

Living Word

Date: March 16, 2008

Topic: Hebrews 3 - Hold Fast to the Christ

Announcements

Prayer

Teaching

Small Groups

Announcements -

Youth Website - www.dundeeyouth.org

High School

DPC tonight!!!

Junior High

Mission Course - applications are out, and we only have 9 spots so sign up as fast as possible, show video

Living Word

Every week at 10!!!

Prayer

Memory Verse

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. - Hebrews 11:1

Review

Go over the Memory Verse.

What did we learn in Chapter 2? Who can tell me?

Summary of Chapter 3.

Teaching

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Okay, what do we see there in the first verse that should make us think? He says *Therefore* which means what? So essentially the author is building on things he's already said. He's proving his point even further. He's given his thesis and now he's backing it up with proof. There's also some other things to note. First of all, who is the author talking to? *Holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling.* Jesus is in whom we confess. Let's turn to Romans 10:9 and 10 really quick.

2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. 3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses,

Jesus is faithful to the one who sent Him just like Moses was; God being the one who sent them both. Let's turn to Acts 3:18-21. But Jesus deserves more honor than Moses - why? Because he is not just *a* prophet, He's not just *a* High Priest, He is the very Word of God incarnate. He *is* the way ... He is the Truth ... He is the life; and like we talked about last week as Revelation 4 says that He is to receive glory, honor, and power.

just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. 4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

Think of the Sistine Chapel. It's beauty, it's grandeur, but it was created by someone wasn't it? Does Michaelangelo get more honor since he's the one who did it? Or what about Mt. Vernon. It's this beautiful place that sits right on the bluffs of the Potomac. But we think of George Washington as being the one who built it. It's amazing to look at the mountains and the seas and all of creation, but all those things didn't create themselves. God created them. And how did God create them? Chapter 1 tells us that He created them through Jesus, through the commandment of creation.

5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house.

Moses was a mediator, a prophet, and a leader. Jesus is *the* mediator, *the fulfilled prophecy*, and *the head* over all things. Let's look at Revelation 19:11-16. Moses was part of the chosen, whereas Jesus is the sovereign Lord over the chosen; the head of the church. Let's look at Colossians 1:17-18.

And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Who is the house of the living God? We are. As long as we hold on to our courage and hope in Christ.

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, 9 where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. 10 That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

Here starting in verse 7 and going through verse 11 we see the author again quoting the OT to affirm Christ's superiority in all things. He quotes Psalm 95:7-11 (Exodus 17 and Numbers 20).

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Think about what it says in verse 1 about fixing your hearts on Christ. That if we run the race and stay the course Christ will come through. The author of Hebrews is making a distinction to the fact that there are people in this congregation who aren't truly changed ... folks who aren't circumcised of the heart. And he's telling them to keep pushing through, to build one another up, to foster each others faith and cling to the risen Christ. Have you guys ever stopped to think that some people in a church might not be christians? It's a hard truth to think about, but there's too much Scripture to back it up. Just because people go to church does not mean that they are believers. Let's turn to the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13 (verses 18-23). So there are people who profess to be Christians, but aren't.

Now we have to think about something here because there are some big questions that arise. It says in verse 7 that the *Holy Spirit* says this. We

believe that God is the one who calls people to Himself, that He makes them new, and changes their hearts from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh. If it's God that saves people, and God alone who does the work, then can we as people do anything to fall away from the faith? No we can't! This passage is exhorting the believers to not get disheartened ... that there's still a mission to fulfill ... and God is still present.

14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. 15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." 16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

It's not as though people will not have ample evidence of Jesus. Creation alone supports that there is a God. Then, the Scripture gives us the revealed Word. It tells us of a God who loves those whom He's chose so much that He was willing to send us His Son, let Him be beaten, dragged up a hill, nailed to a cross, and died. This same God then brought His Son *back to life* on the third day. For a time of forty days His disciples and friends witnessed him in body and flesh. During that time and even before, Jesus promised the coming of His Spirit, which he sent 10 days after God took Him from earth to sit at His mighty right hand. We now have that Spirit and live in His love spreading the gospel to those who haven't heard.

Summary

Accompanying Text

Romans 10:9-10

Acts 3:18-21

Revelation 4

Revelation 19:11-16

Matthew 13:18-23