

Sermon Notes

There Is No Reason to Turn Back! ***An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews***

#11 – “Beware of an Unbelieving Heart” – Hebrews 3:12-19

I. Introduction

- A. Losing sheep is difficult for a pastor.
 - 1. Sheep become lost for all manner of reasons.
 - 2. Pastor Don’s opening comment in his dissertation.
 - 3. Worse still are those sitting in the pews, but not believing what is preached from the pulpit.
- B. Today’s study has brought us to a sober warning.
 - 1. Today, If you hear His voice do not harden your heart.
 - a. Hebrews 3:15; 3:7-8
 - 2. The rebellion of Israel cited harks back to Exodus 17 and Numbers 14.
- C. Today’s text: Hebrews 3:12-19

II. Exposition

- A. Hebrews 3:12
 - 1. Do not follow the example of the Israelites.
 - 2. Do not reject known truth.
 - 3. “Brethren” – not a reference to Christians as in 3:1 (“Holy Brethren”). Reference to racial or unbelieving Jews.
 - a. Unbelief is a great sin.
 - 4. “Unbelieving heart” – Results in severe punishment.
 - a. Hebrews 6:6
- B. Hebrews 3:13
 - 1. “Encourage” – Greek from PARAKALEO and used by Jesus of the Holy Spirit – PARAKLETOS – the Helper.
 - 2. “Today” – There is a sense of regularity.
 - 3. “Deceitfulness of sin” – trickery or strategy.
 - a. The anatomy of sin – attraction filled with D_____ M_____ B_____.
 - b. John MacArthur.
- C. Hebrews 3:14

- 1. True believers make it to the end – John 8:31; I John 2:19
- D. Hebrews 3:16 (Note sequence of verses is out of order)
 - First point – A good beginning does not ensure a good ending.
 - 1. Hardship can be a validation with respect to faith.
 - 2. Emotional experiences of the pasts are insufficient to validate legitimate faith.
 - 3. James Boice

E. Hebrews 3:15

Second Point – How dreadful it is to become hard hearted toward God.

- 1. Hard hearts are not easily penetrated.

F. Hebrews 3:17-18

Third point – Note the reality of God’s wrath against sin.

- 1. God’s wrath is out of vogue today – J. I. Packer.
- 2. Hebrews 12:29
- 3. Illustration from all who died in the wilderness.
 - a. Romans 6:23; Psalm 90:3-12

G. Hebrews 3:19

- 1. The logical mind and the conclusion on unbelief.
- 2. People do not believe because they do not have enough evidence. They do not believe because they have a vested interest in unbelief.
 - a. Desire to sin.
- 3. We live life by faith all the time.

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Lack of evidence is not the cause of unbelief.
- B. If the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), then were all of the Israelites who died in the wilderness also consigned to Hell?
- C. Sin advertises pleasure, but brings pain. Why do men and women so easily take the bait?
- D. Encourage those around you to move toward the cross who may be tempted to not walk in the faith.
 - 1. Hebrews 3:13