superior, who solicitously regards the superior’s interest or looks after his affairs, not a common or domestic servant.” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)*

- 3:5-6 Moses is here portrayed as the best servant God ever had.
- But Jesus Christ is the Son.
- By virtue of who He is, He holds a higher position than Moses – a position of greater honor.

Hold fast to your faith in Jesus. 3:7-15

- 3:7 From here to 4:13 we have a long Warning Passage – the second in Hebrews.
- The author attributes the words of Psalm 95 to the **Holy Spirit**.
- An anonymous human author wrote the Psalm – just like the letter to the Hebrews.
- As Scripture, both of them claim a divine origin behind the human author.
- They are given to us by the inspiration of God.

- 3:10 **Heart** in the Bible refers to more than the seat of the emotions.
- The thoughts, the mind, the feeling and will are all involved.
- The people were guilty of not knowing God’s ways – which was a case of willful ignorance.
- God had spoken, but they simply refused to listen or obey.

- 3:11 Tragically, a whole generation never entered God’s rest because God disallowed it.
- Read **Psalm 95**.
- God calls His people to worship.
- A beautiful relationship with Him is always available, but not everyone is always willing to come.

- 3:12-15 Remember, these Jewish believers were not tempted to walk away from Christ into atheism or paganism, but to the traditional form of their own “biblical” religion.
- They were not rejecting belief in God – or even the God of Israel – just an active faith in Christ.
- This, the author equates with “departing from the living God.”
- Holding fast to our confidence in Christ will be the mark of it.

Make sure that you enter His rest. 3:16-19

- 3:16-19 God intended more for Israel than simply departing from Egypt.
- They needed faith to enter into the life He had planned for them in the Promised Land.
- In perhaps the saddest case of majority rule ever, they never made it in.
- The people were saved from Egypt, but never settled in Canaan.

- To see the conclusion of this point, we need to read on into Chapter 4.
- 4:1-2 For us, there is a place of spiritual rest and relaxation in our relationship with God – a confident relationship with Christ.
- He wants us to enter into it by faith.
- At this point we are less striving to please Him and more simply submitting to His will.

Hebrews 3 Conclusions

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ allows for several possible outcomes in our lives.
 - A person may be exposed to Christianity but willfully reject Christ.
 - A person may adhere to an outward form of Christianity, without a real relationship with Christ.
 - A person may have a real relationship with Christ, but allow that relationship to grow distant.

- When a person begins to take a friendship for granted, it often happens that they no longer put any effort into the relationship.
- Soon the friendship stagnates and can even get to the point where it no longer matters.
- The friendship is no longer active.
- The relationship is no longer real.

- If we take our relationship with Christ for granted it can disintegrate in the same way.
- Our faith can get to the place where it is no longer active and our relationship with Him is no longer a matter of daily importance.
- Rather than new and exciting challenges, we end up wandering in the wilderness.
- Rather than joyful worship, we continually walk in the desert.

- We should genuinely fear this possibility.
- Don't harden your heart through the deceitfulness of sin.
- Don't refuse, like the Israelites of old, to enter that place of rest, relaxation and joyful worship of God.
- And encourage one another daily – while it is called “today” to hold fast to your faith in Christ at all costs.

- Finally, let's read the following passages:
 - **Romans 13:11-14**
 - **2 Corinthians 6:1-2**