

Title: The Danger of Unbelief

Text: Hebrews 3:12-13

Take your Bibles and open it up to that great Jewish book of the N.T. The Book of Hebrews....We left you out in the wilderness last week. And I am sorry to say that we are going to leave you there today. <sup>in fact</sup> It will be awhile before we get out of it. Perhaps that in and of itself is a type. Because it was quite awhile before the children of Israel got out of the wilderness. 40 years they were in the wilderness. But, cheer<sup>UP</sup>, we will not be that long in chapter 3 and 4.....(Ha).....Lord willing.....

Hebrews 3 beginning at Vs 12 and reading through Vs 13.....There are notes in your bulletin. And I would invite you to use them as we study God's Word together.....

### HEBREWS 3:12-13

#### PRAYER

Last week we ~~discussed~~ <sup>studied</sup> Verse 1-11 of chapter 3 as the second warning passage in Hebrews. All 5 warning passages are very difficult in interpretation. They usually are based on the context of O.T. history and what happened to the Jews in the past. But, it is obvious, also, that application to the readers ~~who~~ who received this letter when it was originally written.

I believe it applies to us, also.

*The Book was written to*

~~They~~ were Jewish believers who were tempted to go back to Judaism. *The safe Haven is*

Because ~~the~~ of the persecution that was happening to Christians. Persecution also came to the Jews following the writing of this book. It happened around 70 A.D. At that time Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman armies. So, Hebrews was written sometime before 70 A.D. and the destruction of Jerusalem.....They were Jewish believers. And they were concerned about the persecution that was already taking place among Christians.

So, there was a temptation for Jewish believers to return to the safe haven of Judaism. ~~At~~ least, Judaism wasn't under persecution right now.

So, all the illustrations in this book are really by way of direct application to people who are tempted to give up the christian faith, as it were, and to return to some safe haven. To return to some place where you wouldn't be persecuted or tempted and there wouldn't be any pressure.

The question is always in the mind of those who study Hebrews...the people..are they saved or are they not saved.....That is a very difficult problem.

*Now*  
~~First of all~~, I believe that both issues are involved...And that seems to be a safe way out-off the problem. But, I do believe that there were unbelievers.....I mean those who were not believers at all, who were part of those who died in the wilderness.....I believe there were, also, believers. Caleb and Joshua and Moses were certainly believers.....But Moses was part of those who could not go into the promised land because of disobedience. Moses was involved in the disobedience. Yet, it was Moses who appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Elijah and Jesus. Certainly he ~~was~~ saved. Certainly he was a believer. Yet, it was part of that disbelief....So, both issues are involved....

I think by way of application to us that it is safer for all of us to believe that redemption out-off Egypt...the pass-over lamb, the shed blood, is like our salvation.....That is what it is in the Bible. ~~That is the way we should stand.~~

Now, the Jews had been taken out-off Egypt. And they are now in the wilderness. Going into Canaan was not like going into heaven. Because they looked for Heaven beyond Canaan. Canaan was a sign of rest and victory. It was their promised land.

The same thing is true of us. We are wandering ~~in~~ the wilderness. ~~Perhaps~~ we have been saved and bought with the precious blood of Christ. We are a believer. But, we are wandering in the wilderness. We are struggling with the christian experience....defeated and discouraged...and we are looking for Canaan....rest and victory... So, this is about how to have victory. How to have rest....*How To live a victorious Christian Life*

*These verse 7 dupl  
3-4*

But, I definitely believe, and you will see why, now, in ~~verse 12-19~~,  
that it is a warning not only to believers who are struggling in the wilderne  
but to THOSE WHO PROFESS TO BE BELIEVERS...BUT REALLY ARN"T AT ALL...  
And I believe that is there. And it is very clear that it is there. Especiall  
in this portion of scripture.

(2D) Now, we have, here, a challenge about unbelief. ~~There is no question~~  
~~about that as we see from verse 12-13. It is mention in vs 12-13.~~  
~~And the subject of the whole passage is unbelief.~~

(1E) And I believe there are three basic reasons why we have this challenge  
towards unbelief. Three reasons...

(1F) One, is based upon a possibility of unbelief being in someones heart.

The first reason why this passage is here...is because of the POSSIBILITY  
that someone is seating here hearing this and you are not really in the <sup>Family</sup> fold  
of God. ~~You are not really in the fold of God.~~ You maybe PROFESSING...  
YOU MAY BE ASSUMING....thinking that you really are a believer, but in truth  
you are not. And that is why we have this portion of scripture about unbelief.

Now, why do I believe <sup>The</sup> ~~that~~ possibility is there. <sup>?</sup>

Please notice, Verse 12. He says, "Take care, brethren, lest there  
should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from  
the living God."

(1G) Notice, first of all, a discription of this problem, of unbelief. It  
is called "AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF." And it says "in any one of you."

The little phrase "IN ANY ONE OF YOU"...means-that there is a possibility  
that there is some unbelief amongst the brethern. It is not condemning all  
of <sup>the Brethren</sup> ~~them~~. That is why I feel you must take the view that this passage is  
talking about both unbelievers and believers. Because He is not saying that  
all the brethren are questionable. But it says "least there should be in any  
one of you'.....You see, the possibility is there....

out A good translation would read: "Ts there someone here being deseved...?"

Is there someone [redacted] in your midst who doesn't believe God's Word... THAT IS WHAT THE WARNING IS ALL ABOUT....

You see, it is about the danger, the cancer, the diseases of unbelief...

There are many sins that we consider bad simply because society says so. But, the greatest of all in the [redacted] eyes of God is UNBELIEF.....

So, Paul gave this challenge because of the possible of unbelief in someone's heart who<sup>is</sup> in the midst of believers. Someone in the midst confessing to be a believer, yet, they are not..... *Am I Speaking To anyone Here Today?*

The word "evil" means "all kinds of".....When you have unbelief in your heart, there is something very important to understand about unbelief. You might treat unbelief as an innocent thing.

But, according to God it involves all kinds of evil. It is unbelief in your heart towards the Word, it leads into....and will result in....all kinds of evil....

(26) *secondly* And there is a danger, [redacted], indicated here, as to why Paul [redacted] told us about this possibility of someone being in the midst. There [redacted] is a real danger here. If you are seating there, and there is unbelief in your heart, and yet, you are trying to put on a show or a front or what ever, listen..... there is a danger....

According to Vs 12, it is in falling away from the living God. The phrase "falling away" is not "a habit of falling away". It is "AN ACT OF FALLING AWAY." "THE" falling away from God. And it is from the living God. Hebrews 10:31 *says* "it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

The idea..God in personality is living. Meaning...active....God will not set passively [redacted] by. He is going to be active.

The word "falling ~~away~~" is the word "~~apostate~~".....It means "to stand off from"..... *APOSTATE*

And how characteristic of those Jewish believers or "professing" believers, who were tempted to go back to Judaism. [redacted] Wanting to "stand off from" those Christians who were going through persecution and not wanting to be identified with them.....

That is why we urge, here, public confession of your faith. I don't believe anyone becomes a christian by walking down an aisle and publically confessing his faith. That is nonsense. But, I ~~do~~ also believe in public confession of faith. WHY?....Because there was a day in human history and even so in some parts of the world today, when christians had to face the problem of whether they would endanger their life with public confession, or would remain ..Quote, "a secret believer" because they were afraid to identify openly." And whether that fear is fear of a group whom you think will not accept you, <sup>Because it is not "evil"</sup> or whether they are outwardly and physically harming you. They are really in the same boat.

Many of us do not want to identify ourselves with christ, openly, as a believer simply because of the peer pressure, the business pressures, what ever it is, that is out there in the world...

Yes, I believe in public open confession whether it is here or where ever....stating that we are believers in Jesus Christ.

There is a danger in standing off from that, says Paul. And he ~~is~~ indicates that if you do, stand off, you really don't believe at all. <sup>So, Stop Kidding Yourself - You Will Not Go To Heaven</sup> Because the Bible says, "let the redeemed of the Lord say so." That with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. "And if we confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God has raised him from the dead, we will be saved."....CONFESSION IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT.

And Paul is indicating, here, that unbelief will result in the ~~fact that~~ <sup>ACT</sup> you ~~will~~ "stand-off" from the living God. You don't want anything to do with it. You don't want to identify yourself with it. And you are giving evidence to the fact that there is unbelief in your heart.....<sup>That is the First Reason.</sup>

(2F) The second reason why I believe this challenge was given was for the purpose of encouraging one another.

After what I just said, you need a little encouragement, right?.... The purpose of encouraging one another.....<sup>And this is so needed here is a ministry for every christ</sup>

Look at Vs 13..."But encourage one another day after day."....This word "encourage" is the same word we use of the Holy Spirit...

We use the word when we say that He is the "comfortor"....Same word....  
The word is most often ~~the~~ translated "comfort" or "encourage". It is the  
same word use of the spiritual gift of comfort or encouragement....

And the word means "one called along side off".....Notice, knowing  
the possibilities and temptations to go to unbelief and to stand-off and  
not identifying with believers and with God, himself...Paul then says, that  
we need to encourage <sup>come along side of</sup> one another daily.....The purpose of encouraging one  
another....To come along side of a brother or sister in Christ and build  
them up and encourage them.....ARE YOU DOING THAT?

Just three things about the purpose of encouraging one another that  
I notice, here, from this verse.

(16) One, it is to be daily. If you think the ministry of the Body of  
Christ is only on Sunday morning at 10:55 to 12:00, you are wrong. That is  
not ~~what~~ the Church is all about. We often say, "I AM GOING TO GO TO CHURCH."  
Meaning..I am going to a place where Christians meet.....And the early  
Christians did assemble and meet to hear the teaching of the Word..But, this  
isn't all there is to the ministry of the Body of Christ. There is more to  
it.....It says: "ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER DAILY"....

~~and~~ And the very usage of the of the word "encouragement" means "one  
called along side off"....You see, it is a very private thing. It is a one  
on one ministry. A believer encouraging another believer. And this is a  
daily thing. That every single day <sup>with</sup> believers ought to be ~~be~~ encouraging  
one another because of the tendency of unbelief in the heart of every one  
of us....Stay with it. Let's stick together. Because we need to encourage  
one another. Especially with the pressures and the <sup>temptations</sup> ~~temptations~~ and the society  
in which we live. We need to encourage one another. We certainly need one  
another.

(26) Secondly, I notice in the text it says: "as long as it is still  
called "TODAY".....The point is: that the opportunity is still here.

~~But~~ Time is running out. Do it today....Encourage one another while there is  
still time....

Oh, friends, has God impressed you about encouraging another believer? I mean, even since I have been talking about it....or, maybe some time this past week....If God has, then do it now....Do it today....God put that person on your heart because He wants you to minister to that person TODAY....

Oh, friends, time is running out.....Someone may be discouraged and defeated and doubting their faith in Christ. And Christians need to encourage and build up each other.

(3 G) Something else I learned....the last part of verse 13 says "lest any one of you be hardened, ~~by the deceitfulness of sin,~~"

Now, the point is that someone might not really be in the family. <sup>of God</sup> The reason why we should encourage one another is that ~~that person~~ <sup>is not there</sup> could be the possibility that someone to whom you encourage is really not in the family at all. And you are diffinetly coming at a time when they need to have that clarified.....It could be that someone you thought was a believer, to whom you went to encourage, is not really a believer at all. And something you say might cause that person to receive Christ in belief and confidence and trust.....<sup>Because you cared -</sup> God can use you in that.....<sup>which is an act of love</sup>

(3 F) There is a third reason why I believe he gave this challenge concerning unbelief. And that is because of the power of sin to deceive us, And a particular sin I believe. Vs 13 says: "Today, ~~lest~~ any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

I notice, again, as we studied from last week that you ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> harden your own heart. And he tells us the way it happens. It is through the deceitfulness of sin.....

And in the Greek text it is "THE SIN." A particular sin. It is not sin in general. Although sin in general does deceive us. But he is talking here about a particular kind of sin.

Now, you tell me, after reading this: WHAT IS THE SIN HE IS TALKING ABOUT HERE IN VERSE 12 to 13?.....WHAT IS IT?.....Unbelief.....There is no question about that.....

Let

Now, let's ask the question: Why is unbelief so deceitful?....~~I believe~~  
*me give you a couple of reasons*  
there are two reasons why it is.

(16) One, because it deceives you in that you don't think it is so bad.

If Paul had said Adultery....if he had said murder, we would all give some attention to it.....YES, ISN'T THAT BAD.

But, unbelief, you see, can be present in the heart of everyone of us. While the "biggies" in sin are not there.....But, unbelief can be...So, he says it is deceiving. Deceiving in that we don't think it is so bad. But God says it is.

*SOFTLY*

If you are questioning His word, if you are not <sup>trusting</sup> trust in God's Word right now, it is dangerous. It is serious. And it is giving evidence, that if it continues in a pattern of life of rejection it proves you are not a believer at all.....

*also,* The danger is in the heart of every believer who wants to have victory and rest in his life. Not that he loses salvation. But, that he loses Canaan. He loses victory.....WHY?....BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF.....

Let me share one simple little illustration: In Romans chapter 6 it tells you how you can over come sin. Here is what it says. After you ~~understand~~ understand the facts. Let's assume that you understand the facts. You understand about your identification with Christ. You really understand all of that.....ALL RIGHT, HERE IS THE APPLICATION...ROMANS 6:11...."EVEN SO, CONSIDER YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD TO SIN, BUT ALIVE TO GOD IN CHRIST JESUS."

Do you know what the word "CONSIDER" MEANS?....."THINK IT TO BE SO".... It is just a word of faith.

*and*

Now, I ask you: Is unbelief in <sup>your</sup> hearts? .....You know, you can just struggle with the simplicity of that statement. You know what God says? If you know the doctrine, then just think it to be so. Just caunt it to be so in your life. Just believe it that you are dead to sin.....

Dead to sin....You wake up in the morrowing and sin is present. Now, it doesn't say that sin is dead. It says that its power to control is dead.



And yet, if you see your life being controled by sin or a sin, and you see this control and you say, "God wants me to be dead to this sin. But, it is controlling me."

And you know what happens? Instead of doing what God told you to do, you continue to think that there must be another way. That is what happens. And you have this sin and you say, "I know the answer. I will discipline my life. Today I am going to conquer that sin. I am not going to yield to that sin."....And you know what happens. Before one hour has gone by you have already blown it.....

~~How~~ God is saying, "Do you believe that you are dead to sin"? And the old sin nature revolts against that. And it says you are intelligent people. And the old sin nature causes us to say, "that is impossible. How can you just beleeve something and count it to be so.".....Impossible...

Folks, how did you get saved?....I just believed what this book said. I did 't do anything. Running around the church 10 times didn't save me. Listen, all I did was to believe the words of this book. Isn't it funny. We say we can believe that in order to get to heaven. But we cann't believe this other in order to have victory over sin?.....

Do you understand?....You see, the problem of unbelief is in all of us. And ~~it~~ leads to all kinds of sin. That is why Paul is writting this challenge. The sin of unbelief is very deceitful. You don't think it is as bad as God says it is. *But it is - unbelief is deceitful because*

(26) And secondly, you will not realize how it is effecting you. Unbelief is the very thing that hardens your heart. Oh, you know all the docatrine, don't you.....Yay, you know what the word of God says. And yet, you are seating there and week by week the hardening process goes on.....WHY?.... Because you don't believe what God says about how to have victory.....

You are ~~s~~ still trying to have it yourself. And you got defeated. And you assume that everybody around you is going through the same thing. And that we are all in the same boat. We are all hardened. And we could all care less.....YOU ARE WRONG.....

Many of us have been affected by the sin of unbelief and we don't even know it. And that is why it is so deceitful. ~~It is total deceitful.~~ We don't think there is anything wrong with us....And we have been hardened to that tragic point.

~~.....~~ The truth of the matter is that not only church history but the saints in the Bible, they all teach us that as you ~~grow~~ grow and as you develop in Christ and as you ~~measure~~ <sup>measure</sup> sin doesn't lesson in conscienceness and reality. It only inceases. And ~~you~~ <sup>thus you</sup> demand for trusting God only increases....Both increase as you grow in Christ.

~~and~~ But, if sin has deceived you, you are asking, right now, "what is he so excited about?"...But unbelief is so deceitful.

It may be a small point or a small principle in your business that the Word of God talks about, that ~~God~~ God wants you to apply. But you don't believe the book. You continue to believe that your wisdom is better. And at that point sin begins to harden your heart. And you don't even realize it. Unbelief is at any point that I do not believe that the Word of God says is acturally the truth....And thus I will not apply. <sup>The word</sup> At that point it is unbelief

Oh, my friends <sup>These</sup> there are dangers of unbelief. Dangers that could pull you away from fellowship with God and victory over sin.....Oh, <sup>But the solution is to</sup> how we need ~~to~~ practice I John 1:9 "we we confess our sin he ~~is~~ is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness...."

Shall We pray

① Believe God ~