

The Book of Hebrews

Chapter Three

Better Than Moses

I. Chapter Two Memory Verse:

Hebrews 3:12 *“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”*

II. Lesson – Chapter Three

A. Holy Brethren (3:1)

1. Those in the Jewish Nation who fear and believe God
2. Partakers of the _____ (Cf 2 pet 1:4)
 - a. A calling to follow God like Abraham was called
 - b. Partakers of the Holy Ghost (Cf Acts 10:44-47)
 - c. What is the "heavenly calling"?
 - 1) To follow Jesus Christ, just like the Jews followed Moses!
 - 2) In general, the calling is for people to be sons of God, heirs of salvation, brothers of Christ.
 - 3) We are called to be partakers of the Person, image, and Glory of God Almighty.
3. Consider...
 - a. This is the purpose of the entire Book of Hebrews!
 - b. To get us to examine, search out, test and decide whether all these things are true!

B. Jesus Christ is Greater than _____ (3:1-6)

1. Moses was the greatest teacher, greatest Levite, greatest man of the Old Testament
2. Paul presents Jesus as far greater!
3. Jesus is THE Apostle
 - a. The “_____” from God
 - b. God’s Ambassador (Jn 20:21) – spokesman for God
 - c. Just as Moses was!
4. Jesus is THE _____ of a Jew’s profession – of what a Jew is supposed to believe (Heb 7:25)
5. Jesus was faithful just as Moses was
 - a. To doing God’s will (Ex 40:16; John 8:29)
 - b. In all his house – that which he was responsible for – like a steward is responsible
6. Jesus earned more glory and honour than Moses
 - a. Because the Messiah _____ the house (nation) that Moses only served and wrote about – the HOUSE of Israel
 - b. Compared with building an actual house
 - 1) Not there by accident, but designed and built by someone
 - 2) A great house is awesome
 - 3) But the BUILDER is greater than the house he built!
 - 4) So, Christ, and GOD especially is greater than Moses
7. Moses was a faithful servant – earned the Jew’s trust
8. Moses pointed forward, to the coming Messiah (Dt 18:18)

- a. The coming Messiah was referred to as “One like unto me”
 - b. Called the Prophet
 - c. Everything in the Old Testament Law and in the Temple was about the Messiah
 - d. They were all only shadows of the true (Heb 10:1; 8:5; 9:9)
9. The Messiah is the Head of our NEW house... IF...
- a. We Jews must hold fast, hold firm – don’t stop believing, not letting go of what we are supposed to believe (Heb 4:14)
 - b. The confidence – that the Jews are supposed to have in God’s _____
 - c. Of the hope (Acts 26:6,7; 28:20) – a better hope than offered in the Old Testament (Heb 7:19)
 - d. Unto the end, NOT of an age, or of time itself!
 - e. NONE of the above is about the GOSPEL
 - 1) It is possible to forget the Gospel (2Pet 1:9) and still be saved
 - 2) No one could by works OBTAIN eternal life (Eph 2:8,9)
 - 3) And no one by works can KEEP eternal life
 - f. This “end” is referring to following the truths of the NEW Covenant to their end, to their conclusions, even if they demolish all the Old Testament sacrifices and traditions that the Jews were used to!

C. Losing Our Way – Coming Short (3:7-19)

- 1. The author of Scripture is the Holy Ghost
- 2. The application of Old Testament Scripture (Rom 15:4)
 - a. Today – not just way back THEN
 - b. If YE will hear His voice – the Jews who were reading this Scripture
 - c. Notice the FREE WILL
 - d. Whose voice are we to be hearing today?
 - 1) The voice of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2) How difficult it is for humans to wait on the voice of the Spirit of God! How much more would we prefer to take hold of the program and make it work!
 - e. A serious warning – _____!
- 3. So, What BIG THING is the Christian NOT supposed to do?
 - a. _____.
 - b. He is not to provoke God to anger by murmuring, _____, and returning to the filthy, fruitless ways of the world.
 - c. He is not to keep testing God by saying that God cannot solve this problem, God cannot solve that problem.
 - d. God has solved all our problems in the past when we have prayed about them. Let us have faith in the present and in the future that what Christ has begun in our life He will finish gloriously.
- 4. The Results of Hard Hearts (3:7-19)
 - a. Effect on Israel Back Then (3:7-11)
 - 1) In The provocation – the day of temptation
 - a) 2 years of testings
 - b) Total of 40 years in the wilderness
 - c) A test for Israel as a nation

- d) It was a temptation for GOD too! Their actions provoked God to wrath and to the point of wanting to destroy them!
- 2) The proving time
- a) Their constant disobedience only proved God’s faithfulness to His covenants
 - b) Q: How faithful are YOU to those who offend YOU?
 - c) They experienced some hardships
 - (i) Lack of water
 - (ii) Lack of food
 - (iii) Hard time just travelling
 - d) Yet, they saw God’s faithfulness for 40 years
 - (i) Fed them
 - (ii) Gave them water from a Rock
 - (iii) Cleansed poisoned waters
 - (iv) Kept their clothes from growing old
 - (v) Kept their shoes from wearing out
 - (vi) Fought for them and defended them
 - (vii) Gave them clear directions
 - (viii) Gave them purpose and goals
 - (ix) Blessed them with children
 - (x) Gave them Moses to teach them
 - e) But they never accepted God’s faithfulness – never admitted that He was good to them
 - f) They ALWAYS found _____ with God
 - g) They became like the Pharaoh that they had been freed from!
 - h) THAT is a Satanic attitude!
- 3) The Results of a Hard Heart
- a) It grieved God – God has serious emotions (see Gen 6)
 - b) It was a heart problem – not food problem, or foot problem – they erred, sinned in and from their hearts
 - c) It was a stubbornness problem – never wanting to learn GOD’S ways
 - d) So, God repented – _____!
 - (i) God’s will was for that generation to get into the Promised Land
 - (ii) But not anymore!
 - (iii) They lost their place in God’s will, not their salvation
 - (iv) Their salvation was by the blood of the lamb back in Egypt
 - (v) God backed away from them, and left them to wander, and ultimately to die out of the perfect will of God – just like MOST Christians today!!!
- b. The Effect of Hard Hearts on US Today (3:12-19)
- 1) Paul speaks to his “brethren” the Jews as a group – saved and lost
 - 2) Used the same warnings given to Israel 1,500 years earlier
 - 3) Warns them to not blow THIS chance at “getting in”
 - 4) The “evil heart”
 - a) Is hard towards God – did not want to even hear Him speak to them
 - b) Is hard towards people
 - c) Is hard towards spiritual leaders – as they were towards Moses
 - d) Is an unbelieving heart

- e) Is a departing heart – constantly wanting to go back to “Egypt” – back to the old life you had before the Passover Lamb!
- c. In what way can a Christian "harden" his or her heart?
 - 1) By not allowing the Holy Spirit to lead him to spiritual maturity according to what is written in the Scriptures.
 - 2) By thinking God’s way is wrong, and choosing to go our own way
 - 3) THAT always leads to a harder and harder heart
- 5. How Not to Fail to Get Into the New Covenant
 - a. _____ one another
 - 1) To exhort is to “_____”
 - 2) Make it your ministry to keep others from getting hard hearts
 - 3) Allow others to exhort YOU
 - b. Hear God’s voice
 - 1) This is still a very Jewish context
 - 2) Asking them to listen for GOD’S voice – not Jesus’ like Christians are supposed to
 - 3) Read Psalms 95:7,8; Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:1-3; Deuteronomy 6:16.
 - c. Trust God’s will and His word to you
 - 1) God’s will is to get you somewhere – not just heaven
 - 2) His word should be enough for you to rely on
 - d. NOTE: there is great devotional, and practical application to all of this, but only after you have known the doctrinal application!!!
 - 1) How not to fail as a Christian
 - 2) How not to fail the will of God for your life
 - 3) Etc.
- 6. The Hebrew Nation Can be “Partakers” of Christ, IF... (3:14)
 - a. “WE” (not Christians, but the Hebrews)
 - b. Are made partakers (in 3:1, it sounded like they all were saved, but it was a generalisation, not a fact)
 - c. The conditions for Israel getting into the New Covenant
 - 1) Hold to – firmly believe
 - 2) The beginning of our confidence – what was promised in the Law
 - 3) Steadfastly – not giving up like Israel did in the wilderness
 - 4) Unto the end – to the conclusion – that a New Covenant had to be entered into
 - 5) As a nation – not just individuals
 - d. This will ultimately happen, DURING the _____, but unfortunately not before (Rom 11:26; Isa 45:17; 66:8; Jer 23:5,6)
- 7. The example of only Joshua and Caleb holding to their confidence (3:15,16)
 - a. Holding to your confidence means believing EVERY word, every promise God makes – not thinking some are too tough to accept!
 - b. The entire nation of Israel failed to believe God enough to go forward into the Promised Land
 - c. God had made promises
 - d. But only Moses, Joshua and Caleb believed those first promises

- e. And they were willing to go forward, and fight to the death to obtain those promises
 - f. Notice how WRONG the new translations are in correcting this verse (3:16)!!!
 - g. So, Who was it who heard God and then rebelled? Was it REALLY “all those who were led out of Egypt by Moses?”
8. Just as it was with Old Testament (Old Covenant) Israel, so is it with New Testament Israel
- a. They rejected God’s work in their midst in Christ
 - b. They hardened their hearts towards God’s Son, and His followers
 - c. They provoked God to kill them
 - d. They grieved God for extended periods of time
 - e. All of this was SIN! God calls their heart attitude a DEALY sin
 - f. They did not believe God (not that they didn’t believe IN God), but they didn’t believe His ways were/are perfect! They always thought they knew better!
9. In summary, their problem in their heart was _____!
10. But chapter 4 proves that Jesus CAN and will succeed to get the Jews into the New Covenant, and into the Millennium!

III. Questions from Chapter Three

- A. What is the "heavenly calling"? _____
- B. Who "appointed" Christ? _____.
- C. In what ways did Christ demonstrate His faithfulness to God the Father? _____
- D. Why is Christ "counted worthy of more glory than Moses"? _____.
- E. Whose voice are we to be hearing today? _____.
- F. What BIG THING is the Christian NOT supposed to do? _____
- G. In what way can a Christian "harden" his or her heart? _____
- H. In what ways did the "fathers" tempt God? _____
- I. What is the "rest" of God? _____
- J. What will an evil heart of unbelief cause us to do? _____.
- K. Who is directed to exhort whom each day? _____