

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 2ND, 2025 // HEBREWS

GOD'S HOUSEHOLD (HEBREWS 3:1-6) CO-LABORERS OF A HEAVENLY CALLING

The author calls the readers of Hebrews "brothers and sisters, who share in a heavenly calling." This is a reminder that we are all called to be active participants in a divine plan of God.

- Jesus is committed to "bringing many sons and daughters to glory" (Hebrews 2:10) and we should commit ourselves to the same.

"CONSIDER JESUS..."

This command from the author is meant for us to look intently into what it means that Jesus is the "apostle" and "high priest." The Gk. word for apostle means an *ambassador*, showing that **Jesus is God's representative to us**. As our High Priest, **Jesus is our representative before God**.

- Jesus is the perfect revelation of God, showing us how we are to respond to God.

JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO MOSES

Jesus was faithful to the Father, who appointed Him, just as Moses was faithful in his ministry to God's household (the people of God).

- Though they were both faithful, Jesus is "worthy of more glory" because the "builder has more honor than the house." Christ was the builder of the house that Moses led and was a part of. **The Creator is worthy of more glory than creation.**

SON AND A SERVANT

Moses was a faithful servant who pointed toward the things the Messiah would reveal with greater clarity.

- Jesus, the Son of God, creator and heir to God's household, is worthy of more glory than Moses, a faithful servant in God's household. **Jesus stood in authority over God's house where Moses was merely in God's house.**

CONDITIONAL "IF" STATEMENT

V. 6 says, "we are that household if we hold on to our confidence and the hope in which we boast."

- If we hold on to our commitment to Christ and do not turn away because of difficulties, then we will be counted as one in his household. **True commitment to Christ is displayed through obedience over the long term and not just an initial burst** (Philippians 1:6).
- 1 Peter 2:4-5

REBELLION (HEBREWS 3:7-11)

"TODAY, IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE..."

The author quoted Psalm 95:7-11 for the church to **examine the actions and consequences of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt** and to **listen when we hear His voice**.

- When we hear the Spirit speak through His Word to the hearts of His People, or through those in the household, **we must hear His voice and not harden our hearts.**

"DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS"

The author is encouraging the readers not to repeat what happened to God's people under the leadership of Moses in the wilderness.

- We harden our hearts through **indifference, unbelief, seeking signs, and believing we can sin without consequence because we can ask for forgiveness** (Romans 6:1; 1 John 3:9).

"THE DAY OF TESTING IN THE WILDERNESS"

The Israelites were rescued from Egypt (Exodus 17:1-7) and quickly failed in their first trial at Meribah (Numbers 20:1-13). They refused to trust and enter the Promised Land during the Exodus (Numbers 13:30-14:10).

- Because of their unbelief and rebellion, **a generation died in the wilderness** (Numbers 14:22-23, 28-32).

YES, GOD GETS ANGRY!

God was provoked to anger on account of their unbelief and rebellion. They refused to remember all He had done during their time in the wilderness, and they refused to trust Him for the things He had promised.

- God's anger is not like ours. He is patient and long-suffering. His anger is always **just, and it is slow to arrive**.

HOLD FIRMLY (HEBREWS 3:12-14)

"ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED?"

Whether this portion was written to Christian "brothers and sisters" or racial "brothers and sisters," the warning is the same. **True saving faith is evident through enduring temptation, trusting God, and refusing to let sin and deception harden our hearts.**

- Instead of asking, "Can we choose to walk away from God?" let us ask, "Am I growing in my relationship with Christ?"

"WHILE IT IS STILL CALLED TODAY"

We are reminded of our responsibility to **give and receive encouragement daily**.

- If we are out of community with other Believers, we are unable to give and receive encouragement. To strengthen our faith and ensure we are not "hardened by sin's deception," we must be in the **Christian community**.

ANOTHER CONDITIONAL STATEMENT

V. 14 says, "we have become participants in Christ if we hold firmly until the end the reality that we had at the start."

- To be a participant in Christ means we are partakers of **all** of Christ. We participate in His **obedience, suffering, death, resurrection, victory, plan, ministry, glory, and inheritance**.

"PARTICIPANTS IN CHRIST"

Our relationship to Christ as Believers is described as a **stone cemented to the foundation** (Ephesians 2:20-22).

- Jesus used the metaphor "I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5) to show His relationship with His disciples.
- Our relationship to Christ is like **a wife being married to her husband** (Ephesians 5).

UNBELIEF (HEBREWS 3:15-19)

"TODAY..."

For the third time, we see the urgency to address the Spirit's call with the use of "today."

- We are to **listen when God speaks**. We are to **respond through obedience** immediately when He speaks. To delay obedience is taking a risk that we cannot afford (Proverbs 27:1), and, in our delay, we are still being disobedient.

"DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS"

Being captive in Egypt was not what hardened the hearts of the Israelites, nor was it their time in the wilderness. It was through rejection of God and rebellion that their hearts were hardened.

- It is not what happens to us that hardens our hearts, but **we choose to harden our hearts in response to what happens to us**.

"FOR WHO HEARD AND REBELLED?"

Look at the great privilege the first generation of Jews exiting Egypt had: the plagues in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and manna from heaven. All but two of the first generation (Joshua and Caleb) perished in the wilderness.

- Now look at the great privilege we have! We are a privileged people, and **we cannot squander the opportunities that we have**.

"UNABLE TO ENTER BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF"

It was not that they did not believe in God, because they did! They were unable to enter because they did not believe God.

- Their disobedience was born out of not believing God would keep His word. **If we constantly exhibit disobedience to what God promises** (both positive and negative), **we show that we have unbelief**.

SHIFTING PRIORITIES

- Our priorities must be Christ (the will of God) at the top, with everything else falling under Him. If we are not obeying the commands and plans of Christ, we will fall into ruin and disbelief, just like those who perished in the wilderness.
- Knowing who Jesus is and what He has done should help keep us from falling into the same discouragement the Hebrews fell into.

SHIFTING OUR FOCUS

- The "unexpected" in life has a way of shifting our focus when we have been myopic. A natural disaster, a tragedy hitting close to home, job loss, sickness, losing a loved one, and personal difficulties can be the catalysts that helps us reassess our priorities and come to share in Christ (3:14). **Let's assess our priorities without the "unexpected" event**.